



# 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: Father Geoffrey Pointer: 01622 736100, email: [parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk](mailto: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 B**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**5th July 2015**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: NOTHING SPECIAL HERE** There's a famous Latin phrase, attributed to Tacitus the Elder, that says "Omne ignotum pro magnifico". When roughly translated it means "Things we don't understand seem wonderful". People are always impressed by things that are a bit exotic. They presume a French burger van is going to serve better food than a British one. They imagine even a one-legged ballerina will perform excellently just because she is Russian. They are convinced that since a Scandinavian scientist has a theory on black pudding being good for gout then it must be correct. And they are prepared to spend a fortune on a holiday to Bali on the assumption that it's bound to be better than Bognor. We are easily impressed by out-of-the-ordinary things. We find them somehow more glamorous than what's on our doorstep or what's easy to understand. This is illustrated in today's gospel when Jesus returned to his home town and to the people that knew him. Despite his reputation and regardless of the fact that he's just performed a series of miracles his neighbours reject him. Why? Because we know who he is; he's Mary and Joseph's son. Nothing special. Nothing to start crowing about. It's easy for us to sit in judgement on the people of Nazareth and accuse them of blindness and stupidity. But we can be as guilty as they are. We can fail to see what's good on our doorstep. We can fail to see the wood for the trees. God uses people and situations of ordinary daily life to speak to us. Most of us will never be visited by an angel with a special message. But we will meet all sorts of people and situations week in and week out that are shouting the message of the gospel to us. These people may be our neighbours; they may be (and often are) people we don't like or find it hard to accept and get on with. But they're still the mouthpieces that God uses to announce his never-ending call. There are no people or places that we can write off. So, how open are we to all the sights and sounds around us? God's voice is bound to be in one or other of them. Why not let yourself be surprised?

*Author unknown.*



**PRAYER VIGIL** There will be a prayer vigil before the Blessed Sacrament exposed at St Peter's from 5pm until Mass, next Saturday, **11th July**, to pray for the success of the National Catholic Evangelization Conference beginning at the same time. **Please join us.**

**YOUTH GROUP** Monday **6th July**, walk, rounders and chips (if dry). We meet and come back to the church hall, usual times 7 - 8.30pm. Consent forms needed, please. Monday **13th July**, party to say *Thank You* to Maggie. Please bring some food and a small present for Maggie. Monday **20th July**, bowling. Please let Erika (077 60 38 56 72) know ASAP as she needs to know numbers to book enough places. Thank you. (Consent forms needed, please.) For young people 10 - 15 years of age. Older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. **New members welcome!**

**PARISH BARBECUE** **12th July** at St Peter's. **Tickets still available.**

**St PETER'S CHOIR NEWS** Thank you for your fabulous singing for the feast of St Peter and St Paul and our recording: so much appreciated! Next rehearsal TBC. Sung Mass, **12th July** (barbecue Sunday). **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 5th JULY 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 5th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Maurice Donovan RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
		3.00pm	Baptism: Xavier Ashburner
Mon 6th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Joan Brown RIP
Tues 7th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 8th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 9th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 10th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Requiem Mass: Ann Moritz
Sat 11th	St Benedict	5.00pm	✕ Prayer Vigil and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
		5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 12th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Joan Brown RIP

**CONFIRMATIONS** Maidstone area Confirmations will take place on Sunday **11th October**, with a retreat at Whitstable on **11th** and **12th July**. The preparation day will be on Sunday **4th October**.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for July:** that Latin American Christians in the midst of social inequalities may bear witness to love for the poor and contribute to a more fraternal society.
- **For all the sick** especially Barbara Casey, Sue Palmby and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Canon John Naughton and Joan Brown; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends, for Xavier Ashburner, being baptized this Sunday, and for his godparents and family; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **That all men and women** will answer the Lord with humble obedience when they are called to serve him as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life.
- **For families whose members have been radicalised or exploited** to injure themselves or others: may God watch over them all, wherever they be.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£390.75** (Gift Aided, **£201.65**). ♦ The retiring collection for **Peter Pence** amounted to **£138.67**. ♦ Next Sunday is **Sea Sunday** when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for the **Apostleship of the Sea**, the official maritime agency of the Church in Great Britain. It provides practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. Please give generously to support its important work.

**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY** A day focusing on people with disability at the heart of the Church: Aylesford Priory, this Sunday, **5th July**, 12 till 4.

**MASS IN CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL** on Tuesday **7th July** at 8pm, to celebrate the Translation of St Thomas Becket. See poster.

**CAFOD EVENTS THIS SUMMER** ♦ *Campaign workshop and talk* from CAFOD partner Fr Edwin Gariguez about Typhoons and Climate Change in The Philippines: **Saturday 11th July**, 11.00am – 4pm (provisional timings), Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB. If you would like any further information, or want to book a place at any of these events, please get in touch at the CAFOD Southwark Office on **020 8466 9901** or email [southwark@cafod.org.uk](mailto:southwark@cafod.org.uk). Many thanks for your continued support of CAFOD.

**GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE** Aylesford Priory, **11th July**. See poster.

**OUR LADY of MOUNT CARMEL** Pilgrimage at Aylesford, **12th July**. *Novena Prayer: O God, you have given us Mary as our Mother and, through the Order of Carmel, we learn to call her sister. May we imitate her goodness and faith, and be ever joyful in the wonderful things you have done for us. May Mary watch over and protect us on our pilgrim way to your holy mountain, Christ the Lord. Amen.* ✕ There is also a pilgrimage on the feast of St James, Saturday **25th July**, 12 – 4. See poster.