



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:

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Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055, email: cyrildurbin@btinternet.com

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

More information:

Parish Website: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Diocesan Website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

The Catholic Church in England and Wales: www.catholicchurch.org.uk

Prayer: www.life4seekers.co.uk; 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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

7th September 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: LIVE AND LET LIVE?

We're treading on ice with today's scripture readings. God tells Ezekiel that he's appointing him as sentry to Israel. Ezekiel's job is to warn people when he sees that they are behaving badly. And Jesus hands on that task to us. "If your brother does something wrong then go and have it out with him", he says. For many of us this goes against the grain. We've been brought up to mind our own business, to leave others to get in and out of their own mess and to keep our noses out. One of the refrains in our modern society is "Live and let live", and this seems at odds with what the bible asks us to do.

Of course, it all depends on our motives. When we see something that is clearly wrong we can get on our high horse, as if we are perfect, and we can enjoy launching into the person who is responsible for it. Usually we get a good deal of pleasure out of this, partly because we see something of ourselves in the person we are condemning, and having a go at them is a way of exorcising the ghost from our own hearts. On the other hand, condoning wrongful behaviour, from wherever it comes, is not an option. We have to be sensitive to the person involved; we have to understand the circumstances they find themselves in and seek for the reasons behind their actions. But we cannot remain silent and pretend what they are doing is right.

The gospel values which we hold are public and communal, and we have to ensure that we never cease to find fresh ways of letting the world know what they are and why they are important to us. If we were on the verge of destroying ourselves by some unhelpful course of action, then we would probably be grateful in the long term for someone who didn't just go along with what we were doing but pointed out the dangers to us. In the same way we owe it to others to warn them when we can see they are harming themselves. The problem with live and let live is that it usually ends up as live and let die. (Author unknown)



PARISH PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES We pilgrims returned safely from our pilgrimage on Friday evening. Thank you to everyone for your prayers: you were all remembered at our Masses during the week, and the intentions were left prayerfully at the grotto. The sun shone brilliantly for us and everyone seems to have had a very uplifting time. More news and photos to follow.

YOUTH GROUP starts again Monday 8th September, 7 - 8.30pm in the church hall. Open to young people aged 10 - 15; older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders. New members welcome!

FLOWER FESTIVAL St Peter's 30th anniversary Festival of Flowers, **26th-28th September**. The festival will run from 10am (Mass on Friday)-4pm on the Friday and Saturday and from 12noon-4pm on the Sunday.

Entry will be free with refreshments available. *Volunteers still needed; please see the attached.* The church will be decorated with floral displays reflecting the diversity of parish life over the years. *See the notices in the various local periodicals.* Children are reminded to let us have their drawings of Jesus decorated with paper flowers. There will be an art session after Mass at St Peter's on **14th September**. ✕ The 30th Anniversary Mass is **Tuesday 4th November** at 7pm followed by refreshments. Bishop John Hine, our first parish priest, will be celebrating the Mass.

St PETER'S CHURCH ROOF Work to repair the leaks is now complete. Please also note the newly cleaned carpet at St Peter's. Many thanks to Ian Fraser for overseeing this work during our parish pilgrimage.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 7th SEPTEMBER 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✧ TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY (A) ✧

Sun 7th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Ray Smith, welfare
		10.30am	✧ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummey RIP
Mon 8th	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7.00pm	✧ Mass: In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tues 9th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass: Cenwein Cannavina
Wed 10th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✧ Mass: Ivy and Murray Fraser RIP
Thu 11th	Feria	SORRY: NO MASSES	
Fri 12th	Feria		
Sat 13th	St John Chrysostom	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✧ The EXALTATION of THE HOLY CROSS ✧			
Sun 14th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Ernest Titchmarsh RIP

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Sessions begin again **today** at St Peter's during the Sunday Mass *Liturgy of the Word* (see rota). This is an opportunity for our younger members to receive a short session delivering them the Gospel of the day at a level they are able to understand through readings, discussion, art and craft, etc. Please come and join in the fun! If any parents feel able and willing to joining the children's liturgy team please could they speak to Angela Dixon or Fr Geoff. Thank you.

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsals: Sunday **14th September** after our 10.30am Mass; Tuesday **30th September**, 8 - 9pm. Sung Mass, Flower Festival, Sunday **28th September** at 10.30am. Come and have fun and learn some new rounds. Please come and help get our music ready for Flower Festival Sunday and our anniversary Mass on **4th November**. Thank you - all are very welcome!

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for September:** *That the mentally disabled may receive the love and help they need for a dignified life; and that Christians, inspired by the Word of God, may serve the poor and suffering.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially Pierre Niebergall, Cyril and Jeanne Adam and Barbara Casey; for those recently dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends.
- **For world leaders,** that they might strive to build a global society where people live together in understanding and mutual support; that the **Ukraine ceasefire** will hold; and for the **people of Scotland** as they discern their country's future.
- **For those preparing to leave home for university:** *may they stand firm in the face of challenges to their faith and so be an example of fidelity and hope to their friends.*

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£470.53** (£321.50 was Gift Aided). • **Next Sunday** there will be an optional retiring collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice: cbcew.org.uk/human-trafficking.

CONFIRMATION Sessions continue **this Sunday** at St Francis' during and following the 6pm Mass: *confirmation fruits and gifts and introduction to saints*. Please remember the candidates both from our parish and from the deanery. Confirmation Mass, which we always jointly celebrate with West Malling, St Francis and Holy Family parishes, will be on **Sunday 12th October at 3pm at St Thomas More, West Malling**.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of COMMUNION The Maidstone Deanery has arranged a training session for all Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. This will take place at St Thomas More Church, West Malling this **Saturday, 13th September** from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The programme for the day will be: **9am** Coffee; **10 to 12noon** group discussion - topics to be discussed will include: roles and responsibilities; Communion Services; taking Communion to the sick (including safeguarding issues); general discussion on distribution of Communion at Mass; **12noon:** Celebration of a Communion Service.

A LIFELINE for MARRIAGE Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is not counselling but provides the tools and skills to help you get your marriage back on track. Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels from disillusionment to deep misery. The next programme commences with a residential weekend on **19th-21st September**; email info@retrouvaille.org.uk; call or text 0797 338 0443 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk. Confidentiality assured.

WANTED: POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER for BEARSTED Following the retirement of the current organiser a volunteer is urgently required to ensure that poppies be available in Bearsted this year. Interested persons should contact Jane Ayers, Community Fund Raiser, tel. 01622 793194.