



# Parish of St Peter & The Good Shepherd Bearsted & Harrietsham

*A Member of Bearsted Area Churches Together*



## Newsletter

**St Peter's Church, Button Lane, Bearsted, Maidstone, ME15 8NJ**

**Church of The Good Shepherd, Rectory Lane (off East Street), Harrietsham, ME17 1HS**

### Contact us:

**Parish Priest:** Reverend Father Geoffrey Pointer: 01622 736100, email: parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

**Parish Deacon:** Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

### More information:

**Parish Website:** [www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Diocesan Website:** [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

**The Catholic Church in England and Wales:** [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)

**Prayer:** [www.life4seekers.co.uk](http://www.life4seekers.co.uk); [www.holyspiritinteractive.net](http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net)

### Catholic Schools in our local area:

**St Francis' Primary**, Queen's Road, Maidstone ME16 0LB (Telephone: 771540)

**The Holy Family Primary**, Bicknor Road, Park Wood, Maidstone ME15 9PS (Telephone: 756778)

**St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary**, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

**Year A**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**17th August 2014**

### **FAITH IN FOCUS: DRESS CODES**

A sign on the shop door at the beach read, "No shirt: No Shoes: No Service". The message was simple enough. They had decided the sort of people they wanted in their store and they dictated even the way the people were to dress. Christians are very good at dress codes. We like to create religious dress codes so that we know who we are, and we not only do it with clothes but with people. It's an unwritten rule that the Archbishop of Canterbury is in (even though he's not a Catholic) but Robert Mugabe is out (even though he is). But scripture shows that it's not so easy to say who's in or out of favour with God. Isaiah reports today that God will fill his house with heathen foreigners; Paul says that God is showing his mercy to the pagans and Jesus, after ignoring the Canaanite woman for a while, suddenly relents and shows favour to her although she had completely failed the dress code.



The Church has never been made up of the "right sort" of people. Hardly surprising, you might think, since it was never intended for good, respectable and upright citizens. The Church was founded for a bunch of sinners who know how weak they are but who desperately want to be made better. For the Church is not a club. It's a community of those whom God has chosen to raise from their poverty, to enrich their brokenness with the luxury of his word, that they may respond with the service of their lives. So never be ashamed of being part of the Church and never consider yourself to be a second class member. The worse you are, the more you qualify. Samaritans and Canaanites, people whom others look down on, are the backbone of Christ's Church. For only the mercy of God can qualify us to enter the building. Only because God cares does he constantly offer us his Word of Life and only through his persistent seduction are we drawn to his altar.

It is God who calls us to be Church, not we the Church who invite him to be our God. (Author unknown)

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGE** Monday 1st September to Friday 5th September. Please pray for a safe journey and for the success of our pilgrimage. We take the thoughts and prayers of all parishioners with us. If you have any intentions that you would like us to deliver at the shrine please let us have them in a sealed envelope and we will make sure they are left at the shrine. ♦ By now pilgrims should have received their travel documents. **They are reminded that they need to be at St Peter's in time for a 6.45am departure on Monday 1st September.**

**FLOWER FESTIVAL** St Peter's 30th anniversary Festival of Flowers, 26th–28th September. ☀ The festival will run from 10am–4pm on the Friday and Saturday and from 12noon–4pm on the Sunday. Entry will be free and refreshments will be available. The church will be decorated with floral displays reflecting the diversity of parish life over the years. ✨ (The Anniversary Mass is **Tuesday 4th November** at 7pm. Bishop John Hine, our first parish priest, will be celebrating the Mass.)

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 17th AUGUST 2014**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ TWENTIETH SUNDAY (A) ✕

Sun 17th August	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Ray Smith, welfare
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 18th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 19th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 20th	St Bernard	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 21st	St Pius X	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 22nd	Queenship of BVM	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Michael and Micklela (wedding day)
Sat 23rd	Feria	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY (A) ✕

Sun 24th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: John Kimber RIP
		<b>12noon</b>	<i>Baptisms: Amanze and Thomas</i>

**JUSTICE and PEACE** From the recently received July minutes of the meeting held monthly at St Peter's: 'The [Traidcraft] stall at St Peter's continues. A cheque for **£200** from the stall had been sent to support Missio's work in training priests in Cambodia. The [Lent] appeal had raised **£286.73** and this money had also been sent to Missio. [It was] announced that the Christian Aid Week collection had raised **£4,457.63**, including gift aid. This was down on two years ago, which was anticipated as we had not been able to cover as many houses this year due to a lack of volunteers. That said, it was still a huge amount to have raised and thanks were expressed to all who had helped. On Tuesday **2nd December**, Christian Aid would be holding an Advent Hope service at Holy Cross. It was hoped a Christian Aid partner would be speaking. More information would be available in the autumn. It was noted that Holy Cross was currently supporting the Christian Aid emergency appeal for the situation in Iraq.'

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for August:** *that refugees, forced by violence to abandon their homes, may find a generous welcome and the protection of their rights; and that Christians in Oceania may joyfully announce the faith to all the people of that region.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially Pierre Niebergall, Cyril, Jean Adam and Barbara Casey, Ray Smith and Elsie Hampshire; for those recently dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.
- **We bring to God all people affected by the Israel-Gaza conflict** and pray that the present cease-fire be maintained. We ask that those in power and authority use this time to work towards a fair and lasting peace.
- **For the young people of our parish** who have received or are awaiting exam results, we pray that they will continue to trust in God and to place the talents he has given them at the service of those in need.

**Thank you:** the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£348.03** (of which **£219.00** was Gift Aided).

**CAMPAIGN ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT** The Clergy Support Fund Campaign is looking to recruit a Campaign Administration Assistant on a fixed term basis until December 2015. Based in Southwark, this is an administrative job which involves a large amount of data input. IT literacy and attention to detail are the most important attributes. Up to 17½ hours per week – actual days/times to be mutually agreed. Occasional weekend/evening work may also be necessary. Salary: £9.00 - £10.50 per hour depending on experience. Holidays and pension. If you would like to apply for this job please email your CV to [sarah.wood@finance-rcdsouthwark.org](mailto:sarah.wood@finance-rcdsouthwark.org). Closing date **Friday 29th August 2014**.

**DAY of RENEWAL** at Aylesford Priory on Saturday **6th September**. For more information, including itinerary, see the poster on the notice board.