

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:

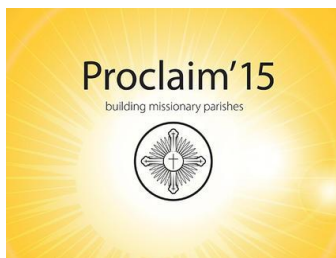
St Francis' Primary, Queen's Road, Maidstone ME16 0LB (Telephone: 771540)

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)

✂ SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ✂

28th June 2015



THE MAIDSTONE DEANERY: PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S MERCY – BUILDING MISSIONARY PARISHES (concluded)

Pope Francis tells us that: 'JESUS CHRIST IS THE FACE OF GOD'S MERCY. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him.' God the Father 'sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us...'

Pope Francis tells us that he chose the feast of the Immaculate Conception because God 'did not wish to leave humanity alone in the

throes of evil'. And so he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love, choosing her to be the Mother of man's Redeemer. When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive.'

During Holy Years, there is the tradition of having Holy Doors, through which pilgrims pass. This tradition will continue and each diocese will have at least one Holy Door, probably at the Cathedral, but at other places of pilgrimage as well. The symbolism of these doors is that they will be Doors of Mercy and pilgrims entering through them will be entering into God's home of love and mercy, and they will also be united with the Church throughout the world. As usual in these Holy Years, there will be opportunities to share in God's mercy by obtaining indulgences.

The Pope also makes the point that 8th December is the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council which 'was a fresh undertaking for all Christians to bear witness to their faith with greater enthusiasm and conviction.'

In our deanery events will be planned by the Deanery Pastoral Council and these may include pilgrimages and special occasions for prayer and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation especially during Lent. The Pope especially commends the 24 Hours for the Lord initiative during Lent. He calls on all parishes to 'place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with both hands.

PRAYER VIGIL There will be a prayer vigil before the Blessed Sacrament exposed at St Peter's from 5pm until Mass, on Saturday **11th July** to pray for the success of the National Catholic Evangelization Conference beginning at the same time. **Please put this date in your timetable and join us.**

SAFE JOURNEY We bid a fond farewell to Fr Joseph as he departs after his all-too-brief sojourn. As he embarks on the next leg of his travels we wish him a safe onward journey and look forward to seeing him again soon!

YOUTH GROUP Mondays, 7-8.30pm. This week: *Quizzes and TT plus other games!* For young people 10 - 15 years of age. Older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. **New members welcome!**

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 28th JUNE 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ✕			
Sun 28th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Ray Smith RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: A Special Intention
Mon 29th	Feria	NO MASS – SORRY	
Tues 30th	Feria	NO MASS – SORRY	
Wed 1st July	Feria	NO MASS – SORRY	
Thu 2nd	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 3rd	St Thomas	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 4th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 5th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Maurice Donovan RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
		3.00pm	Baptism: Xavier Ashburner

CHOIR NEWS Rehearsals: **today** after 10.30 Mass. Sung Mass, **12th July**.

PARISH BARBECUE 12th July at St Peter's. **Tickets still available.**

CONFIRMATIONS Maidstone area Confirmations will take place on Sunday **11th October**, with a retreat at Whitstable on **11th** and **12th July**. The preparation day will be on Sunday **4th October**.

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 and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Ann Moritz (funeral Friday 10th July, St Peter's) and Brigid Monks; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For the faith to accept the healing power of Jesus**, who wants to remove every obstacle to the response of men and women chosen to follow Him as priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.
- **For victims of violence**, and especially for those innocent holidaymakers murdered in Tunisia.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£503.49** (Gift Aided, **£336.72**). ♦ **This weekend** there is a retiring collection for the **Peter's Pence**, our traditional offering to the Holy Father which assists him and the Apostolic See to exercise their service of the Universal Church.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY A day focusing on people with disability at the heart of the Church: Aylesford Priory, Sunday **5th July**, 12 till 4.

MASS IN CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL on Tuesday **7th July** at 8pm, to celebrate the Translation of St Thomas Becket. See poster.

CAFOD EVENTS THIS SUMMER ♦ *Campaign workshop and talk* from CAFOD partner Fr Edwin Gariguez about Typhoons and Climate Change in The Philippines: **Saturday 11th July**, 11.00am – 4pm (provisional timings), Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB. If you would like any further information, or want to book a place at any of these events, please get in touch at the CAFOD Southwark Office on **020 8466 9901** or email southwark@cafod.org.uk. Many thanks for your continued support of CAFOD.

GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE Aylesford Priory, **11th July**. See poster.

EVANGELIZATION SEMINAR 2: Spreading the Good News through Justice & Peace with members of the Justice and Peace Commission, 10:00am - 1:00pm. Saturday 4th July at St Francis de Sales' Church Hall, 26 Larkhall Lane, Stockwell SW4 6SP (behind Stockwell tube station; free street car parking). All who wish to evangelize are welcome to join this discussion, especially members of Parish Evan-

gelization Teams and Parish Councils, Religious, Priests and Deacons. No charge, but please book at Centre for Catholic Formation (020 8672 7684; or office@cfctootingbec.org.uk).