



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Year C**

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**12th June 2016**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: FLAWS, FAULTS, FAILINGS AND FORGIVENESS** Psychologists tell us that often when we get on our high horse about someone else's faults, it's because we recognise those same failings in ourselves, and our ranting and raving at others is a way of exorcising them from our own psyche. As long as we have a target at which we can direct our anger we can push our own imperfections to the back of our mind. So we love to accuse other people of the very things that we know deep down are the same flaws that we have. As a nation we need to be satisfied by demonising certain types of criminals who become our national hate figures. It makes us feel righteous and clean. To refuse to forgive another person is an extraordinary thing yet one which we often hear from those who feel wronged. It's tantamount to saying that they have harmed us and we are so perfect that we have never needed forgiveness from another person or from God. For that's where forgiveness comes from: God. Our sins deface the beauty of God's presence in our world and we need to ask forgiveness from God. And it usually happens that someone who is deeply aware of their own defects is also acutely aware of how much they are in need of God's love and presence, that presence which is stronger than all of our sin. The more we live lives that recognise our dependence on God's love and forgiveness, the easier we find it to pass on the forgiveness that has first been shown to us. We don't forgive out of our own store of forgiveness but out of God's. When Jesus went out to the Pharisee's home for a meal he had his feet anointed by a weeping woman who gate-crashed the dinner. She had a reputation in the town and it wasn't a good one. Jesus cleverly pointed out that the great love she showed him would be impossible if she had not experienced forgiveness in her life. Strangely it was the religious people who had difficulty forgiving her. Maybe they had kept the rules and felt better than her, and in no need of God's forgiveness? Our "trespasses" are only forgiven to the same degree that we forgive those of others. How forgiving are you? Your answer will tell you a lot about how much you have experienced God's love.



*(Author unknown.)*

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST** If you did not renew the commitment to your ministry recently please let Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril know.

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

**REMINDER** After Mass next Sunday, at St Peter's, informal reception to mark Fr Geoffrey's 40th anniversary of ordination.

**PARISH BARBECUE: SUNDAY 3rd JULY** We will be holding our annual parish barbecue in St Peter's Church Hall garden, **immediately after 10.30 Mass on Sunday 3rd July**. Please sign up with Ian Bruce Russell after Mass, or let Terry or Ian know by phone / email to book your places (tell us any diet restrictions). Barbecue: chicken, burger, sausages and salads - but please bring a 'plate to share' of salad or dessert. See poster for ticket price and more details. Ian Bruce Russell: 01622 736811; Terry Kinsman: [kinsman@macrolevel.co.uk](mailto:kinsman@macrolevel.co.uk), 01622 730119.

**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](mailto:bob_piggott@hotmail.co.uk)) if you are willing to give up a short time (45-60 minutes) on a weekday night that week.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 12th JUNE 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ ELEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 12th June	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Terry Green RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Col. George Ramsey RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 13th	St Anthony of Padua	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 14th	Feria	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Wed 15th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 16th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 17th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 18th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ TWELFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 19th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: George Albert & Calerine Aline Weedon RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Special Intention

**SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES 19-26 August.** 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 Thomas James Boyle; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For Her Majesty the Queen as we celebrate her 90th birthday;** and for Prince Philip who has just turned 95.
- **For those who feel weighed down by guilt or shame,** who feel that they can never be forgiven: *that they may hear the Lord speak words of healing and so come to true freedom and peace.*

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£432.11** (gift aided, **£269.00**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ This Sunday there is 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. ♦ Next Sunday there will be a **retiring collection to support Life** (see below). The proceeds of the collection will go to the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other life-related activities supported by the Church.

**DAY FOR LIFE** is the day in the Church's year dedicated to celebrating and upholding the dignity of human life. The Church teaches that life should be protected and nurtured from conception to natural death. The proceeds from the Day for Life collection (**next Sunday**) provide core funding for the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and to assist other life related activities supported by the Church, usually by means of grants made to support Catholic charities working in the particular field determined by the theme of the year.

**ETHIOPIA FOOD CRISIS** Severe and extreme weather shifts, part of the El Niño effect, mean that the rains in Ethiopia have failed twice. As a result, an estimated 400,000 children are suffering from malnutrition, and millions are in need of emergency food and clean water. Please use the envelopes to make a donation, 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](mailto: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.