



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

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-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

19th October 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

The Pharisees and Herodians were bitter opponents. The Pharisees favoured Israel's independence as a religious homeland. The Herodians supported the Roman occupation. They both feared Jesus as a troublemaker and so they made an alliance to try and catch him out. The question about taxes in today's gospel boils down to this: Are you in favour of Rome or Israel? Whatever he answered he was sure to step into the trap. We know what happened: Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. Besides being a very clever answer it also points to something much deeper than the obvious. Jesus is not some sort of revolutionary who invites his followers to overthrow the civil authorities. He recognises their legitimacy but he alludes to something beyond the here and now, to the things of God.



Is there anything that does not belong to God? Is there any arena of public interest that belongs only to politicians and has nothing to do with the divine? Presumably not, given that the world is God's and it is God whose design is stamped upon it. Nothing weakens the impact of our faith more than putting it into a neat religious compartment. Never discuss religion or politics, they say. They only say it because they're scared of what might happen if we do. And so we're lured into the social convention of thinking that it's somehow not decent to wear our religion on our sleeve. Religion should be a personal matter, they say. That's because it has uncomfortable consequences when we display it in the light of day. When politicians know that they have produced legislation that is questionable, they usually try to silence religious leaders by claiming that they should keep religion out of politics, should stick to hymns and prayers rather than public demonstration. Faith must be the leaven of society, not one of its side-shows. That's because the image stamped on our tax coins may well be Caesar's, but the image stamped on those who pay the taxes is unmistakably God's. (Author unknown)

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY Today the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his official charity for overseas mission. Your prayers and donations today will support the work of missionaries and young churches as they share faith, build churches and provide healthcare and education, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances overseas. The World Mission Sunday collection will go in its entirety to support mission projects worldwide that bring God's love and message of dignity for all. Please give what you can, and if possible, please use the Gift Aid envelopes if you are a taxpayer. Every gift makes a real difference to people living in poverty who are yearning to hear the Good News of God's love for them. • There is a cake stall **this weekend** at St Peter's in support of Missio.

MASS COUNT The third of four national Mass counts is to be taken today. **Collectors, please note.** (Last week there were 37 on Saturday evening; on Sunday morning there were 29 at Harrietsham and 72 at St Peter's.)

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsal: today (Sunday 19th October) after out 10.30am Mass; sung Mass next Sunday. Please come and help get our music ready for our anniversary Mass on Tuesday 4th November; musicians, please join us: for more information talk to Bob or Erika. Thank you; all are welcome.

LOURDES REUNION Just a reminder that we are gathering again **this Sunday** at St Peter's Church, for our Lourdes Reunion as promised. We meet at 3.00pm for Benediction, and then we will all have tea / coffee and cakes in the church 'parish room', where we will also be playing a good selection of all our photographs on the big TV screen. It will be good to meet you all again and share our memories.

YOUTH GROUP Monday 20th October: TEAM GAMES! We welcome young people aged 10 – 15; older teenagers, feel free to join in as young leaders.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 19th OCTOBER 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY (A)** ✕

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| Sun 19th <i>World Mission Day</i> | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Gwyneth Birchall RIP |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Nicol Family |
| | | 3.00pm | Rosary and Benediction |
| Mon 20th | Feria | 7.00pm | ✕ Mass: Fr Peter Rolph RIP |
| Tues 21st | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass: Fr David Buckley RIP |
| Wed 22nd | Saint John Paul II | (H) 10.00am | ✕ Mass: David and Nancy Mendes RIP |
| Thu 23rd | Feria | 7.00am | ✕ Mass: Monica Flynn RIP |
| Fri 24th | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass: Jeanne Adam RIP |
| Sat 25th | Our Lady | 5.00-5.30pm | <i>Confessions</i> |
| ✕ THIRTIETH SUNDAY (A) ✕ | | | |
| Sun 26th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Fr Joseph Aduse, Silver Jubilee |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Alfred Noakes RIP |

FLOWER FESTIVAL There will be a get-together for helpers at St Peter's on **Friday 31st October at 7.30pm.**

30th ANNIVERSARY We will be concluding the celebrations to mark our 30th Anniversary with a Mass celebrated by our first parish priest, Bishop John Hine. Mass will start at 7pm on **Tuesday 4th November**, which is the actual date of the consecration of St Peter's Church. After Mass there will be light refreshments in the parish hall. If you can supply a plate of 'finger food' for the buffet, it would help enormously with the catering. Please see Anne Hayden or sign your name on the list on the parish notice board. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for October:** *That the Lord may grant peace to those parts of the world most battered by war and violence; and that World Mission Day may rekindle in every believer zeal for carrying the Gospel into all the world.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially Pierre Niebergall, Cyril Adam and Barbara Casey; for those recently dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.
- **For all the services that are working together to combat the spread of the Ebola virus:** *for the medical services and the troops, and the governments who direct them. May their efforts bring the suffering and spread of infection to an end.*
- **For the parents of our parish;** *that through their word and example they may instil in their sons and daughters a positive regard for priestly ministry and religious life.*

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£413.75 (£228.50 was Gift Aided)**. ♦ Last Sunday's a collection for the **Needs of the Diocese** amounted to **£156.06**. ♦ This Sunday there is a retiring collection for **Missio**, the Church's official charity for overseas mission. Envelopes are available.

HOST is looking for kind, friendly, hospitable people who are inspired by the idea of welcoming an international student at university here, far from his or her own family, to their home. This could be for a day, a weekend or Christmas, and you don't need to live near a university, as students will travel for the privilege of meeting you, learning about real life in this country, and sharing their own culture. HOST is a voluntary activity which makes ambassadors for international goodwill of us all. Please see www.hostuk.org or call 020 7739 6292.

CELEBRATE YOUR MARRIAGE An invitation to married couples to explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into their communication; it also reinforces the call of the Church to married life. It's an opportunity, with informal guidance, for couples to discuss privately the highs and lows of marriage. It takes place on Saturday, 15th November, 2014 at St Teresa's Church Hall, Ashford, Kent, from 9.45am to 4.30pm and costs £25 per couple. Booking is essential; please ring Phil Pond on 020 8651 2477 to book or for more information.

✕ **NOVEMBER** ✕ is the month of the Holy Souls when we commemorate and pray for our beloved dead. Envelopes will be available for you to enclose a list of your deceased loved ones. These may be placed in the box as you enter church. The envelopes remain in front of the altar throughout the month. Any donations in the envelopes are used as stipends for Masses for the Holy Souls during November and throughout the year. *Remember to Gift Aid your offering if appropriate.* ✕ **All Saints' Day** is on **Sunday 2nd**; **All Souls' Day** is on **Monday 3rd**. There will be an additional Mass that day at **10am at Good Shepherd** as well as the usual **7pm Mass at St Peter's**.

DEANERY MASS for DECEASED CLERGY At St Thomas More, West Malling, on Tuesday **11th November** at 12noon.