



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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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 B

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

26th July 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: JUST IMAGINE Just imagine going to someone's house for dinner and finding that they provided so much to eat that at the end of the evening there were twelve platefuls over. What a waste! Just imagine an intelligent being capable of creating the world and providing so much fertile land and water that the whole of creation could exist in a perfect balance of nature! What a surplus! Just imagine being filled with such goodness that you couldn't keep it to yourself and you created men and women and gave them the opportunity to know you and share your life! What a love! Just imagine having a relationship with every living being to the extent that you knew their inmost thoughts and desires, cared for them, gave them the chance to develop to the full and to have the most exquisite skills in art, science, music, sport etc! What a gift! Just imagine being betrayed by those you loved most and yet never abandoning them but instead constantly inviting them back to share all the good things you want them to have! What a sense of mercy! Just imagine giving up the most precious thing you had, your own son, and allowing him to be abused by those who thought they knew better than you so that he could help others to see the true meaning of life! What a sacrifice! Just imagine someone who not only provided us with our daily staple diet of food and drink but offered to continue being with us day in and day out under the form of bread and wine so that we could begin to share on earth an existence that will come to perfection in heaven! What a mystery! Just imagine a God of prodigality, surplus, love, gift, mercy, sacrifice and mystery! And then you've only just begun. There's still lots left. More than twelve platefuls! *Author unknown.*



JOAN BROWN'S FUNERAL Joan's Requiem Mass last week for her happy repose was well attended: a fitting tribute to a beloved, longstanding and inspirational member of our congregation. At the request of the family donations in Joan's memory may be made to St Peter's Church. The offerings will go towards a Foundation Mass to be established for Joan so that Mass is offered for her every year for the next 25 years. Any surplus will go towards causes close to Joan's heart, especially Justice and Peace. ✕ May she rest in peace ✕

Today is the **DAY FOR LIFE** Its theme is *Cherishing Life – Accepting Death*. This fits in very well with the message from the Archbishop last week (see over) that we contact our MP, urging him or her to attend the debate and vote against the Bill. See the website for further details: <http://dayforlife.org/Home/2015-Materials/2015-Message>. "How great a lie ...to make people think that lives affected by grave illness are not worth living!" - *Pope Francis*. There is a retiring collection **today** (see below).

St PETER'S CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsal TBC. ALL ARE WELCOME!

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 26th JULY 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✧ SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✧ <i>Day for Life</i>			
Sun 26th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Eric Churchyard RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Trixie Hall RIP
Mon 27th	Feria	7.00pm	✧ Mass: Marjorie Poole RIP
Tues 28th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass
Wed 29th	St Martha	(H) 10.00am	✧ Mass: John Oliver RIP
Thu 30th	Feria	7.00am	✧ Mass
Fri 31st	St Ignatius of Loyola	10.00am	✧ Mass
Sat 1st	St Alphonsus Liguori	5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✧ EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✧			
Sun 2nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Robert Poole RIP
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo

FAREWELL! After nearly 25 years as our organist at St Peter's, Erika is moving to pastures new (though not new to her) along with her husband Chris. We wish them both every good fortune and blessing, and thank them for their loyal service to our parish community in so many ways over the years. We shall miss them!

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 Shelia Vanstone; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **That those called to help Christ feed the multitude** will not be held back by what they see as their limitations, but will rely on Jesus, who will feed those to whom they are sent as priests, deacon, brothers and sisters.
- **For the older members of our community** who find themselves less able than they used to be, in mind, body and spirit; may God's compassionate love enfold them and may their family, friends and other agencies give them the care and love they need.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£350.80** (Gift Aided, **£206.70**). ♦ This Sunday there is a **retiring collection to support Life** (see above). The proceeds of the collection will go to the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other life-related activities supported by the Church.

PRAYER FOR PEACE: THURSDAY 6th AUGUST The date marks the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. The annual remembrance of this use of the atomic bomb takes place at **Aylesford Priory**, starting at 8.20pm. All are welcome to join in prayer that, as Pope Francis urges, the world's nations find less violent ways to resolve conflicts and succeed in eliminating all nuclear stockpiles.

VOCATIONS Pick up a copy of the latest edition of the diocesan vocations newsletter. Pray for our newly ordained priests, Fr Mark Higgins and Fr Matthew O'Gorman.

URGENT REQUEST FROM THE ARCHBISHOP "On Friday **11th September** the House of Commons will debate and vote on a Bill to legalise assisted suicide. This will put the most vulnerable people in our society at risk. Please contact your MP, urging them to attend the debate and vote against the Bill. You can send an e-mail to your MP via the Catholic Bishops' Conference website (www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide) or send a letter by post, a draft of which can be found at the back of the Church."