



# 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-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**16th October 2016**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: AIM HIGH** The Lord is our guardian, beside us at our right hand, interceding for us in all our spiritual battles. In today's psalm we're told to lift our eyes to the mountains, that our help will come from Mount Zion and the Temple - the dwelling of the Lord who made heaven and earth. Joshua and the Israelites, in today's first reading, are also told to look to the hilltops. They are to find their help there - through the intercession of Moses - as they defend themselves against their mortal foes, the Amalekites. Notice the image: Aaron and Hur standing on each side of Moses, holding his weary arms so that he can raise the staff of God above his head. Moses is being shown here as a figure of Jesus, who also climbed a hilltop, and on Mount Calvary stretched out his hands between heaven and earth to intercede for us against the final enemy - sin and death. By the staff of God, Moses bested Israel's enemies, parted the Red Sea and brought water from the Rock. The Cross of Jesus is the new staff of God, bringing about a new liberation from sin, bringing forth living waters from the body of Christ, the new Temple of God. Like the Israelites and the widow in today's gospel, we face opposition and injustice - at times from godless and pitiless adversaries. We, too, must lift our eyes to the mountains - to Calvary and the God who will guard us from all evil. We must pray always and not be wearied by our trials, Jesus tells us today. As Paul exhorts in today's reading from his letter to Timothy, we need to remain faithful, to turn to the inspired Scriptures - given by God to train us in righteousness. We must persist, so that when the Son of Man comes again in kingly power, he will indeed find faith on earth.



*Author unknown*

**CONFIRMATION** Congratulations to our newly confirmation parishioners, **Aisling Day, Christopher Dixon, Thomas Dixon** and **Coralie Marsh** who were confirmed, along with others from the northern part of the deanery, last Sunday at Holy Family, South Maidstone.

**APF - MILL HILL MISSION THANK YOU and APPEAL** This takes place **this weekend** at all the Masses when we welcome Mrs Teresa Tagg to our parish. Thank you to all parishioners who already support this commendable association through the Red Boxes. Please see the poster and consider joining if you have not yet done so. ★ **RED BOX HOLDERS:** please bring in your boxes for emptying and counting ★.

**NEXT SUNDAY is WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** The Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his official charity for overseas mission. World Mission Sunday is a special day that unites Catholics all over the world in prayer, celebration and care for the mission of the Church. By supporting World Mission Sunday you are directly helping missionaries in Rwanda and around the world to help heal the broken-hearted. You will be able to Gift Aid all donations by using envelopes provided by Missio. Thank you.

**MASS COUNT** This Sunday there takes place the third of four national Mass counts (at each Mass); **collectors, please note.** (Last week there were **35** on Saturday evening, and on Sunday morning **18** at Good Shepherd, Harrietsham and **64** at St Peter's, Bearsted.)

**WE WILL REMEMBER** In Bearsted and Thurnham we are marking the centenaries of those from our villages who died in World War One. Wherever possible we meet outside their home on the anniversary of their death and hold a short act of remembrance and lay a wreath. All are invited to join us. • **Sunday 30th October**, 12noon: Alfred Cotterell. Meet at Thurnham Church; no address known. • **Sunday 13th November**, 12noon: Horrace Chapman. Meet at Roundwell, near old village pump. • **Friday 18th November**, 12noon: George Henry Cooper. Meet on Ware Street opposite row of white weather boarded

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 16th OCTOBER 2016  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

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

Sun 16th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Tony Hally RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: James and Gladys Grogan RIP
Mon 17th	St Ignatius of Antioch	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Tues 18th	St Luke	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 19th	Feria	<b>N O M A S S</b>	
Thu 20th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Fri 21st	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 22nd	St John Paul II	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ <b>THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)</b> ✕			
Sun 23rd <i>World Mission Day</i>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: The Holy Souls
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Jonathan Riley-Smith RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

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**THE ROSARY IN OCTOBER** Those who recite five decades of the Rosary in church, or as a family, a religious community, or as a group of the faithful, may gain a plenary indulgence daily; in other circumstances a partial indulgence. A partial indulgence may be obtained daily by reciting the Litany of Loreto and the Prayer to Saint Joseph.

✕ **NOVEMBER** ✕ is the month of the Holy Souls when we commemorate and pray for our beloved dead. Envelopes are available for you to enclose a list of your deceased loved ones. These may be placed in the box as you enter church. The envelopes remain in front of the altar throughout the month. Any donations in the envelopes are used as stipends for Masses for the Holy Souls during November and throughout the year. *Remember to Gift Aid your offering if appropriate.*

**ADVENT APPEAL 2016** This year's appeal will be in aid of The Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter. The Winter Shelter offers a warm welcome overnight for homeless people during the coldest months. Envelopes will be available from w/e **27th November**. Please return by the end of Advent. Thank you.

**AROUND the DEANERY** Since St Francis, Maidstone, is down to two fulltime priests they have had to change their Sunday and weekday Mass times (<http://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/>); this means there is only one weekday Mass, and Mass is no longer offered either at Nettlestead or at the prison on a Sunday.

**CAFOD RETREAT** Southwark/Westminster diocese, Saturday **12th November**, Amigo Hall, St. George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, London SE1 7HY. Please bring food to share for lunch. Visit [cafod.org.uk/retreat](http://cafod.org.uk/retreat) or call 0303 303 3030.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for October:** *That World Mission Sunday may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.*
- **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 will inevitably suffer as a result of the economy:** *may we all respond generously in whatever ways we can.*

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£360.28** (gift aided, **£230.70**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ The voluntary collection in aid of the Prison Advice and Care Trust amounted to **£153.15**. ♦ There is an appeal by Missio (red boxes) **this weekend** (see above), but no collection. ♦ However, **next Sunday**, World Mission Sunday, there *will* be a retiring collection for **Missio**, the Church's official charity for overseas mission (see below). Envelopes are available.

**CENTRE for CATHOLIC FORMATION** Four CCF Year of Mercy talks take place at St Teresa's, Maidstone Rd, Ashford TN24 8TX continuing **this Monday**; 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/>.

**THE BEGINNING of LIFE CONFERENCE** A free half day conference for juniors and students of the health-care professions (doctors, nurses, midwives, medical students, nursing students etc.). Starts at 1.30pm on **22nd October** at Newman House, Gower Street, London. An opportunity to make new friends and hear what the Catholic Church teaches. Visit [www.CatholicMedicalAssociation.org.uk](http://www.CatholicMedicalAssociation.org.uk) for more details. Email [events@catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk](mailto:events@catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk) by **17th October** as places are limited.