



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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

26th June 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: RAPID RESPONSE The people who met Jesus on the road in today's gospel, and who all had reasons to delay following him, are mirror images of Elisha when he was called to come and follow the prophet Elijah. After an initial request to go and say goodbye to his parents Elisha realised the enormity of the calling. There and then he killed a pair of oxen he was using to plough the field with, killed them and cooked them by burning the plough. The meat would have been absolutely fresh but not very tender! It's noticeable that, when Jesus was calling his apostles, we are told that they left their nets etc. "at once" and followed him. For those who choose to be followers of Jesus there is an immediate attraction, something which is no mere half-way house appeal. When the famous prophet Elijah throws his cloak over the simple farmer Elisha, then Elisha knows he has a claim on him. If there's one thing God can't stand then it must be half-heartedness. Am I serving God with every ounce of strength and commitment or am I just doing enough to keep my conscience quiet? Am I just covering all bases and paying the premiums on my heavenly insurance policy? Or do I feel a magnetic attraction to Jesus and all that he asks of me? In my life is God a passion or a hobby? When Jesus calls us to be disciples, he calls us to make a lifelong, irrevocable, absolute commitment. Most of us follow Jesus to the best of our abilities but we are also aware that there are areas of our lives where we hold back, aspects of the way we live that are not helping our commitment as disciples of Jesus. This is because following Jesus is an ongoing, lifelong commitment. We have continually to ratify our commitment, to keep signing on the dotted line as disciples of Christ. What are the nets that Jesus is still asking us to leave, the oxen that we need to slaughter, the ploughs that we have to burn? Are there relationships in our lives that dull our response? Are there habits that we have taken for granted but which make us slow to respond to the challenge of being followers? Or have we felt the cloak thrown over us, God's mantle in Christ, which calls us to follow wherever he may lead and to proclaim the best news possible to those we meet on the road?

(Author unknown.)



THANK YOU! (A note from Fr Geoffrey) 'Dear parishioners, thank you so much for the kind remembrance of the 40th anniversary of my ordination last Sunday: to those who sent cards and gifts, for the very generous collection and for the mention at Mass from Deacon Cyril and after at the reception from Terry. And thank you to those who put on that lovely spread and baked and decorated the cakes! Not sure I merited all that attention but I was really chuffed by it. God bless you all! Please keep me in your prayers.'

MGR TIM GALLIGAN Fr Tim's mother died on 17th June; her funeral will be on Thursday **30th June** at St John the Baptist, Westerham at 12noon. ✕ *May she rest in peace.*

WEDNESDAY is the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul and a Holy Day of Obligation. This means we have as much duty to attend Mass that day as we do on a Sunday. It is also customarily the Patronal Festival of our Parish Church at Bearsted. Let us make every effort to congregate as a parish to mark this great festival. (Vigil Mass on **Tuesday evening, 28th**, at Good Shepherd and 2 Masses at St Peter's on **Wednesday 29th** – see *Diary* below.)

CHURCH WEBSITE in ACTION Our Masses at St Peter's have been broadcast over the internet for a few months now, but the power of this medium was demonstrated at the recent funeral of Alicja Egan's husband, Finn. Many family and friends could not get to Finn's Requiem, but we now know about 100 viewed the Mass on our *YouTube* channel from as far away as **Ireland, Poland** and even **Australia**. Our webcasts are not just aimed at the housebound, but also anyone who for whatever reason cannot get to the church in person. And our services can be viewed live, or at any time later - just go to the church website (www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk). Our thanks to Paul Dixon for making this possible.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 26th JUNE 2016
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

Sun 26th June	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Sanders RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Mary McSweeney RIP
		(H) 12noon	Baptism: Rosalie Vivienne Bonnaud
Mon 27th	Feria	10.30am	✕ Requiem Mass: Thomas James Boyle
Tues 28th	SAINTS PETER AND PAUL	(H) 7.00pm (Vigil)	✕ Vigil Mass (<i>Tuesday</i>)
Wed 29th		10.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		8.00pm	✕ Mass
Thu 30th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 1st July	St Oliver Plunkett	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 2nd	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

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

Sun 3rd July	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Smith RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass

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 at St Peter's, 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, and what you want to drink. See poster for ticket price and more details.

CYRIL DURBIN: 25 YEARS OUR DEACON Cyril was ordained deacon 25 years ago. Parishioners and friends are all invited to join us at St Peter's on **Sunday 10th July** (immediately after the 10.30 Mass) for a glass of wine and 'finger buffet' to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Please tell us your name and the number coming, to help us with catering. Terry Kinsman 01622 730119, kinsman@macrolevel.co.uk.

MISSION APPEAL This year's appeal will be given by the Verona Fathers over the weekend **6th and 7th August**. **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. Let us remember Pope Francis as he makes his historic journey to Armenia.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially Kay Glenn and Ian Taylor; for those recently dead especially Mgr Tim Galligan's mother; for Rosalie, being baptized this Sunday, and for her parents and godparents; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.**
- **For our country following the EU referendum result; may we have made the right choice for ourselves, for Europe and for the world.**
- **For those facing exams at this time; may the Holy Spirit enlighten their thoughts and help them achieve the results they desire.**

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£441.24** (gift aided, **£230.00**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ The collection to support **Life** amounted to **£149.91**. ♦ This **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** (a holy day of obligation) there is a collection for **Peter's Pence**, our traditional offering to the Holy Father which assists him and the Apostolic See to exercise their service of the Universal Church.

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.

MONASTIC AFTERNOON at TYBURN CONVENT An invitation to meet the Tyburn Nuns, find out what they do, and hear the story of the great Tyburn Martyrs. First Sunday of every month, 2 - 5.00pm. The next one is: **Sunday 3rd July** - Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place, London (on Bayswater Rd), tel: 020 7723 7262.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES 19th-26th August. See poster.