



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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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 B

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

12th July 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: DIAL-A-DISCIPLE Have you noticed how as a society we are becoming less "hands-on"? We seem to do things at a distance or get others to do things for us that previously we would have sorted out ourselves. There are those, for example, who never do their own cleaning, washing and ironing because they have a woman who comes in and "does" for them. Recently it has become popular to go on the internet and get the supermarket to deliver the groceries to your front door. You never have to leave home or enter a shop again! On a more serious level we have for years handed over the care of our loved ones to "professionals" claiming that we cannot cope with them at home. And at the drop of a hat we invite people into our homes, from decorators to funeral directors, on the grounds that if we pay them they will do the job for us. In today's gospel Jesus summons the twelve apostles together and sends them out in pairs to teach people all that he himself has been teaching them since they met him. They are to be disciples, people who learn at the feet of their master and then in turn become devotees of his teaching and witnesses to its power in their own lives.



The call to be a disciple is one that Jesus continues to make in our day. If we agree to be Christians then we are signing on the dotted line to being disciples who pass on the message of eternal life. But how exactly are we doing this? Do we make a conscious effort to be mouthpieces of the gospel in our neighbourhood, on the streets where we live and in the places where we work? Are we active apostles, bold believers or just closet Christians? If people wanted to have some idea of what it meant to follow Christ would they pick up any clues from the way we live and behave? It would be understandable, but sad, if we fell into the trap of "distance discipleship" and "hands-off" Christianity given the way that today we put a premium on convenience rather than involvement. Yet no one else can do what Jesus asks of us. There is no person who can come in and "do" for us, no website that can absolve us from preaching Christ on the front line, no professional clergy or teachers who can make life easier for us. There's no such thing as an armchair Christian; being a disciple is a "hands-on" job. *Author unknown.*

JOAN BROWN RIP ✕ Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Brown who died last week. ✕ Joan was a well-loved, respected and hardworking member of our parish community for many years. Joan's Requiem Mass will be at St Peter's on **Tuesday, 21st July at 10am**, followed by burial at Holy Cross.

TODAY is SEA SUNDAY when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. Today's second collection is for Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), the Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This annual collection is absolutely vital to enable it to continue its work, so please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. Thank you. For more information on the work of AoS please visit apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 12th JULY 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 12th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Jim Kelly RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Joan Brown RIP
Mon 13th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Canon John Naughton RIP
Tues 14th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Terence Dolan RIP
Wed 15th	St Bonaventure	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Truda and Joseph Ryans RIP
Thu 16th	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 17th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 18th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 19th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Therese Sophie Weedon RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Caroline and Dan Pigden, recently married
		1.00pm	Baptism: Oliver Jude Stapley

St PETER'S CHOIR NEWS Sung Mass, **today** (barbecue Sunday). Next rehearsal TBC. ALL ARE WELCOME!

PARISH BARBECUE 🌟 **TODAY!** 🌟 **Pray for sun!** Thank you to our organizers and supporters.

YOUTH GROUP 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!**

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, Cyril Adam, Sue Palmby and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Joan Brown; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **That all those called to serve Christ and his Church** in the priesthood and consecrated life will receive the graces and authority of their mission to the praise of God's glory.
- **On this Sea Sunday**, we pray for all seafarers: we give thanks for all we owe to them and we ask God to protect them from danger and bring them safely home to their loved ones.
- **For asylum seekers** and those suffering from the situation in the Middle East, that a just and compassionate solution may soon be found to help people in such desperate situations.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£396.47** (Gift Aided, **£231.21**). ♦ Our recent amnesty on Missio Boxes has brought in **£69.20**. ♦ This Sunday is **Sea Sunday** when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There is 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.

OUR LADY of MOUNT CARMEL Pilgrimage at Aylesford, **today**. *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.

FROM THE ARCHBISHOP: Fr Francis Maple OFM Cap, who has for some years written a weekly "Sunday Homily" for the Universe has launched a website which offers a homily based on the readings of the Mass each day, and also a "thumbnail sketch of the life of the relevant saint". Fr Francis offers this as an "aid to the spiritual life": <http://fatherfrancismaple.co.uk/content/>.