



# 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**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME**

**9th July 2017**

**FAITH IN FOCUS REST** What sort of rest does Jesus offer today to those who are overburdened? It's certainly not the type that involves putting your feet up. Nor the sort that means lying on a beach, sitting back and sipping a cocktail. The Greek word used in today's gospel implies something more. It means respite or cessation. We've come to understand the concept of respite care for the terminally ill, both for the patient and for the family. It means a break from the routine and a chance to get things in perspective from a distance. It's about relief and recuperation, and most of us yearn for this type of rest and respite.



Jesus promises us rest from worry. We worry about so many things, about our health, our family, our financial situation, our future... Yet Jesus gives us the chance to get it all into perspective. No amount of worrying can change anything at all, and the only thing that matters in life is knowing that we are held in the palm of God's hand and that ultimately there is nothing that can destroy us. Jesus promises us rest from fear. Most of our fears are linked to what worries us, and the ultimate fear for human beings is that of death. While the learned and clever people of the world debate about the meaning of our existence, Jesus reveals the promise of eternal life to those who are childlike. Death has no sting, for Jesus has conquered it and offered fulness of life to those who believe in him. And Jesus promises us rest from guilt. Without faith we would carry round the great burden of our sin. We would never be able to escape from the haunting of our past actions that have hurt others and damaged ourselves. Yet the message of Jesus is that we are forgiven and set free daily to live his new life.

My burden is light and my yoke is easy, says Jesus. That's because he does most of the carrying. And perhaps the eternal rest we crave for ourselves and our loved ones is nothing more than the eternal relief of knowing that God has made all this possible for us in Christ. *(Author unknown.)*



**THIS WEEK is SEA SUNDAY** The Church prays today for all those who live and work at sea. Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. Today's second collection is for Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), the Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This collection is vital to enable it to continue its work, so please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. Please visit <http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/> to donate online. Thank you.

**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.

**A PARISH PILGRIMAGE?** We are considering whether we should have a parish pilgrimage next year (2018), and would like to hear parishioners' views. Terry Kinsman will speak after all 3 Masses **next weekend** (15th / 16th July), and details will be on both the parish newsletter and website for anyone who misses the talks. We would like to know who would be interested in our possible pilgrimage choices, so please fill out the brief reply form on next week's newsletter.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 9th JULY 2017 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY ✕ 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
Mon 10th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 11th	St Benedict	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 12th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 13th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 14th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 15th	St Bonaventure	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)			
Sun 16th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Breda Curtin RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

**PARISH BARBECUE** Our thanks to those who organized the catering and the barbecuing last Sunday: if you weren't there you missed a treat, *and* the sun came out for us! Proceeds went to the hospice.

**St PETER'S CHOIR** Next rehearsal, this **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 all leaders participating in the G20 summit,** *in the hope that communication and fellowship will work positively, to bring international cooperation and peaceful outcomes.*
- **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 Deacon Peter Rennie, 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): ✕ Paul Fittock, Winifred Dring and John Horgan. ✕*

<p><b>Thank you</b> for your offerings last week to help run our parish: <b>£350.73</b> (Gift Aided, <b>£149.50</b>; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to <b>£149.00</b>). ♦ The additional collection for <b>Peter's Pence</b> amounted to <b>£76.12</b>. ♦ This week there will be a retiring collection for <b>Sea Sunday</b> (see above).</p>
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**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.ccftootingbec.org.uk](http://www.ccftootingbec.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).