



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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

3rd July 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: THE MOTHER OF ALL GODS? In an attempt to shock, someone once said that all we know about God is that she is black. The one sure thing we can say about God is that he/she does not fit into a box. God is greater than anything we can ever imagine or understand. In today's liturgy Isaiah uses feminine imagery to describe how God deals with the chosen people. And so God says that "she" will be like a mother to us, consoling us when we are sad, fondling us in her lap and suckling us at her breasts when we are in need of sustenance. Of course, God is just God. God's not a man; not a woman; not something in between. God transcends, goes beyond, gender. But thinking of God in terms of a mother as well as a father allows us to glimpse God in an entirely new light. It means that we can suddenly appreciate the tender, life-giving, nursing side to God. These feminine attributes remind us that there is no part of our lives that God is absent from, and nothing that God is unconcerned about.



Living as we do in a scientific age, we tend to think that we can dissect everything and find out exactly how it works before putting it back together again. Then we can use it when we want it. This approach sometimes affects the way people think about God. The have a Jack-in-the Box God that can be kept with the lid shut and brought out by undoing the catch when we can't solve the problem ourselves and need a bit of divine help. However, God is much too big to fit in the box and much too clever to be tamed by our attempts to tie him/her down to neat categories. Anyone who has ever read the scriptures will know that time and time again God acts in precisely the opposite way to how we humans think he/she should. God picks the very people whom everyone else discounts on the first ballot: God grants victory to the underdog; God confounds the proud with the humility of the meek, and turns up in circumstances where we wouldn't expect God to be. Today Isaiah reminds us that God is bigger than us and we cannot pretend to have God taped. If we let our minds be stretched by thinking of God as both a mother and a father, then we get twice as much God for our money!
(Author unknown.)

PARISH BARBECUE: TODAY at St PETER'S!

CYRIL DURBIN: 25 YEARS OUR DEACON Cyril was ordained deacon 25 years ago. Parishioners and friends are all invited to join us at St Peter's next **Sunday, 10th July** (immediately after the 10.30 Mass) for a glass of wine and 'finger buffet' to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Please tell us your name and the number coming, to help us with catering. Terry Kinsman 01622 730119, kinsman@macrolevel.co.uk.

PETER'S PENCE If you didn't make it to Mass during the week (Saints Peter and Paul) but would still like to contribute to the Holy Father, please include with your offering this Sunday (marked as such). **The takings at the holy day Mass were disappointingly low** (see below).

CHOIR PRACTICE Second Tuesday of each month, 8pm to 9pm, at St Peter's. The next practice is on **12th July**, last one before the summer break. All are welcome.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 3rd JULY 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✧ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✧			
Sun 3rd July	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Margaret Smith RIP
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Julia Galligan RIP
Mon 4th	Feria	7.00pm	✧ Mass
Tues 5th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Wed 6th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✧ Mass
Thu 7th	Feria	7.00am	✧ Mass
Fri 8th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass
Sat 9th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✧ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✧			
Sun 10th July	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Jim Kelly RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP

MISSION APPEAL This year's appeal will be given by the Verona Fathers over the weekend **6th and 7th August**.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM Please see the note about short services of remembrance around the village for those from Bearsted who died during the Great War.

PLEASE PRAY...

- *With the Holy Father for July: that through their mission, the Latin American and Caribbean Church may announce the Gospel with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.*
- *For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially Kay Glenn and Ian Taylor; for those recently dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.*
- *For all those affected by the bombing in Turkey: may God enfold in his loving arms the dead, the injured and the bereaved.*
- *As we remember the battle of the Somme of 1916, we thank God for the service of all the armed forces, then and now.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£385.58** (gift aided, **£181.85**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ The collection for **Peter's Pence**, our traditional offering to the Holy Father last Tuesday and Wednesday amounted to **£60.27**. ♦ Next Sunday is **Sea Sunday** when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for the **Apostleship of the Sea**, the official maritime agency of the Church in Great Britain. It provides practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. As it is wholly dependent on voluntary donations, please give generously. For more information about its work, visit <http://apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/>.

CELEBRATING WHO I AM The annual celebration for people with disability at the heart of the church is this **Sunday, 3rd July**, at The Friars, Aylesford: 12.00noon – 4.00pm, beginning with Mass, and including art workshop, sensory prayer, Rosary Way, outdoor games, music and prayer workshops, closing with praise and worship.

MONASTIC AFTERNOON at TYBURN CONVENT An invitation to meet the Tyburn Nuns, find out what they do, and hear the story of the great Tyburn Martyrs. First Sunday of every month, 2 - 5.00pm. The next one is this **Sunday, 3rd July** - Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place, London (on Bayswater Rd), tel: 020 7723 7262.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES 19th-26th August. See poster.

CLERGY SUPPORT Please take time to read the invitation attached to the printed copy of this newsletter regarding care of our sick and retired priests.