

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

SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

12th February 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: MOVING THE BAR We've become used to it. Hardly a news bulletin goes by without some story of a world leader or local politician being accused of duplicity or lying. And what's worse- we have come to expect that the allegations are automatically going to be true. So when the story of some major financial scandal brings down politicians and temporarily threatens the stability of a government, we take it in our stride. And when a world leader is shown to have deceived his or her people, we say that it's only what we expect.

Of course, we have to be careful. None of us is perfect, and we can easily fall into the trap of condemning others when we know ourselves to be guilty of the same faults. Yet we run the risk of moving the goalpost or lowering the bar just because we can't be bothered to stand up for what we know is morally right. Duplicity is a word used by journalists to avoid the charge of libel. What they really want to say is "lying". And duplicity is what Jesus criticises in today's gospel. It means acting with a "duple" or double standard. This can mean acting in one way but thinking in another (like Dracula volunteering to look after the blood bank). It can mean speaking in a way that leaves things unclear (as when a politician accuses an opponent of presenting 'alternative facts'). It can mean always complimenting the priest or deacon even when he preaches a bad sermon!

Be transparent is what Jesus asks of us. Let your "yes" and "no" mean what they say. Don't hide behind the letter of the law when you know that really you are doing something wrong. And have the courage to say what you believe even though it might make you unpopular. Public "standards", whatever they may be, cannot exist in isolation from private standards. To put it positively: if we tightened up our private lives, then our public standards would reflect this. Christ asks us to have open hands, not fingers crossed; to jump over the bar, not to lower it.

(Author unknown)

FERGUS Please see the card from Fergus and his family thanking us for our prayers and help with last Sunday's celebrations.

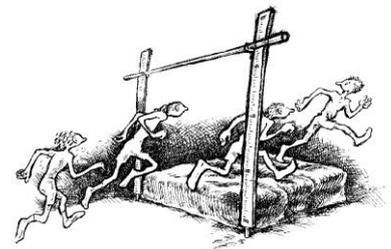
St PETER'S CHOIR Next practice, **Tuesday 14th February.**

BRIAN SMITH RIP Brian's funeral is on **Monday 20th February at 2pm.** ✕ *May he rest in peace.*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Please remember the children and their families in your prayers; the children are now preparing for their First Eucharist on **Sunday 21st May.**

JUSTICE & PEACE The annual report is attached.

The PILGRIM The diocesan periodical is available with an article on London's Catholic past.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 12th FEBRUARY 2017
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **SIXTH SUNDAY** in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕

Sun 12th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Gilbert Toulemonde RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Tim O'Shea RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 13th	Feria	Monday - Friday Sorry, no parish Masses	
Tues 14th	SS Cyril and Methodius		
Wed 15th	Feria		
Thu 16th	Feria		
Fri 17th	Feria		
Sat 18th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕			
Sun 19th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Conchita and Luis Vecino RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP

✕ **ASH WEDNESDAY** ✕ the start of Lent, is on **1st March**.

SPECIAL MESSAGE While Fr Geoffrey is away on his pre-Lent break to focus on preparing the 2018 diocesan calendar, there will be no weekday Masses. However, he is very grateful to Fr Paul Gibbons and Bishop Paul Mason who will be celebrating next weekend's Masses.

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 to commemorate and pray for ROBERT MELLOR Aged 23 of the Royal Army Medical Corps who died in the Aegean Sea when the ship he was travelling on was sunk by a mine. We will meet on **Tuesday 21st February** at 12noon at entrance to Clarendon Close.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for February – comfort for the afflicted:** *that all those who are afflicted, especially that the poor, refugees and marginalised may find welcome and comfort in our communities.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those who have died recently especially Brian Smith and Edna Margaret Tree, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends, especially Stewart and Rachel, married last Friday; and the intentions on the notice board.
- **On Racial Justice Sunday** for all immigrants and refugees seeking better lives; we ask that they will be treated with respect and fairness, and given the opportunity to find what they need.
- **Anniversaries this week** (from St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Marie Cryer; Barry Boyden; Dorothy Oxford; Colin Dring; Charles Ryan; Finbar Hudson; Mary Sanders; Enid Greenrod; Elizabeth Mahon and Patrick Dempsey. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£468.24** (Gift Aided, **£256.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£134.00**). ♦ This Sunday is **Racial Justice Day**, focusing this year on 'Justice for All': **a collection will be taken** to support the work of the Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society.

A LIFETIME OF LOVING A day exploring spouses' relationships in the light of Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation 'The Joy of Love', **Saturday 4th March** at St Teresa's, Ashford. See poster or contact Carole: 07983 525727, or email mflkent@gmail.com.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE 7 nights half board, flight and airport transfers 22nd - 29th April and 13th - 20th May, Gatwick to Dubrovnik, €459 per person. Email jackiemulort@btinternet.com or call on 020 3239 8662.