

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)

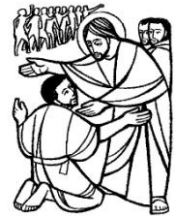
Parish Website and YouTube:
www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Year C

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

9th October 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE A foreign leper is cleansed and in thanksgiving returns to offer homage to the God of Israel. We hear this same story in both the first reading and gospel today. There were many lepers in Israel in Elisha's time, but only Naaman the Syrian trusted in God's Word and was cleansed. Today's gospel likewise implies that most of the ten lepers healed by Jesus were Israelites - but only a foreigner, the Samaritan, returned. In a dramatic way, we're being shown today how faith has been made the way to salvation, the road by which all nations will join themselves to the Lord, becoming his servants, gathered with the Israelites into one chosen people of God, the Church. Today's psalm also looks forward to the day when all peoples will see what Naaman sees - that there is no God in all the earth except the God of Israel. We see this day arriving in today's Gospel. The Samaritan leper is the only person in the New Testament who personally thanks Jesus. The Greek word used to describe his "giving thanks" is the word we translate as "Eucharist." And these lepers today reveal to us the inner dimensions of the Eucharist and sacramental life. We, too have been healed by our faith in Jesus. As Naaman's flesh is made again like that of a little child, our souls have been cleansed of sin in the waters of Baptism. We experience this cleansing again and again in the Sacrament of Confession - as we repent our sins, beg and receive mercy from our Master, Jesus. We return to glorify God in each Mass, to offer ourselves in sacrifice - falling on our knees before our Lord, giving thanks for our salvation. In this Eucharist, we remember "Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David," Israel's covenant king. And we pray, as Paul does in today's second reading, to persevere in this faith - that we too may live and reign with him in eternal glory.



Author unknown

CONFIRMATION Please pray for our confirmation candidates, **Aisling Day, Christopher Dixon, Thomas Dixon** and **Coralie Marsh**. Following the preparation afternoon last Sunday at St Thomas More, West Malling, Bishop Paul Mason is confirming them **this Sunday afternoon** at Holy Family, South Maidstone (Park Wood) during Mass at 3 o'clock. Please do join them if you can.

PRISONERS' SUNDAY (<http://prisonadvice.org.uk/>) Today we mark Prisoners' Sunday the beginning of Prisoners' Week. It is a time to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners, their families and their children. Prisoners' Sunday provides an important opportunity to make a difference and be there for those who most need our support. There is a voluntary retiring collection in aid of Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust): a few donation packs are available; these funds enable valuable services in and out of prison to continue.

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.

CHOIR PRACTICE Second Tuesday of each month 8pm - 9pm at St Peter's. All are welcome. Next practice this Tuesday, **11th October**.

PASTORAL TEAM There is a meeting this **Wednesday, 12th October** at 7.30pm at St Peter's.

DIOCESAN SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION Next **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 mean-

ing of *spirituality*. See the notice, or visit <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk> for more information. All welcome.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 9th OCTOBER 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 9th <i>Prisoners' Sunday</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: The Holy Souls
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Marie Holtom RIP
Mon 10th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Tues 11th	St John XXIII	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 12th	St Wilfrid	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Thu 13th	St Edward the Confessor	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 14th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: For the starving
Sat 15th	St Teresa of Avila	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 16th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Tony Hally RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: James and Gladys Grogan RIP

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. Envelopes for your savings last Friday are available.

MASS COUNT This Sunday there takes place the second of four national Mass counts (at each Mass); **collectors, please note.** (Last week there were **44** on Saturday evening, and on Sunday morning **25** at Harrietsham and **70** at St Peter's.)

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.

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 especially Nellie Marshall; 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 all affected by Hurricane Matthew:** *for those who have lost their lives, for the bereaved, and for the homeless. May help quickly arrive to enable them to rebuild their lives.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£379.30** (gift aided, **£252.20**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ This week there is a voluntary collection in aid of the Prison Advice and Care Trust (see below). ♦ There will be an appeal by Missio (red boxes) next weekend, but no collection.

APF – MILL HILL MISSION THANK YOU and APPEAL This will take place **next 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.

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/>.

THE BEGINNING of LIFE CONFERENCE A free half day conference for juniors and students of the healthcare 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 for more details. Email events@catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk by 17th October as places are limited.

NATIONAL SHRINE of St JUDE Mass with blessing of oil, **Friday 28th, Saturday 29th** and **Sunday 30th October**. See poster.