



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)

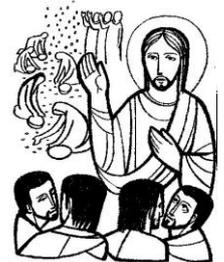
St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

Year B

NINETEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

9th August 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: FAITH in FOCUS: FED UP? Elijah became clinically depressed due to events in his life. He had feelings of hopelessness and pessimism. He just wanted to sit down and die. He felt worthless and helpless even though he had won a great victory over the false prophets. He'd lost all interest. The angel told him to eat and drink, otherwise the journey would be too much for him. He ate and drank the scone bread and the water, and then he received such strength that he walked for forty days and nights (a symbolic figure indicating trial or testing). He needed that food and drink in order to function properly.



Let's hope that we are not clinically depressed, although it's a relatively common complaint in modern society. But there can come times when we wonder if we're making any impact on our surroundings, when we feel as if the odds are stacked against us and perhaps even wonder whether God has given up on us. We go off our food. Today Jesus tells us that in faith terms we cannot go it alone. We will tire and end up losing heart. We need to stoke up with energy, and that nourishment comes from the bread of life, the eucharist. If we're fed up then it's a sure sign we need to be fed. One of the saddest things is to see someone who doesn't go to communion because they think they are not good enough. What a mistake! Communion is not a reward for good people. It's a remedy for those who know how bad they are and want to get better. If we had to rely on merit before we could receive communion then no one would ever qualify to eat and drink the body and blood of Christ. It is by joining with the believing community, hearing the invitation of God's word and sharing in the gift of eucharist, that we are kept going. Jesus tells us that his body and blood are what keeps Christians alive. Anyone who eats it will live for ever. And you can't ask for more than that. *Author unknown.*

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING Friday 21st August from 10:30am at Bearsted Library.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 9th AUGUST 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 9th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Joan Brown RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass
Mon 10th	St Lawrence	7.00pm	✕ Mass: A Special Intention
Tues 11th	St Clare	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 12th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 13th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 14th	St Maximilian Mary Kolbe	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 15th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ THE ASSUMPTION of THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ✕			
Sun 16th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Winifred Spillane RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		12noon	Baptism

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 (funeral service at Vinters Crematorium Monday at 12.30); for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **That the grace of God the Father** will draw more men and women to follow Jesus as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life who will feed his people with his word and the bread of eternal life.
- **As we remember the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan,** we remember all those who still suffer as a result of that conflict; and we pray that the leaders of the world may set aside the weapons of war and turn to the ways of peace.

<p>Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £538.01 (Gift Aided, £335.50). ♦ £447.84 was recently received as income from our investments for the first half of this year.</p>
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DAY OF RENEWAL Aylesford Priory, Saturday **5th September** starting at 9.30: Rosary, Healing Service, Confessions and Mass. See poster.

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.”