



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-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

6th September 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: HAPPY DAYS The Jewish people couldn't wait for the Messiah to come. The prophets had promised that when he did arrive, things would be very different and it would be a time of great rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of blind people seeing once more, deaf people hearing again and disabled people jumping like deer. There was a tremendous feeling of longing and yearning for the Messiah, especially since the land was currently occupied by a foreign army. So when Jesus appears on the scene people begin to wonder whether or not he might be the Messiah they were expecting. By the end of today's gospel they have made their minds up. "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak", they say, quoting what Isaiah had predicted would happen.



Jesus hasn't gone away. He's still with us till the end of time through the Spirit. So what about these "happy days", these Messianic signs? Have they disappeared? Or is Jesus still doing "all things well"? To have faith means to see and hear things differently. We often speak about people having the eyes of faith. It doesn't mean that they see different things but that they are able to see things in a different perspective, from God's perspective. That's why when they see grief and suffering they feel the same pity as an atheist but they are able to see beyond the grave. When they walk in the countryside and listen to the singing of the birds they are aware of nature but they know that there is someone who created our natural world around us. Faith in Jesus the Messiah opens our eyes to what lies beyond physical sight; it opens our ears to hear good news in the midst of the world's troubles; it provides us with a cause for joy because it reminds us that God will not abandon us. The Jewish people did not fear the coming of the Messiah, because they had an expectant hope that he would set them free from all that prevented them from living the life that their God had promised them. Christians too welcome Jesus as Messiah, for he comes to set us free, to release us from a blurred vision of our world, from being deaf to the voice of God in our surroundings. He invites us to sing for joy! *Author unknown.*

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

COFFEE after Sunday Mass at St Peter's: three of our coffee-makers are leaving (have left) the parish. Can you help? Please speak to Fr Geoffrey or any of the regular coffee-makers. Thank you.

EVANGELIZATION in KENT An important seminar is to be held at The Hermitage, West Malling on Saturday **26th September** from 10am to 1pm for all those interested in evangelizing (in other words everyone). Please see the poster and try to go. Book at officece@ccftootingbec.org.uk (020 8672 7684).

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.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 6th SEPTEMBER 2015
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME** ✕

Sun 6th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Rebecca Neame RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP
Mon 7th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 8th	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.00am	✕ Mass
		<i>7.30pm</i>	<i>United Service for Peace</i>
Wed 9th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Henry (Harry) Jenkins RIP
Thu 10th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 11th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 12th	Most Holy Name of Mary	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME** ✕

Sun 13th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: For Racial Justice
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Jim and Mary Murphy, in thanksgiving
		12noon	Baptism: Amy Bunting

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL There is a meeting at Tenterden **this Wednesday** at 7.30pm.

RIDE AND STRIDE The sponsored *Ride + Stride* event takes place this Saturday, **12th September**, around Kent Churches.

FAMILY TREASURE HUNT Sunday **27th September**.

HARVEST FAST DAY Friday **2nd October**. As we give thanks for the abundance that God provides for us all, please help CAFOD raise money for some of the world's poorest people. Envelopes are available for your savings. Don't forget to Gift Aid your donations.

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; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- ***For a deeper participation among families in prayer for vocations*** to the priesthood and consecrated life among their children, knowing that Christ is in their midst.
- ***For all refugees who flee to escape intolerable situations in their homelands:*** may they be treated with compassion and fairness, and given the help they need to live new lives; we pray for the two little boys and their mother who perished as a result, and for the grieving father.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£477.43** (Gift Aided, **£21810**). ♦ Next week there is a retiring collection for **Racial Justice**, which supports the work of the Church in promoting racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society.

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/>.

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. THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE.***