



# 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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

2nd July 2017

**FAITH IN FOCUS YOU'RE WELCOME!** The story's told of a woman who lived more than half a century of her life in a wheelchair. This meant that she got out and about much less than most people. But she knew more people than others did. Whenever you visited her home there was always someone there having a cup of tea with her and her husband. They came and told her about what was going on in their lives and chatted about what was worrying them. Though untrained, she was better than any professional counsellor. The reason people came was that she made them welcome, she listened to them and she responded in the only way she knew how: by making them want to come back.



When we're dead and buried what mark will we leave on the world? In our pride we probably think that we might write the world's best-selling book, invent some labour-saving gadget or discover the cure for some life-threatening disease. But the reality, of course, will be somewhat different.

Most of our lives are not made up of headline events. Our days are calmer and much more about the ordinary comings and goings. Maybe that's why many of the saints show us that the way to heaven is by striving to do the little things of life well. For it's the little things that make the most difference.

If God sends us enough wood in life to build a stairway to heaven, then it's going to be found in the unobtrusive way in which we deal with others, the way we welcome them, listen to them and show an interest in their concerns and try to be of service. The woman in our first reading today showed simple hospitality to a stranger and was rewarded for it. For the stranger turned out to be a man of God, Elisha, but she wasn't to know. In reality God comes to us many times a day in the person of those who claim our time and attention. The way we deal with them says everything about us.

Putting out the welcome mat is mere common decency. Even pagans do it. But Christians put it out because they know that God is alive and well in our world and comes to visit us when we least expect. As Jesus tells us, "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me".

(Author unknown.)

**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, an informal collection will be taken at the door this weekend. *The takings at the holy day Mass, although low, were slightly up on last year* (see below).

**PARISH BARBECUE: TODAY at St PETER'S!**

**HEALTH and SAFETY** Please don't push the inner church doors at St Peter's from the parish room side, as they are now one-way doors. We have had to make this change because of our increasing fears that a child could be seriously hurt if the swing doors trap their fingers or strike them on the rebound. To avoid this, we have put 'PULL' handles on the doors, and a bar across the top on the altar side so they only open back into the parish room. The work is not quite finished: we are considering whether we also need to install 'damper' springs at the top, but we are waiting to see how they settle down.

**NEXT WEEK is SEA SUNDAY** when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea.

There will be a second collection for Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It provides practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. As it is dependent on voluntary donations, please give generously. For more information on the work of AoS please visit <http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/>.



**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 2nd JULY 2017**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ THIRTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕

Sun 2nd	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass
Mon 3rd	St Thomas	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 4th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 5th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intentions
Thu 6th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 7th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 8th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕

Sun 9th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass:
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Jim Kelly RIP

**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 July – for Lapsed Christians;** that through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, our brothers and sisters who have distanced themselves from the faith, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.
- **For the people of Portugal and Spain recovering from devastating wild-fires:** that they may mourn with hope and rebuild with faith.
- **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; 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): ✕ *Agnes O'Brien, Don Armstrong, Leonard Stewart-Day, James Sinott, Phyllis Russell, Phillip Ranner, Bridget Ledger, Raymond Blake, Michael Yorke-Miller, Giovanna Bartoni and Patrick Lavender.* ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£450.99** (Gift Aided, **£241.90**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£149.00**). ♦ The retiring collection for the **Day for Life** amounted to **£138.20**. ♦ The collection for **Peter's Pence** on 29th June (last Thursday) amounted to **£86.92**. ♦ Next week there will be a retiring collection for **Sea Sunday** (see above).

**NEW FROM THE DIOCESE:**

**GRENFELL TOWER: DONATIONS** A number of parishes and individual parishioners have asked whether they can donate through the diocese in order to support the victims of this tragedy. Southwark does not currently have a means through which donations can be processed, and this will be reviewed by the diocese in the near future. In the meantime, as the event took place within Westminster Diocese boundaries, it is possible to send donations to Caritas Westminster, who are working directly with people on the ground. Another option is The Big Give who will be matching donations until funds run out.

**MIRACULOUS RELIC IMAGE** of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St George's. The relic image will visit St George's Cathedral, between **Friday 28th** and **Monday 31st July**. A service of reception will take place at 6.30pm on the Friday.

**DIOCESAN DAY for CATECHISTS** **Saturday 23rd September**. For all catechists and those involved in Children's Liturgy of the Word. Workshop booking forms will be sent to parishes in the very first week in September. For further information visit: [www.ccfootingbec.org.uk](http://www.ccfootingbec.org.uk).

**SOUTHWARK COMMUNICATIONS** The Archdiocese has a Facebook page and Twitter feed. They will also be using Sound Cloud and YouTube in the future. Please access their social media through the current Diocesan Website, with a view to engaging with content, sharing and 'liking': [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk).