



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)

The ASSUMPTION of THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



16th August 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: MAGNIFICAT

Mary's song for today's feast of the Assumption is called the Magnificat and is based on an Old Testament song by Hannah. But the song is not actually about Hannah or Mary. It's about God and it's about you and me. The word "Magnificat" means that I am praising God for his greatness. Mary was blessed because the Lord was with her. Everyone with whom God dwells is blessed, and you are one of those people. Christ dwells with you. He has given you faith to believe in him. He has done everything necessary for your salvation. He talks to you, through his word. He feeds you, with his body and blood. God watches over you and protects you until the day he calls you to be with him. All generations can most certainly call you blessed. You are blessed because Jesus is with you, and he always will be.



So with Mary as our example we too can sing the Magnificat. What are the great things that the Lord has done for me that I want to burst into song about and sing Magnificat? What have I done that needs God's mercy and how do I feel the forgiveness of God? What are the ways that God shows he is working in my life, with the power of his arm, and which make me want to sing Magnificat? Time and time again God stops me from getting proud hearted, *Magnificat!* The God who thwarts the high and mighty and raises the common and garden folk, this same God never ignores me when I stand before him with honesty of heart, *Magnificat!* He fills me when I am hungry and he laughs at my false claims to be needy, *Magnificat!* Through my baptism God has promised that I will be his child and he will be my Father, until that day when I shall see him face to face, *Magnificat!*

Today's feast represents the crowning glory of Mary's life of faith lived in the hope and trust that the promises made to her would be fulfilled. By singing the Magnificat Mary shows that she had a deep understanding of God's continual presence at her side in good times and in bad, and that her gratitude was such that her heart overflowed with praise just at the thought of what God was doing in her life. By making the Magnificat our own, we too can recognise a God who has favoured his lowly servant; we can show our gratitude to God for the many ways in which his love surrounds us daily; and we can hope and trust in his promise that, like Mary, we will one day see him face to face and praise him for eternity with the saints in heaven. *Magnificat!* *Author unknown.*



COFFEE CRISIS! Do you enjoy having a coffee after Mass? Many parishioners do, but we may not be able to continue with serving coffee after Mass for much longer. Three of our regular coffee-makers are leaving the parish, so we now have gaps in the Sunday rota. Can you help? You will only be asked to do it about once a month. It's not hard work and it's a pleasant way to get to know other parishioners. St Peter's is of course an equal opportunities parish, so both men and women

can apply! If you can help, please speak to Fr Geoffrey or any of the regular coffee-makers.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 16th AUGUST 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ The ASSUMPTION of THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ✕			
Sun 16th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Winifred Spillane RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass
		12noon	Baptism: Hermione de Nocker
Mon 17th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Pauline Vavasour RIP
Tues 18th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 19th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 20th	St Bernard	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 21st	St Pius X	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 22nd	The Queenship of BVM	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✕			
Sun 23rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John Kimber RIP

Thank you.

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

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; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **For all those now discerning their vocations in Christ,** that they may be filled with the Holy Spirit and nourished by the living bread of His holy will for them.
- **For all those killed or injured in the explosion in China,** and for those who care for them: may the emergency services and authorities work to alleviate their suffering.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £408.76 (Gift Aided, £261.50).

POST-16 EXAMINATION RESULTS St Simon Stock Catholic School recorded another very good year of Advanced Level and Vocational results with 100% pass rate with 92% achieving two or more A-levels. See poster.

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

WORLD DAY of PRAYER The Pope has announced that the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation is to be celebrated on Tuesday **1st September**. More information to follow.

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' Confer-

ence 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.**

Prayer aid: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.”