

# 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

**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)

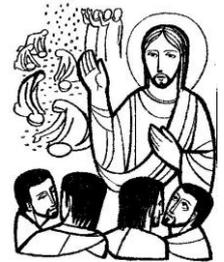
**St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary,** Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

**Year B**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**2nd August 2015**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: MIXED MOTIVES** Have you ever wondered why people practise the religion they do? Take Christianity, for example. The essence of Christianity is love of God through love of neighbour. In other words to be a Christian is to put others always before yourself. It means being at the service of whoever is in need. It's not rocket science to see that this approach to life is going to cause Christians a good deal of inconvenience, not to mention suffering and hardship at times. That's why one of Christianity's mottoes is about carrying your cross. A more natural way of life would be to feather your own nest, to make sure that you are well provided for and comfortable and then, if it took your fancy, to think about helping others, provided that they weren't too much of a nuisance. So why do we do what we do? Some people think that religion is a sort of insurance policy that they take out to give themselves a soft landing in the afterlife. At best we can say that they see this way of living as qualifying them for eternal life. Their motivation is the reward of heaven. Other individuals have ulterior motives for practising their religion. Sometimes these are harmless, like enjoying the company of other people or feeling good after a good Church sing-along. Not so helpful ulterior motives could be the desire to be seen as part of the religious community for social reasons, to get votes in an election or to increase the sales of your ironmongery business. This is to use religion for other purposes. Of course, there are folk who espouse Christianity because they are absolutely convinced by the teaching of Jesus; it makes sense of life here and now and it offers the best chance of living life to the full. They can see the wisdom of it all and can appreciate what God is promising on both sides of the grave. In today's gospel Jesus looks at the crowd and sees all the above types of people: those who believe because they have seen the signs and those who believe because they have had all the bread they wanted to eat. Which are you? *Author unknown.*



### **MESSAGE FROM ERIKA & CHIS...**

Thank you all for books & chocs, opportunities & jobs, flowers, cards, feedback & pennies, parties, hugs, I needed Rennies!

Arrived as strangers you gave us a home. Now going back home feels like go'ng home from home.

Travelling back we take the train

that makes Chris smile & eases the pain & stresses of moving from St Peter's in Kent we found peace & sleep in a monastery in Gent.

We slept in weird places: youth hostel in crater, a cube house, a vineyard, with memories of St Peter's.

The same route we took in 03 on 5 bikes,

now just as a couple the train is our bike.

Now even apart, you're forever in our hearts. One eye is laughing, one eye is crying, please visit us often on your way to Ireland...!?

We're feeling so lucky, met Bearsted's best people. Had life's best times too 'cause we met YOU, YOU & YOU!

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 2nd AUGUST 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 2nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Robert Poole RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Helen Nicol, birthday
Mon 3rd	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 4th	St John Vianney	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 5th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 6th	The Transfiguration	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 7th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 8th	St Dominic	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ NINETEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 9th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for August:** *that venturing out of ourselves we may learn to be true neighbours to those who find themselves on the margins of human life and society.*
- **For all the sick** especially Barbara Casey, Cyril Adam, 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 Jesus, our way, truth and light,** might inspire all those who work towards a just settlement of the migrant crisis in Europe, that the people who genuinely need care and support might find a listening ear.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£346.99** (Gift Aided, **£163.49**). ♦ The retiring collection to support Life brought in **£109.15**.

**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.

**BLESSED OSCAR ROMERO** A National Thanksgiving Mass to celebrate the life, martyrdom and beatification of Oscar Romero is to be held on Saturday **15th August** at 12.30pm in Metropolitan Cathedral Church of St George. The celebrant will be Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor and the preacher will be Bishop John Rawsthorne.

**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](http://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."

**The PILGRIM** Pick up a copy of **this month's** diocesan newspaper. It contains interesting articles on Ramsgate and Aylesford, along with further news from the diocese and elsewhere.