



# 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**

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**23rd October 2016**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: THE LORD'S HUMBLE SERVANT** Jesus draws a blunt picture in today's Gospel. The Pharisee's prayer is almost a parody of the thanksgiving psalms. Instead of praising God for his mighty works, the Pharisee congratulates himself for his own deeds, which he presents to God in some detail. The tax collector stands at a distance, too ashamed even to raise his eyes to God. He prays with a humble and contrite heart. He knows that before God no one is righteous, no one has cause to boast.

We see in the Liturgy today one of Scripture's abiding themes - that God "knows no favourites," as today's first reading tells us. God cannot be bribed. We cannot curry favour with him or impress him - even with our good deeds or our faithful observance of religious duties such as tithing and fasting. If we try to exalt ourselves before the Lord, as the Pharisee does, we will be brought low. This should be a warning to us - not to take pride in our piety, not to slip into the self-righteousness of thinking that we're better than others, that we're "not like the rest of sinful humanity." If we clothe ourselves with humility - recognize that all of us are sinners in need of the Lord's mercy - we will be exalted.

The prayer of the lowly, the humble, pierces the clouds. Paul testifies to this in today's reading from his letter to Timothy, as he thanks the Lord for giving him strength during his imprisonment. Paul tells us what the psalmist sings today - that the Lord redeems the lives of his humble servants. We too must serve him willingly. And he will hear us in our distress, deliver us from evil, and bring us safely to his heavenly kingdom.

*Author unknown*



**TODAY is WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** Today the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for *Missio*, his official charity for overseas mission. Your prayers and donations today will support the work of missionaries, like those in Rwanda, as they share God's mercy and love with those who are suffering. The World Mission Sunday collection will support mission projects worldwide that bring God's love and the Gospel message of dignity for all. Please give what you can, and if possible, please use the Gift Aid envelopes if you are a taxpayer. Thank you.

**APF - MILL HILL MISSION THANK YOU and APPEAL** Our congratulations and best wishes to Ann Lynch who received a special award from *Missio* for her 20 years' service as our parish representative. Thank you to all parishioners who already have a Red Box in their homes. Please see the poster and consider joining if you didn't get a chance to sign up last weekend. **RED BOX HOLDERS:** please bring in your boxes for emptying and counting.

**MASS COUNT** This Sunday there takes place the fourth of four national Mass counts (at each Mass); **collectors, please note.** (Last week there were **42** on Saturday evening, and on Sunday morning **30** at Harrietsham and **75** at St Peter's.)

**DEANERY MASS for DECEASED CLERGY** At St Theodore's, Cranbrook, on **Tuesday 8th November** at 12noon.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Second Tuesday of each month 8pm - 9pm at St Peter's. All are welcome. Next practice on **8th November** when we will be looking at Advent and Christmas music. Enquiries: Mary Hannant 01622 737915.

**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 cottages.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 23rd OCTOBER 2016**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

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
Mon 24th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
Tues 25th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 26th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Thu 27th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 28th	SS Simon and Jude	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Sat 29th	Our Lady	11.00am	<i>Baptism of Audrey Yee-Hang Cheng</i>
		5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ <b>THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)</b> ✕			
Sun 30th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Basil Newson Parsons RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls

**THE ROSARY IN OCTOBER** (From the directory) 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.* ✕ **All Saints' Day** is on **Tuesday 1st November**; there will be a Vigil Mass at Good Shepherd, Harrietsham, on **Monday 31st October** at 7pm, and Masses at 10am and 8pm on **1st November** at St Peter's. **All Souls' Day** is on **Wednesday 2nd**. There will be Mass as usual at **10am at Good Shepherd** and an additional Mass at **7pm at St Peter's**.

**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.

**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 missionaries everywhere** that they may find the courage and the strength they need to keep on loving even in the midst of difficult circumstances.
- **For innocent victims caught up in the conflict in Mosul**, that a peaceful conclusion may soon be reached.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£478.70** (gift aided, **£336.00**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). • **This Sunday**, World Mission Sunday, there is a retiring collection for **Missio**, the Church's official charity for overseas mission (see above). Envelopes are available.

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

**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.

**CHRISTMAS QUIZ** Sing-a-long and fish and chips supper in St Peter's Hall on **Saturday 3rd December** at 7.00pm. See poster. Tickets £8 each or £20 per family. All profits will be donated to the Maidstone Churches Christmas Appeal for the Homeless.