



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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

17th July 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: HOW TO AVOID GOD We have defined ourselves by what we do, not by what we are. When first meeting a person we often ask "What do you do?" And we seem to be impressed by how busy they are. Somebody with a full diary, with a frenetic lifestyle and a backlog of texts on their mobile phone is considered a success. To have no time is thought of as a status symbol. But we may still not know who we are. If we always respond to the urgent, we may end up missing the essential. By keeping busy we can easily stave off what we know we should really be doing. Where we set our priorities often says more about how we would like to be thought of than it does about who we really are.

It's easy to hear the episode about Jesus visiting Martha and Mary and to come out on Mary's side. She was the one who sat and talked while Martha was going frantic in the kitchen. The gospel tells us that Martha was "distracted" by all the work that had to be done for the meal and the entertaining. But both Martha and Mary were needed. The guest did not come just for food but for company too. Mary played her part by entertaining Jesus and by allowing herself to be enriched as she listened to what he had to say. Martha's role was to get everything just right so that the meal would go without a hitch. It might be a bit harsh to say that the whole occasion smacked of devotion on Mary's part and of duty on Martha's. But what is certain is that Martha allowed herself to be "distracted" by important things that could have waited until she'd shown the basic courtesies. Maybe she'd got into the habit of doing everything in the kitchen and then feeling sorry for herself and blaming others. She wouldn't be the first! In our relationship with God, do we feel that we have always got to be doing something? Always active, proving our love of God? A faith without any sign of good works would be a lazy one. But if we never slow down enough to talk to God, to rest in God's presence and to listen for what God is trying to tell us, then we will end up running on very low batteries. And we might find that what we thought was crucial just turns out to be a way of distracting ourselves and avoiding God.

(Author unknown.)



MESSAGE FROM DEACON CYRIL Dear Parishioners, I wish to thank all of you for the very generous gift you gave me to celebrate 25 years as a Deacon. Thanks go especially to Fr Geoff for his support and encouragement, to all who helped with the celebratory buffet, to Dan, Mary and the choir for the music, and to those who have given cards and gifts individually. The last 25 years have gone by incredibly swiftly and I have been very graced with being a part of this parish and knowing so many wonderful people. I pray I may continue to be blessed with working for this parish for years to come. God bless you all.

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

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 17th JULY 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 17th July	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: John Iloenyosi and Christine Udeze RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Aloysius De Souza RIP
Mon 18th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Kathleen Byrne RIP
Tues 19th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Therese Sophie Weeden RIP
Wed 20th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 21st	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 22nd	St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 23rd	St Bridget	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 24th July	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: James Hamilton RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass

OUR LADY of MOUNT CARMEL Renewal of Third Order Profession Promises, Rosary, Procession and Benediction, **this Sunday, 2.30pm**, Aylesford Priory.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM ✕ Please see the notice at St Peter's about short services of remembrance around Bearsted for those from the village who died during the Great War. Next service **Saturday 30th July**, 12noon.

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 Daniel Weatherley, being ordained to the priesthood at St George's Cathedral this weekend, 16th July.
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially 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 and the attached intercessions.
- **For those in Nice who died at the hands of a lone terrorist last Thursday:** and for those injured and traumatised.
- **For Theresa May, Britain's new prime minister:** may her priorities be for the good of all as she promises to unite the country and lead us forward.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£324.36** (gift aided, **£181.50**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ The **Sea Sunday** collection amounted to **£167.92**.

WHO WAS MARY MAGDALENE? *Feast day this week.* Poor old Mary Magdalene, dubbed as a prostitute and a sinner, but who was she really? Mary Magdalene is mentioned in each of the four gospel accounts in the New Testament, but not once do they mention that she was a prostitute or a sinner. At some point Mary Magdalene became confused with two other women in the Bible: Mary, the sister of Martha, and the unnamed sinner from Luke's Gospel (7:36-50). In 1969 the Catholic Church declared that Mary Magdalene was not the penitent sinner of Luke's Gospel, but the reputation still lingers. In fact, as the first witness of the Lord's resurrection and the first evangelist, St Mary Magdalene has been now inscribed in the General Roman Calendar with the rank of Feast rather than Memorial as hitherto. *Feast Day, Friday 22nd July.*

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

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND CAMPAIGN If you completed a contact card recently you will receive a personal invitation to a presentation together with details of the times of the presentations, which will take place in September at St Peter's. Thank you.