



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)

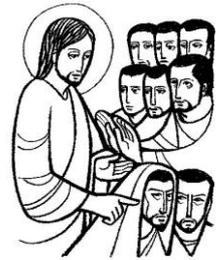
St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

Year B

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

23rd August 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: WHY ARE YOU HERE? Some of the people who followed Jesus were only there for what they could get out of it. They were happy to think that he might overthrow the Romans because this would give them a chance of an easier life. They were happy to be fed along with the other 5,000 but when he started talking about being food and drink himself they ditched him. How could anyone accept such intolerable language? they said. He was demanding too much.



There are people even today who treat religion as an effective form of networking, as a club or a society which it's good to be seen at. Other seem to want to be involved but only on their own terms. They asked what they ought to do if they were to be pleasing to God. But in fact all they really wanted was a list of rules to follow. It's easier to have a set of laws than to have a relationship with God, because then all you have to do is keep the laws. You don't have to go the extra mile or show that your love is real. You just have to keep your nose clean. Our century is not short of people for whom obeying the commandments is more important than really knowing God or sharing in Christ's suffering. There are always people who are just there for the fun of it. They asked him for a sign, for a miracle, for some form of entertainment. Moses gave our ancestors manna; what trick are you going to do for us? And when yesterday's miracle was over and done with they moved off in search of something else to interest them. Sometimes today too we see fickle Christians who are never happy unless they are on a religious high. So they wander from church to church in search of the latest theories, better music, a more original style of preaching, a nicer building or a more charismatic leader. Their lack of staying power betrays a lack of commitment to Jesus.

It's possible to call yourself a Christian but not to have a relationship with Christ. It's possible to come to church but for the wrong reasons. If you are to work for God, said Jesus, then you must believe in the one he has sent. After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. So why are you here? *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. 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.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 23rd AUGUST 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ 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
Mon 24th	St Bartholomew	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 25th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 26th	Blessed Dominic	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 27th	St Monica	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 28th	St Augustine	10.00am	✕ Mass: A Special Intention
Sat 29th	Passion of John the Baptist	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ 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

G.C.S.E. PRESS RELEASE St Simon Stock Catholic School has recorded another year of excellent G.C.S.E. results with 67% of the cohort gaining 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths and a pass rate of 98%. See poster.

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 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.
- **That trusting in Christ's words to Peter,** all those called to follow the Lord as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life will recognize the gift of their call and follow him faithfully.
- **That the thousands of young people** who have recently received their A level, GCSE and other exam results will find an open doorway to a future of hope and happiness.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £430.43 (Gift Aided, £282.51).

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**. For more information visit: <http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/Day-of-Prayer>.

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.