



# 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**

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME 11th September 2016**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: SEEKING THE LOST** The episode in today's first reading has been called "Israel's original sin". Freed from bondage, born as a people of God in the covenant at Sinai, Israel turned aside from its ways, fell to worshipping a golden calf. Moses implores God's mercy, as Jesus will later intercede for the whole human race, as he still pleads for sinners at God's right hand and through the ministry of the Church. Israel's sin is the sin of the world. It is our sin. Ransomed from death and made his children in Baptism, we fall prey to the idols of this world. We remain a "stiff-necked people," resisting his will for us like an ox refuses the ploughman's yoke. Like Israel, in our sin we push God away, reject our divine sonship. Once he called us "my people", but our sin makes us "no people" - people he should, in justice, disown. Yet in his mercy, he is faithful to the covenant he swore by his own self in Jesus. In Jesus, God comes to Israel and to each of us - as a shepherd to seek the lost - to carry us back to the heavenly feast, the perpetual heritage promised long ago to Abraham's children.



"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners", Paul cries in today's second reading. These are the happiest words the world has ever known. Because of Jesus, as Paul himself can testify, even the blasphemer and persecutor can seek his mercy. As the sinners do in today's gospel, we draw near to listen to him. In this Eucharist, we bring him the acceptable sacrifice we sing of in today's psalm - our hearts, humbled and contrite. In the company of his angels and saints, we rejoice that he has wiped out our offence, celebrate with him - that we have turned from the evil way that we might live. *Author unknown.*)

**EDUCATION SUNDAY (TODAY)** A day of celebration for all those involved in education. For over a century it has been part of an ecumenical celebration in which the Catholic Church participates. The theme is 'All are welcome'. Education Sunday is an opportunity for schools and parishes to come together to celebrate and give thanks for all the students, staff and parents who work so hard in and for Catholic schools. It is also a chance for us to reflect upon the contribution that Catholic education makes to our communities.

**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.

**READERS and EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of COMMUNION** There will be a *Morning of Recollection* here at St Peter's, this Saturday, **17th September**, from 9.30am finishing with Mass at midday. 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.

**THANKS** Fr John Downey has acknowledged with gratitude our collection for the Comboni Missionaries at the beginning of August, sending his regards. See notice board.

**CONFIRMATION** Please pray for our confirmation candidates who continue a short period of preparation **this Sunday** after Mass at St Peter's. ✕ The Confirmation Mass is at Holy Family, South Maidstone (Park Wood) on Sunday **9th October** at 3pm.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 11th SEPTEMBER 2016**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

Sun 11th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Maureen Grieve RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP
Mon 12th	Holy Name of Mary	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues 13th	St John Chrysostom	<b>No Mass</b>	
Wed 14th	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	<b>No Mass</b>	
Thu 15th	Our Lady of Sorrows	<b>No Mass</b>	
Fri 16th	Saints Cornelius and Cyprian	<b>No Mass</b>	
Sat 17th	Our Lady	<b>12noon</b>	✕ Mass:
		<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

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

Sun 18th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Palma and Giuseppe Nucilli RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Nigel Annie Ann.
		12noon	Baptism: Thea Jane Davies
		<b>(H) 3.00pm</b>	Baptism: Cian Charlie Nesbitt

**DIARY for SEPTEMBER:** 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.

**BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER** AGM at the Methodist Church, Wednesday 21st September. 7.30pm.

**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 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 those who tonight** *will go to sleep unfed and unwelcome, strangers in foreign lands, people who have fled for their lives and are far from their homes.*

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£472.92** (gift aided, **£176.40**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ This week there is a retiring collection for the **Catholic Education Service** (see note below). ♦ Next Sunday is **Home Mission Sunday**: a collection will be taken to fund the bishops' national work of evangelization.

**HOME MISSION SUNDAY (NEXT WEEK)** "Proclaim the Joy of Love". Please support the second collection which funds the bishops' national work of evangelisation. The collection also ensures that the Catholic Faith Centre is resourced to respond to those who have questions about the Catholic Faith. It is possible to donate online at: [catholicnews.org.uk/donate-hms](http://catholicnews.org.uk/donate-hms). Commemorative prayer cards are available to take away. Please support the work of Home Mission through your prayers and generosity. For more information see: [catholicnews.org.uk/hms16](http://catholicnews.org.uk/hms16). "God bless you and thank you."

**CENTRE for CATHOLIC FORMATION** Four CCF Year of Mercy talks take place at St Teresa's, Maidstone Rd, Ashford TN24 8TX starting **10th October**; see poster. Each of the talks will start at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). All are welcome. Entry is free, however, donations will be welcomed. Refreshments provided. Register your interest at 020 8672 7684; [office@ccftootingbec.org.uk](mailto:office@ccftootingbec.org.uk) or <http://www.ccftootingbec.org.uk/>.