



Parish of St Peter, Bearsted
and
The Good Shepherd, Harrietsham
Newsletter



St Peter's Church, Button Lane, Bearsted, Maidstone, ME15 8NJ

Church of The Good Shepherd, Rectory Lane (off East Street), Harrietsham, ME17 1HS

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

Parish Website: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

30th August 2015



FAITH IN FOCUS: CHANGING THE LAW? The unclean hands in today's gospel have nothing to do with dirt. It was not simply a question of hygiene but of ritual cleanliness. There were many regulations that the Jews had to observe in ordinary daily life if they were to keep to the traditions of their ancestors. When the early Church realised the newness of Jesus' message they had to decide which of these religious laws still applied and which could be dispensed with. Not only did this bring trouble from within (some wanted to keep circumcision, dietary laws, etc.), but it attracted criticism from the Pharisees.

At no time did anyone suggest doing away with the Ten Commandments.

Coming from God through Moses, they were considered immutable. They encapsulated the sort of personal and social behaviour that oils the works of family and community life. They are so basic that they do not admit of contradiction. Who could possibly argue in favour of murder, adultery, theft, etc.? Of course, the Ten Commandments are considered so obvious that there is no religion or political philosophy in the world that would deny their truth. And that's where the problem lies. How do you put them into practice in daily life?

Are high taxes theft? Is abortion murder? Is flirting a kind of adultery? Does advertising promote covetousness? Can patriotism ever conflict with having only one God? Can you be a successful politician and not bear false witness?

Every age has to go through what the early Church experienced. We have to look at the way modern life is lived and ask ourselves whether some of the traditions and customs we grew up with have outlived their usefulness. More importantly we need to ensure that the timeless order willed by God is not destroyed when we rush headlong into patterns of behaviour which are ill thought-out.

Jesus gave us one key to interpreting law. He said that whatever we did should be judged by whether or not the act was intended as an act of love. Then he probably smiled as he left us to work out the consequences . . . *Author unknown.*

RESTRICTED VIEW Our parish YouTube channel is now broadcasting Mass live from St Peter's (ours, not the one in Rome); see the website for information. Weekday Mass only at the moment, but we hope to extend it to Sunday Mass soon. Our thanks to Terry Kinsman for his research, and to Paul Dixon for his skill and expertise in setting this up.

COFFEE CRISIS! Do you enjoy coffee after Mass at St Peter's? Three of our regular coffee-makers are leaving the parish. Can you help? Please speak to Fr Geoffrey or any of the regular coffee-makers. Thank you.

CHOIR PRACTICE This Tuesday at 8pm at St Peter's. A new season . . . a new challenge.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE An ecumenical service will be held in St Peter's Church on Tuesday 8th September at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

FAMILY TREASURE HUNT Poster reattached, not just for fun: it has the correct date this time – Sunday 27th September.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 30th AUGUST 2015
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✕

Sun 30th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Henry Poole RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: William Stenhouse RIP
Mon 31st	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Canon Brian O'Sullivan RIP
Tues 1st	Feria: Day of Prayer	10.00am	✕ Mass: For the Care of Creation
Wed 2nd	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 3rd	St Gregory the Great	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 4th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 5th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✕

Sun 6th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Basil Newton Parsons RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP

SEEKING SANCTUARY A small group of Kent Catholics, who co-ordinate a charity called Seeking Sanctuary, are gathering and sorting donations from churches and faith communities and driving them to the Secours Catholique warehouse in Calais. If anyone can help please contact Ben Bano - <http://seekingsanctuary.weebly.com/>.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for September:** that catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.
- **For all the sick** especially Barbara Casey and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Canon Brian O'Sullivan; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **For the willingness among our young people,** by the grace from the Father of lights, of making a generous gift of their lives as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life.
- **For all refugees, migrants and victims of war,** that they may find security, be restored to dignity and live in peace. We pray especially for those who lost their lives in the lorry on the Austrian border and in the boats which capsized off Libya. May they rest in peace.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£398.73** (Gift Aided, **£125.33**).

WORLD DAY of PRAYER The Pope has announced that the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation is to be celebrated this Tuesday. See: <http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/Day-of-Prayer>. "The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live." - *Pope Francis*.

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." ♦ ***Please pick up a postcard from the back of the church to send to your MP.***

MAIDSTONE STREET PASTORS are in need of more prayer pastors and a prayer coordinator. Please see their notice on the board. Contact Nigel Downes on 07817 250705 or email, maidstone@streetpastors.org.uk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS *Apostleship of the Sea* and *Demelza* have sent thank you letters for our recent collection and donation. See notice board.