

# 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](mailto: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)

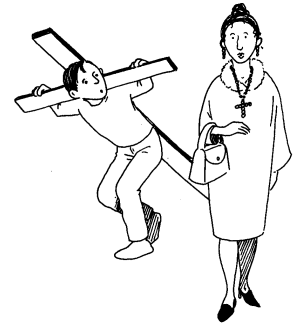
**St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary**, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

**Parish Website and YouTube:**  
[www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Year A TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 3rd September 2017**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: CHEAP GRACE?** Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German theologian and pastor who was imprisoned during the Second World War and executed by the Nazis in 1945 for opposing their ideology and their war-mongering activity. He is probably most famous for the quotation, "Salvation without discipleship is cheap grace".

What he was saying is that there are no season tickets for Christianity. You have to sign on each day and you have to prove that you are still a Christian by discipleship, by the way you face the daily challenges of life. You can't simply "join" Christianity and then sit back as if your subscription is being paid by direct debit. There are no quick fixes that come with faith in Christ. Today Christ tells us that following him means taking up our cross. And it's not as if we have to look very far to see what our crosses are; they stare us in the face daily. Perhaps it's a sickness that weighs us down, a betrayal by someone we trusted, a tragedy from our past or present, an unfulfilled dream or a frustrated career. Suffering for suffering's sake is nothing more than masochism. What makes suffering Christian is that we redeem it, we make sense of it and find some purpose in it, some greater good that can come out of it. The grandparent who bravely struggles to bring up her abandoned grandchild does so because she can see beyond the troubles of the moment. The cancer sufferer does not rejoice in the pain but sees that such pain offers him the chance of a deeper understanding of the mystery of God. The person who has been publicly humiliated learns to value the dignity of others who might suffer the same fate. We can't avoid our cross but it's the way we carry it that's going to be crucial. The fact that the God of the universe hung on a tree for three hours until his heart gave out has to give meaning to suffering, even if we are too jaded to grasp its significance.



The self-giving that we bring to our suffering can in turn bring others to know the grace of God. And God's grace does not come cheap. *(Author unknown)*

**DAY of RENEWAL** Aylesford Priory: Saturday **9th September**. See poster.

**CHURCH PILGRIMAGE 2018: MEETING 24th SEPTEMBER** Thanks to everyone who responded to our questionnaire; we have 28 who expressed strong interest, so we have a viable number for a pilgrimage. Our pilgrimage will cover both Fatima and Santiago de Compostela, with a substantial number wishing to have the Lisbon option also. We will be deciding shortly, after a meeting at St Peter's of all interested on Sunday afternoon **24th September** (preceded by Benediction). Please come, even if you have not yet added your names to our list. The final decision will take into account preferences expressed, cost and how many can make which dates. We are looking at May / June or September / October 2018. If you would like to know more, join us or call Terry Kinsman on **01622 730119**.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!** Saturday **7th October** at 7pm in St Peter's Hall: **'Wacky Races'**! Will your team or family guess the winner of each wacky race? This is an evening of fun for everyone from children to grandparents. There will be prizes for the winning team or family. Entry is £5 per adult and £2 per child. Please bring your own food and drink. Tickets will be available from Sunday 10th September after Masses or contact Ian on 736811.

**APOSTLESHIP of the SEA** See the letter thanking us for the recent second collection. The coordinator also suggests ways we can continue to support seafarers, such as sending in small items that would be useful or bring cheer to those away at sea for long periods.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 3rd SEPTEMBER 2017**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)**

Sun 3rd	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Patrick Hall RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP
Mon 4th	Feria	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Tues 5th	Feria	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Wed 6th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 7th	Feria	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Fri 8th	Nativity of Our Lady	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Sat 9th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
<b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)</b>			
Sun 10th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Fr John Lavery RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>1.00pm</b>	Baptism: Florence Alexandra Hogg

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for September – that our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.**
- **For the sick and those who care for them.** For those recently dead, especially **Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor** and **Brenda Marsh**; and for all those with anniversaries at this time (see below).
- **For the thousands killed in the floods** in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, as well as the millions made homeless; we ask that they will receive the help they need and in time find peace. Also for those affected by the hurricane in Texas and Louisiana, that they will find help and solace as their homes, jobs and health are restored; we pray for those who have died there and those who mourn them.
- **Anniversaries this week** (from St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ **Hilda Gibson, Edward (Tomo) Thompson, Frank Drennan, Marjorie Armstrong, Kathleen Ahearne, Sheila Dell and Cecile Cavendish.** ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£436.85** (Gift Aided, **£165.80**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£244.93**). ♦ Next week there is a retiring collection for the **Catholic Education Service** (see note below).

**The CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE** acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. They have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh governments, sharing the aims of high academic standards for all, and increased parental choice. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools. There are over 2,000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England educating over 800,000 students. The Catholic Church and the Church of England together provide one-third of all of the schools in the country. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education, and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas.

**MINISTERING to the BEREAVED** A one-day course: **23rd September**, St Thomas of Canterbury, Rainham, ME8 7RH. Presenter: Elizabeth Partridge (email: [earpartridge@gmail.com](mailto:earpartridge@gmail.com); phone: 01303 670880). For more Information and to book, contact: Mrs. Josie Boxall 51, Hickory Dell, Hempstead, Gillingham, ME7 3SL.

**DIOCESAN DAY for CATECHISTS** Saturday **23rd September**: for all catechists and those involved in Children's Liturgy of the Word. If you are involved in this way in our parish please pick up an information leaflet after Mass.

**LOVE and JOY** A meeting for the laity to explore and discuss the Pope's Apostolic Exhortation *Joy and Love*, **Saturday 30th September**, West Malling, 10am - 1pm. This event is suitable for all adult parishioners, and will include suggestions about how to put the Pope's message into practice. Booking is essential; for further information please email: [carolemflkent@gmail.com](mailto:carolemflkent@gmail.com). (Tea and coffee will be provided.)

**CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS)** Hundreds of new and classic CTS books are also available as 'eBooks'. Pick up a leaflet, or go online: <http://www.ctsbooks.org/ebooks> for more details.

**OUR GOOD WISHES** to Fr Roy Tablizo from Holy Family who is spending his last weekend in the parish before moving to a parish in London. We are sad to see him go but wish him every blessing in his move.