



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

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

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)

Parish Website and YouTube:
www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Year C

TENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

5th June 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: RECEIVING SALVATION

God's initiative: In the story of the widow of Nain Jesus takes the initiative; the widow offers only her unspoken need. Jesus acts with such concern and sensitivity that the approach of God's power, though it provokes awe, arouses also praise and faith. If this could be the manner of God's approach to us always! Yet that is precisely Luke's message. Jesus is the image of the Father, sharing in action the love of the Father for us. We only have to place our need of salvation before him. He approaches the spiritually needy as mercifully and with as much concern as the physically needy. Jesus sorrows for human wretchedness, and the only thing he cannot overcome is a refusal to acknowledge the need of God's salvation.



Our realisation: Like the widow we must know that we are in need. We cannot save ourselves. "Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh." (Luke 6:21.) We must weep for our sins, for our indifference, our lack of perseverance in good intentions, our helplessness to heal the ills of the world around us. God is "visiting" us every day of our lives through Jesus, the risen Lord, coming close to us in love and concern. Jesus visits us especially in the Eucharist. We are called first to accept the gifts of life that he gives us, then to praise him joyfully for the gift. We do not have to be in the charismatic movement to do that.

Conversion: Some prefer to reject God's approach or simply disbelieve in Him. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem in sorrow that its response is so poor. (Luke 19:44.) Our lives are the poorer if we don't realise that Jesus has the same love and concern for us that he showed for the widow of Nain and her son. That is a sort of conversion, of turning towards God, that we look for in the Mass. "Lord, come to me; visit me in your love and stay with me always." (Author unknown.)

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST Thank you to our ministers who renewed the commitment to their ministry **last Sunday**, Corpus Christi. Ministers who were away last weekend are invited to renew their commitment **today**.

CONFIRMATIONS "The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For by the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1285.*) Maidstone area Confirmations will take place on Sunday **9th October**, with a retreat at Whitstable on **8th to 10th July**. The preparation day will be on Sunday **2nd October**. As before we are inviting those who are not confirmed (School Year 9 or above) to apply. We hope to be able to run a short course in Bearsted later in the summer. If you wish to be confirmed see Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril.

GIFT AID SCHEME If you are in the Gift Aid Scheme please pick up an envelope addressed to you.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE Meeting **this Tuesday** at the usual venue.

CHOIR PRACTICE Second Tuesday of each month, 8pm to 9pm, at St Peter's. Next practice on **Tuesday 14th June**. All are welcome.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 5th JUNE 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ TENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 5th June	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Mary Shelagh, Countess of Lisburne RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Daniel Daly RIP
Mon 6th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Jeffery Allison RIP
Tues 7th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Jeffery Allison RIP
Wed 8th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Canon Anthony Whale RIP
Thu 9th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 10th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 11th	St Barnabas	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ ELEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 12th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Terry Green RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Col. George Ramsey RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

PRAYER VISITING Churches Together in Bearsted will hold this event during the week of **4th July**. Please give your name to Bob Piggott (bob_piggott@hotmail.co.uk) if you are willing to give up a short time (45-60 minutes) on a weekday night that week.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES 19-26 August led by Archbishop Peter Smith. See poster.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June:** that seminarians and men and women entering religious life may have mentors who live the joy of the gospel and prepare them wisely for their mission. For our new auxiliary bishop, Paul Mason, ordained last Tuesday at the Cathedral.
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Canon Anthony Whale (Arundel and Brighton diocese); for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For all those affected by the floods in France and Germany:** may the people and communities receive the help they need.
- **For all those in Syria and Ethiopia in need of help:** may the international effort work together to relieve their distress.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£410.36** (gift aided, **£223.00**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the **Catholic Trust for England and Wales** which supplies our bishops with the revenue necessary for the central administration of the Church in this country.

ETHIOPIA FOOD CRISIS A message from CAFOD: Severe and extreme weather shifts, part of the El Niño effect, mean that the rains in Ethiopia have failed twice. Farmers are losing their crops, water sources are drying up, and families are struggling to keep themselves and their animals alive. As a result, an estimated 400,000 children are suffering from malnutrition, and millions are in need of emergency food and clean water. We urgently need your support to scale up our work and reach more vulnerable women, men and children with life-saving aid. Please use the envelopes for your donations, or donate online: <http://cafod.org.uk/ethiopia>. See poster.

AYLESFORD YOUTH FESTIVAL Saturday 25th June – 10am to 7pm. Join groups from the Diocese and Southwark Catholic Youth Service for a day of conversation, games, music, art and drama. The day concludes with Mass at 6pm. Please book in advance. £10 per person. School years 7-11 welcome. Contact jean@scys.org.uk to book, or call 01227 272900.

CELEBRATING WHO I AM The annual celebration for people with disability at the heart of the church is on **Sunday 3rd July**, at The Friars, Aylesford: 12.00noon – 4.00pm, beginning with Mass, and including art workshop, sensory prayer, Rosary Way, outdoor games, music and prayer workshops, closing with Praise and Worship.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL Meeting **this Tuesday** at Goudhurst.
THE PILGRIM The June edition of the diocesan newspaper is now available.