



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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

4th September 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: COUNTING THE COST Like a king making ready for battle or a contractor about to build a tower, we have to count the cost as we set out to follow Jesus. Our Lord today is telling us up front the sacrifice it will take. His words aren't addressed to his chosen few, the Twelve, but rather to the "great crowds" - to "anyone," to "whoever" wishes to be his disciple. That only makes his call all the more stark and uncompromising. We are to "hate" our old lives, renounce all the earthly things we rely upon, to choose him above every person and possession. Again he tells us that the things we have - even our family ties and obligations - can become an excuse, an obstacle that keeps us from giving ourselves completely to him.

Jesus brings us the saving wisdom we are promised in today's first reading. His is that saving Wisdom. Weighed down by many earthly concerns, the burdens of our body and its needs, we could never see beyond the things of this world, could never detect God's heavenly design and intention. So in his mercy he sent us his Spirit, his wisdom from on High, to make straight our path to him. Jesus himself paid the price to free us from the sentence imposed on Adam, which we recall in today's Psalm. No more will the work of our hands be an affliction, no more are we destined to turn back to dust. We have been redeemed, given a new family and a new inheritance, made children of the father, brothers and sisters in the Lord. We are free now to come after him, to serve him - no longer slaves to the ties of our past lives. In Christ, all our yesterdays have passed. We live in what the psalm today beautifully describes as the daybreak of his kindness. For he has given us wisdom of heart, taught us to number our days aright.

We must prefer nothing to the love of Christ, not even the strongest bonds of affection. To be his disciples, we must take up our cross and renounce everything. *(Author unknown.)*

CONFIRMATION Please pray for our confirmation candidates who begin a short period of preparation this Sunday after Mass at St Peter's.

GOOD SHEPHERD Pick up a copy of 'A Brief History of The Good Shepherd Harrietsham' (suggested donation: £1). Our thanks to Ian Fraser and his team for researching and putting together this useful compendium of our beautiful chapel at Harrietsham.

HEATING A new and more efficient heating system has been installed covering the house, the sacristy and parish room and the back of the church at St Peter's. Understandably it has yet to be fully tested, but it certainly heats the water!

RIDE AND STRIDE The sponsored *Ride + Stride* event takes place this Saturday, **10th September**, around Kent Churches.

READERS and EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of COMMUNION There will be a *Morning of Recollection* here at St Peter's, on Saturday **17th September** from 9am to 1pm approximately. This will be led by Canon Luke Smith, Dean of Maidstone.

WE WILL REMEMBER Short memorial services in Bearsted for those who fell in the Great War:- Thursday **15th September**, 12noon: Thomas Richard Simpson at St Mary's, Thurnham. Thursday **29th September**, 12noon: Frederick Message, Roseacre Lane at entrance to Clarendon Close. Friday **30th September**, 12noon: Robert Richard Rose, Ware Street, opposite lane to Golf Club. ✕ RIP.

DIARY for SEPTEMBER: **4th, 11th and 25th:** confirmation sessions at St Peter's; **17th:** day of reflection for minister and readers at St Peter's; **19th:** finance meeting; **21st:** DPC at St Francis'; **23rd:** confirmation prayer vigil at St Peter's; **27th:** peace service at St Peter's.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 4th SEPTEMBER 2016
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

Sun 4th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: John Kendall RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John Kimber RIP
Mon 5th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Deacon Yves Ferriere RIP
Tues 6th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Deacon Ray Partridge RIP
Wed 7th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Ivy and Murray Fraser RIP
Thu 8th	Nativity of BVM	7.00am	✕ Mass: Ethel Thorn RIP
Fri 9th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 10th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions

✕ **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

Sun 11th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Maureen Grieve RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP

DIOCESAN DAY for CATECHISTS St George's Cathedral, **Saturday 24th September**, 11am – 4pm. If any catechists are interested in attending, please pick up a programme from the sacristy.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for September:** *That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become ever more aware of their mission to evangelize.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for William Edmed, being baptized today, and for his parents and godparents; for those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For all those taking part in the Paralympics**, thanking God for their hard work and determination that allows them to participate and excel in physical games, despite their disabilities.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£418.50** (gift aided, **£326.30**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ Next week there is a retiring collection for the **Catholic Education Service** (see note below).

The CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. They have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh governments, sharing the aims of high academic standards for all, and increased parental choice. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools. There are over 2,000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England educating over 800,000 students. The Catholic Church and the Church of England together provide one-third of all of the schools in the country. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education, and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas.

MISSIO The new National Missio Director, Fr Antony Chantry MHM, has written to thank the diocese for its response to fundraising for APH-Mill Hill; in 2015 Missio received £208,171 from the diocese. He particularly wished his thanks to go to the Diocesan Directors, the local secretaries and all parish clergy who support the work of Missio. The following is an extract from the Missio website (www.missio.org.uk): "This year World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on 23rd October. This special day is an opportunity for Catholics worldwide to join together to pray for the missionary work of our Church and to give what we can to missionaries and churches overseas that need our help. The World Mission Sunday Collection – one of just three personally requested by our Holy Father each year – supports young and poor churches overseas. More information on World Mission Sunday will be available in September."

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY (*A message from Kent and Medway Mental Healthcare Chaplaincy*) If you or someone you know has suffered with mental health problems, you may have seen how questions of faith can come to the fore in times of crisis. Our local mental health trust, Kent and Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust, does have a small dedicated team of chaplains, but it is keen to attract new volunteer chaplaincy visitors to join the team. The ideal person would be someone who can listen to problems without feeling they need to solve them; someone whose experience of the spiritual journey means they can support another person in their own searchings. If you would like to find out more then please contact Revd Ruth Bierbaum on 01622 722180, or ruth.bierbaum@kmpt.nhs.uk.