



# 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**

**TWELFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**19th June 2016**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: JUST FINE-TUNING?** The passage in today's gospel where Peter tells Jesus that he is the Christ, the anointed Messiah of God, is usually considered to be a pivotal one. For it means that to a degree the penny has dropped. Although everyone seems to recognise that Jesus is someone special, like Elijah, John the Baptist or another prophet come back from the dead, Peter puts his finger on the truth and is quickly told by Jesus not to go around telling others about it. It's easy to say, "You are the Christ". But faith in Jesus is about more than just words. It's about adjustment: adjustment in the way we think, the way we behave, the way we relate to God. That's because believing in Christ turns our lives upside-down. And this adjustment is not just a fine-tuning; it's a somersault. For following Jesus does not mean doing the same as everyone else except that we throw in a few hymns and prayers from time to time. It means having a radically different outlook on why we are here on this earth, what this demands of us and what we expect of the next world. The values of God's kingdom are not simply refinements of ordinary human goodness. In fact, they are often diametrically opposed to what society in general considers to be desirable. That's why Christians talk about sacrifice, about bearing a cross daily, about self-denial, about serving rather than being served, about putting ourselves always in second place, about disregarding the reputation others credit us with and about giving till it hurts rather than seeking to receive. All of this is counter-cultural. Those with no faith either pity us as mugs or else they look upon us a quaint bunch of do-gooders. The worse thing Christianity could ever do is to make a bid for popularity, for social respectability or for "national treasure" status. The cross that is at the heart of our faith is too severe a symbol for a world that is self-reliant. At the very instant that Peter professed his faith in Jesus as Messiah, Jesus told him that he would suffer grievously, be rejected, and be put to death. This is what it means to follow Christ. Both Jesus and Peter travelled the same route to glory and there is no reason to suppose that any present-day follower of Christ will be spared the well-trodden path. Thank God it's a path to glory! *(Author unknown.)*



**DAY FOR LIFE** The theme this year is *The Wonder of Human Life in Our Common Home*. Please pick up a prayer card, pray for the protection and promotion of human life from conception to its natural end, and support the retiring collection **today**, the proceeds from which provide core funding for the Anscombe Bioethics Centre to protect life at every stage and in every condition ([www.dayforlife.org](http://www.dayforlife.org)).

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

**PASTORAL TEAM** There is a meeting **this Wednesday** at 7.30pm in the parish room at St Peter's.

**PARISH BARBECUE:** 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 19th JUNE 2016**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **TWELFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

Sun 19th June	<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
Mon 20th	St Alban	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 21st	St Aloysius Gonzaga	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Deacon Bill Eason RIP
Wed 22nd	St John Fisher	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Gilbert Monckton RIP
Thu 23rd	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Brigid Monks RIP
Fri 24th	<b>The Nativity of St John the Baptist</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 25th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ <b>THIRTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)</b> ✕			
Sun 26th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Sanders RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Mary McSweeney RIP
		<b>(H) 12noon</b>	Baptism: Rosalie Vivienne Bonnaud

**CONFIRMATIONS** Sunday **9th October**: 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. *Last call.*

**SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES 19th-26th 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 all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially the MP Jo Cox; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For the MP Jo Cox,** murdered in her constituency and for her grieving family, friends, colleagues and constituents. *May we, like her and those who serve in public office, work to build a better world through our commitment to social justice.*
- **For the world in the wake of the "senseless hatred" of the Orlando shooting,** that we learn to value each person. *May we grow in our appreciation of diversity and our commitment to peace.*

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£315.36** (gift aided, **£191.00**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ The collection for the **Catholic Trust for England and Wales** amounted to **£146.00**. ♦ This Sunday there is a **retiring collection to support Life** (see above). The proceeds of the collection will go to the Ancombe Bioethics Centre and other life-related activities supported by the Church.

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY** The Catholic Children's Society has been working with children and families in Westminster and Hertfordshire for over 150 years. Archbishop Peter has welcomed them into our diocese. They provide a range of innovative school and community-based projects that seek to help children and families experiencing material, emotional or spiritual poverty. Pick up a copy of their newsletter which will be produced twice a year. Parishioners who wish to subscribe should fill in an application form and hand it in ([www.cathchild.org.uk](http://www.cathchild.org.uk)).

**JUSTICE & PEACE** People in Kent concerned about issues of social justice get together to discuss these matters from time to time at the Area Bishop's house (More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN). The next such gathering is scheduled to run from 2 till 4 pm on **Sunday 26 June**. All are welcome; contact Phil Kerton on 01474 873802 to get informed about future events. [*Our Concerns: Prayer, Peace, Poverty, Prisoners, Persecution, Pollution.*]

**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.

**MISSION APPEAL** This year's appeal will be given by the Verona Fathers over the weekend **6th and 7th August**.

**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.