



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-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

25th September 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: A Warning from the Grave? We are always being told what to do to improve our lives. We are forever being told what to eat to make us healthier, and live longer. We are told what to put on our skin and hair to look better. We are given advice on how to invest and how to improve our homes. This is all well and good, but could all this advice be making us self-obsessed? Are we more worried about our receding gum lines than the orphans in Syria? Are we more concerned with interest rates than the plight of refugees fleeing war? Today we are asked, 'What would it take to show our fellow man some compassion?'



Lazarus is a poor man who lies at the door of a rich man hoping to feed on the crumbs from the rich man's table. Sadly, the rich man never notices Lazarus and Lazarus dies. Lazarus is taken to heaven, but then the rich man dies and is taken to hell where he suffers terrible torment. The distraught rich man begs to send a ghost to warn his brothers that damnation is a reality, only to be told that he should have listened to the prophets when he'd had the chance.

We'd like this story to be about the super-rich, but it's about each and every one of us. After all, how rich is rich and how poor is poor? Jesus never tells us how much we are allowed to earn before we're in trouble! What really matters is what's in our heart. The rich man in the story isn't necessarily a bad man; he's simply indifferent to the poor. We are in trouble when we see need around us and fail to respond. At the end of the day, this parable isn't primarily about rich people being barred from heaven and poor people sailing in ahead of us. The parable is intended to make us listen and learn while we still have the chance. We will probably never have the benefit of ghosts coming back to warn us of the fate that will befall us if we remain indifferent to the suffering of the poor. We have the Bible and the words of Jesus to set us on the straight and narrow. We ignore the Bible's wisdom at our peril.... (*Chapel Bell*)

REBUILDING ENGLAND'S NAZARETH On 24th September we celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, and on this weekend the Bishops have asked all parishes to have a second collection to help in the developments of England's National Shrine to Our Lady. We are looking to upgrade existing buildings and build new facilities, to help us serve the increasing numbers of pilgrims, who continue to walk in the Walsingham Way, since the shrine was established in 1061. Our aims are to update our facilities, and to make provision for sick and disabled pilgrims and to have facilities for young people to come on pilgrimage. Full details are given on our website www.walsingham.org.uk Thank you for your generosity. Mgr. John Armitage, Rector.

CONFIRMATION Please pray for our confirmation candidates who conclude a short period of preparation **this Sunday** after Mass at St Peter's. ✕ The Confirmation Mass is at Holy Family, South Maidstone (Park Wood) on Sunday **9th October** at 3pm. There will be a preparation day for all candidates at St Thomas More, West Malling on **Sunday 2nd October** at 3pm and finishing with Mass at 5.30pm.

LIFE National Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life, **Wednesday 28th September**. See notice.

DIARY for SEPTEMBER: **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**.)

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. More information soon for October and November.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 25th SEPTEMBER 2016
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

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| Sun 25th <i>Harvest Thanks giving</i> | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: H. Charles Keating RIP |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Thomas Finbarr Egan RIP |
| Mon 26th | Feria | 7.00pm | ✕ Mass |
| Tues 27th | St Vincent de Paul | 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Wed 28th | Feria | (H) 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Thu 29th | SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael | 7.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Fri 30th | St Jerome | 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Sat 1st October | St Thérèse of Lisieux | <i>5.00-5.30pm</i> | <i>Confessions</i> |

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

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| Sun 2nd October <i>Rosary Sunday</i> | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Kathleen Barry RIP |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Col. Michael Dewar |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo |

PRAYERS FOR PEACE An ecumenical service will be held in St Peter's Church this Tuesday, **27th September**, at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

MASS COUNT Next Sunday there takes place the first of four national Mass counts (at each Mass); **collectors, please note.**

DIOCESAN SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION On **Saturday 15th October** at St Peter's between 1.30 and 4 we are hosting an afternoon given by the Diocesan Spirituality Commission to discuss the meaning of *spirituality*. See the notice, or visit <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk> for more information. All are welcome.

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 those who have died recently especially Alice Harkin and Kathleen Barry, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For all who are innocent victims of war** and violence, especially for the civilians trapped in Aleppo and have nowhere to turn for security, peace and their basic needs, that they will have hope and help.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£382.92** (gift aided, **£152.12**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ The retiring collection for **Home Mission Sunday** amounted to **£172.60**. ♦ This Sunday an extra collection will be taken in support of the **National Shrine to Our Lady at Walsingham** (see note above).

APPEAL FOR SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNORS St Francis' Catholic Primary School is looking for committed, enthused individuals for the role of Foundation Governor. A Foundation Governor is appointed by the Diocese and by definition is a practising Catholic; they will not only have the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school, but are appointed for the purpose of securing the school's vision, including Catholic ethos. See the notice board for full details. If you feel you can make this commitment, please email the chair of governors (swhitbread@st-francis.kent.sch.uk) or speak to one of the clergy.

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.