



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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

19th July 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: A GOD WHO CARES One of the most striking aspects of the gods of ancient peoples is that they inspired fear. It's a common feature in these ancient deities that they had to be avenged. They were a moody lot. So it was quite common for some enormous sacrifice to be made in order to appease them and prevent them from venting their spleen on those who were unfortunate enough to be their subjects and followers. When Moses came back down the mountain it must have come as a relief to the Hebrews to find out what sort of God they had made a deal with. One who would keep them under his thumb or one who would let them grow? People who don't believe in God often find it necessary to lampoon the God they don't believe in. So they invent a ludicrous image and then proceed to knock it down with either sarcasm or humour.

Christians would probably be content with a God who as creator was responsible for the wonderful world we live in and for the gift of life that we all enjoy. If we could have a God who was also just and not given to flights of angry vengeance then that would be a bonus. To have a God who took time off from holding the universe together and occasionally showed that he knew of our world's existence would be like winning the lottery. Of course, having a God who was personally interested in each of us would presumably be out of the question? Surely God has got more important things to do than be concerned about me as an individual with all my likes and dislikes, my wants and needs? So when God speaks in today's scripture about shepherding his flock and taking care of them, and when Jesus feels sorry for his listeners and takes pity on them for they're like sheep without a shepherd, what's going on? Is it a lie? A joke? Or do I need to look again at the type of God we've got? *Author unknown.*



PARISH BARBECUE Thank you to our organizers and supporters. We made a profit of **£115** which will go to Demelza House, the Children's Hospice in Sittingbourne.

JOAN BROWN RIP ✕ Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Brown who died last week. ✕ Joan was a well-loved, respected and hardworking member of our parish community for many years. Joan's Requiem Mass will be at St Peter's this **Tuesday, 21st July at 10am**, followed by burial at Holy Cross.

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." ♦ The **DAY FOR LIFE** is next Sunday and its theme is *Cherishing Life – Accepting Death*. This fits in very well with the message from the Archbishop. See the website for further details: <http://dayforlife.org/Home/2015-Materials/2015-Message>. "How great a lie ...to make people think that lives affected by grave illness are not worth living!" - *Pope Francis*

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 19th JULY 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✧ SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✧			
Sun 19th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Therese Sophie Weedon RIP
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Caroline and Dan Pigden, recently married
		1.00pm	Baptism: Oliver Jude Stapley
Mon 20th	Feria	7.00pm	✧ Mass
Tues 21st	Feria	10.00am	✧ Requiem Mass: Joan Christina Brown
Wed 22nd	St Mary Magdalene	(H) 10.00am	✧ Mass: James Hamilton RIP
Thu 23rd	St Bridget	7.00am	✧ Mass
Fri 24th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass
Sat 25th	St James	5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✧ SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✧ <i>Day for Life</i>			
Sun 26th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Eric Churchyard RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Trixie Hall RIP

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Today is our final session at St Peter's before we break up for the summer. Our thanks to those who lead the children every week – it has certainly been worth the time and effort. The parish priest endorses the wise words of Anna (singing 'Getting to Know You') in *The King and I*: if you become a teacher, by your pupils you'll be taught!

St PETER'S CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsal TBC. ALL ARE WELCOME!

YOUTH GROUP Monday 20th July, bowling. Please let Erika (077 60 38 56 72) know ASAP as she needs to know numbers to book enough places. Thank you (consent forms needed, please). For young people 10 - 15 years of age. Older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. **New members welcome!**

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, Cyril Adam, Sue Palmby and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Joan Brown; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board. For Oliver being baptized this Sunday and for his family and godparents.
- **For all the priests and religious men and women who serve our diocese,** that, grateful for their calling, they will heed the Lord's invitation to pray in restful solitude with him.
- **For our parishes,** that we may effectively proclaim the good news of God's love to all those among whom we live.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£391.10** (Gift Aided, **£240.00**). ♦ The **Sea Sunday** collection amounted to **£196.83**. ♦ Next Sunday there will be a **retiring collection to support Life** (see above). The proceeds of the collection will go to the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other life-related activities supported by the Church.

OUR LADY of MOUNT CARMEL Pilgrimage at Aylesford, **today**. *Novena Prayer: O God, you have given us Mary as our Mother and, through the Order of Carmel, we learn to call her sister. May we imitate her goodness and faith, and be ever joyful in the wonderful things you have done for us. May Mary watch over and protect us on our pilgrim way to your holy mountain, Christ the Lord. Amen.* ✧ There is also a pilgrimage on the feast of St James, Saturday **25th July**, 12 – 4. See poster.

FROM THE ARCHBISHOP Fr Francis Maple OFM Cap, who has for some years written a weekly "Sunday Homily" for the Universe has launched a website which offers a homily based on the readings

of the Mass each day, and also a “*thumbnail sketch of the life of the relevant saint*”. Fr Francis offers this as an “*aid to the spiritual life*”: <http://fatherfrancismaple.co.uk/content/>.