



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 A

TWELFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

25th June 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS WALKING THE PLANK

A plank is placed along the pavement. It's a wide sturdy plank with a prize placed tantalizingly at the far end. You are asked to walk along the plank and pick up the prize. Easy! You could run along the plank. You could probably hop along the plank backwards and blindfolded. Now you are asked to repeat the task, but this time the plank is raised eighty foot above the pavement level. It's exactly the same plank but somehow the prize is suddenly not worth the collecting. We are disabled by risk and by fear.

We are capable of doing great things, but most of us don't come anywhere near meeting our potential. We are afraid to step out of the comfort zone of our well-worn lifestyles, jobs and homes. We are afraid of the unknown, we are afraid of failure, we are afraid of ridicule, disruption and discomfort.

In the face of a sometimes hostile and sceptical world, Jesus asks us to have the courage of our convictions. The Church today is built on the courage of those who refused to compromise their beliefs. We are asked to speak out against injustice; keeping a cowardly silence is a denial. Today's gospel urges us to be courageous. "Fear no one," Jesus advises us. Why fear those who can make life temporarily uncomfortable when God has our everlasting interests at heart.

Of course, that's all very well; we would surely heed Jesus' advice to take courage if we had anything to offer in the first place. After all, it takes a very special kind of person with very special kind of skills to rush around changing the world. Surely it takes a very special kind of person to stand up and campaign for human rights. We convince ourselves that we are born with less worth than others, and by convincing ourselves that we are worth less, it is all too easy for us to rule ourselves out of the equation altogether allowing others to take the risks. Today Jesus convinces us that we each have a special value in God's eyes. Even the sparrows that are two a penny have worth in God's eyes, so how much more worth have we. We have an individual worth to a God who has counted each and every hair on our heads. We all have something to offer no excuses; no exceptions. We all have to walk that plank.

(Chapel Bell)

MISSIONAL APPEAL Following our enjoyable and successful mission appeal last weekend (see below), Fr Gerry Markey emailed: 'Please convey my thanks to your parishioners for their response to my appeal.'

DAY FOR LIFE *Collection this week (held over from last week).* This is the day in the Church's life dedicated to celebrating the sacredness of life. The proceeds from the Day for Life collection provide core funding for the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and to assist other life related activities supported by the Church, usually by means of grants made to support Catholic charities working in the particular field determined by the theme of the year. This year, as we approach the 50th anniversary of the Abortion Act in October, we mourn the large numbers of abortions, and continue to pray for the care and support of mothers and their children in the womb. ([http://www.dayforlife.org/.](http://www.dayforlife.org/))

THURSDAY is the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul and a Holy Day of Obligation (i.e. we have a duty to attend Mass). Since our church at Bearsted is dedicated to St Peter, let us make every effort to congregate as a parish to mark this great festival. See over for times of Masses.

PARISH BARBECUE After Mass at St Peter's next **Sunday, 2nd July**. Tickets on sale after Masses, or ring Ian on 736811 or Jenny on 734908. Family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £12, adults £5 and children £3.50. Please bring your own drinks and donate a salad or dessert if you can. See the attached for more details.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM 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. We next meet on **Saturday 1st July** to commemorate and pray for George Hepton: aged 42, Royal Horse Artillery Driver, buried in Egypt. Meet at



12noon on Spot Lane on corner of Greensands Road by the post box. George Hepton was the single brother of

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 25th JUNE 2017 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ TWELFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕			
Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Molly and David McCafferty RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Fr Peter Ryman RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 26th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Wilma Budd RIP
Tues 27th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Victims of Finsbury Mosque attack
Wed 28th	SAINTS PETER AND PAUL	(H) 7.00pm (Vigil)	✕ Mass: Holy Father's Intentions
<i>Holy ✕ Day</i>		10.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Thurs 29th		8.00pm	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Fri 30th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 1st July	St Oliver Plunkett	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ THIRTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕			
Sun 2nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass

Louisa Page (nee Hepton) who died from cancer whilst on active service.

St SIMON STOCK SCHOOL On **Saturday 8th July** our deanery secondary school, St Simon Stock in Maidstone, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its opening. There will be a celebration of Mass at the school at noon on that day, followed by food and festivities from 1.30pm. All are welcome. <http://www.ssscs.co.uk/>.

St PETER'S CHOIR Next rehearsal, **Tuesday 11th July**, 8 – 9pm.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June – that leaders of nations may make a firm commitment to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.**
- **For tranquillity between people of varying faiths, that after the events at Finsbury last week, difference may never become an excuse for violence. We pray for our Muslim brothers and sisters, who celebrate the completion of their holy month of Ramadan all over the world at this time, and for all of us, that we may find the time and the discipline to use every opportunity to deepen our faith, and to remember God's will for our lives.**
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially Elsie Hampshire and David Smith; for those who have died recently especially Fr Peter Ryman; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and for the intentions on the notice board.**
- **Anniversaries this week (from St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial):** ✕ Charles Ryan, Jeremiah Horgan, Maurice Walsh, Heather Harrington, Margaret Smith, Roger Murray and Natacha Keyser. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£328.55** (Gift Aided, **£179.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£149.00**). ♦ The retiring collection for our **Mission Appeal** amounted to **£469.75**. ♦ This Sunday there is a collection for the **Day for Life**, held over from last weekend; see above. ♦ This **Wednesday** and **Thursday** (a holy day of obligation) there is a collection for **Peter's Pence**, our traditional offering to the Holy Father which assists him and the Apostolic See to exercise their service of the Universal Church (see below).

PETER'S PENCE a centuries-old initiative of the Bishop of Rome, has arrived on the internet this year, with the aim of promoting the solidarity of the faithful, religious and lay people, on an increasingly shared path. Knowing and contributing to the initiatives of Pope Francis is easier today thanks to the opportunity to donate directly through the website and to share messages of hope, mercy and charity through social networks. On the site it is also possible to read, in some depth, about the causes that Peter's Pence supports. Please visit: <http://www.peterspence.va>.

DAY of CELEBRATION for people with disability at the heart of the Church: **Sunday 2nd July**, 12noon - 4pm at the Friars, Aylesford.

PRISON ADVICE & CARE TRUST Pact, the Catholic charity (<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>) for prisoners and their families, is offering free training and support for parishioners interested in volunteering with them in prisons or in the local community. No previous experience necessary. All enquiries welcome. To find out more contact parishaction@prisonadvice.org.uk.

SOUTHWARK BRETHREN CHARITY A note from the secretary, Father Paul Hough: 'The Southwark Brethren is a longstanding charity which helps sick and retired priests who are in need. We thank you for your continuous generosity in the past and ask your help again this year. Please send donations to Rev. Paul Hough, St Elphege's

Presbytery, 120 Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9AY. Last year they were able to give £1,600 each to 30 priests in the Diocese of Southwark and Arundel and Brighton, and also help 3 working priests who had serious sickness. In addition, we have a Gift Aid Scheme for those who pay tax and we thank the lay people who have joined by applying for a Gift Aid form. Tel: 020 8647 5079.