



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-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

18th September 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: PRUDENT STEWARDS The steward in today's Gospel confronts the reality that he can't go on living the way he has been. He is under judgment, must give account for what he has done.

The exploiters of the poor in today's first reading are also about to be pulled down, thrust from their stations. Servants of mammon or money, they're so in love with wealth that they reduce the poor to objects, despise the new moons and sabbaths - the observances and holy days of God. Their only hope is to follow the steward's path. He is no model of repentance, but he makes a

prudent calculation - to use his last hours in charge of his master's property to show mercy to others, to relieve their debts. He is a child of this world, driven by a purely selfish motive - to make friends and be welcomed into the homes of his master's debtors. Yet his prudence is commended as an example to us, the children of light. We too must realize, as the steward does, that what we have is not honestly ours, but what, in truth, belongs to another: our Master.

All the mammon in the world could not have paid the debt we owe our Master. So he paid it for us, gave his life as a ransom for all, as we hear in today's epistle. God wants everyone to be saved, even kings and princes, even the lovers of money, but we cannot serve two masters. By his grace, we should choose to be, as we sing in today's psalm - "servants of the Lord." We serve him by using what he has entrusted us with to give alms, to lift the lowly from the dust and dunghills of this world.

By this we will gain what is ours, be welcomed into eternal dwellings, the many rooms of the Father's house.

(Author unknown.)



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.

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

WE WILL REMEMBER Short memorial services in Bearsted for those who fell in the Great War:- 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.

CONFIRMATION Please pray for our confirmation candidates who conclude a short period of preparation **next 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 SEPTEMBER: **19th:** finance meeting; **21st:** DPC at St Francis'; **23rd:** confirmation prayer vigil at St Peter's; **25th:** day of prayer for the harvest; final confirmation session at St Peter's; **27th:** peace service at St Peter's. (Prisoners' Sunday is **2nd October**.)

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th SEPTEMBER 2016
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Palma and Giuseppe Nucilli RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Nigel Annie Ann.
		12noon	Baptism: Thea Jane Davies
		(H) 3.00pm	Baptism: Cian Charlie Nesbitt
Mon 19th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Jeanne Adam RIP
Tues 20th	Saint Andrew Kim	10.00am	✕ Mass:
Wed 21st	St Matthew	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Alf Noakes RIP
Thu 22nd	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass:
Fri 23rd	St Pius (Padre Pio)	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 24th	Our Lady of Walsingham	5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: H. Charles Keating RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Thomas Finbarr Egan 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 Thea and Cian being baptized today, and for their 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 who have been competing in the Paralympics:** *that they continue to provide inspiration for others. May we all be determined to make the most of our talents and be thankful for all that our bodies are capable of achieving.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£299.53** (gift aided, **£220.66**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ The retiring collection for the **Catholic Education Service** amounted to **£185.17**. ♦ This Sunday is **Home Mission Sunday**: a collection will be taken to fund the bishops' national work of evangelization (see note below).

HOME MISSION SUNDAY (THIS 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. Commemorative prayer cards are available to take away. Please support the work of Home Mission through your prayers and generosity. More information at: catholicnews.org.uk/hms16. "God bless you and thank you."

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is Friday **7th October**. Envelopes for your savings are available.

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 or <http://www.ccftootingbec.org.uk/>.

NATIONAL SHRINE of St JUDE Mass with blessing of oil, **Friday 28th, Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th October**. See poster.