



# 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-THIRD SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 10th September 2017**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: THE LOST ART OF CONFRONTATION** When the new Mother Superior abolished the mid-morning coffee break the convent was in uproar. She claimed that it was an unwelcome intrusion into work time and only encouraged the Sisters to slacken off and spend time gossiping. Sister Fulgentia was knocking on the Superior's door as soon as she heard the news. She pointed out that the coffee break was a long-standing part of the timetable, was welcomed by all and gave everyone a much-needed break from the daily routine in the various workshops. She hoped that the Superior would reconsider and go back on this terrible decision.



Sister Ignorata kept complaining about it but decided she wouldn't bother to make her views known. There was no point, she said; no one would take any notice of her. And when the Superior privately asked her about it she said that she didn't have any problem with the decision. But in her heart of hearts she missed the coffee break.

Sister Delusa didn't want to cause any fuss either. Perhaps it was all a storm in a teacup and it wasn't worth making waves. It wasn't really a very important matter and all this bad feeling was getting her down. Anything for a quiet life. Some people would find fault with everything.

Sister Rose was quite disappointed when she found out. But instead of going to the Superior herself she tried to get others to take up the cause. She spent all lunchtime trying to persuade the young novices to form a delegation. It would be better, she thought, if others approached the Superior.

How do you handle confrontation when something needs sorting out? Do you tackle it head-on like Fulgentia? Do you blow hot and cold like Ignorata? Do you find yourself simply in denial about the problem like Delusa? Or like Rose do you try to persuade others to tackle the problem?

Today's gospel reminds us of our Christian responsibility to confront wrong and harm. The way we react to the coffee break is a good guide to how we probably deal with the more serious issues of Christian life.

*(Author unknown)*

**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.

**NEWS FROM THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE** With effect from the First Sunday of Advent 2017, **two holydays of obligation** are being reinstated. This decision was made by the Bishops of England and Wales, and has been confirmed by the Holy See. The days are: ✕ The **Epiphany of the Lord** — 6th January (transferred to the adjacent Sunday when it falls on Saturday or Monday). ✕ The **Ascension of the Lord** — Thursday after Sixth Sunday of Easter.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 10th SEPTEMBER 2017  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

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

Sun 10th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Jeanne Adam RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Fr John Lavery RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		1.00pm	Baptism: Florence Alexandra Hogg
Mon 11th	Feria	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Tues 12th	Feria	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Wed 13th	St John Chrysostom	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Thu 14th	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Fri 15th	Our Lady of Sorrows	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Sat 16th	SS Cornelius and Cyprian	5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>

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

Sun 17th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Afam Christian Egenti RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Ivy and Murray Fraser RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		3.00pm	Baptism

**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.

**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.

**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 many people who have been caught up in the recent flooding, landslides, earthquakes and hurricanes, that they will find places of safety and help to face rebuilding their lives.***

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish. ♦ This week there is a retiring collection for the **Catholic Education Service** (see note above). ♦ Next Sunday is **Home Mission Sunday**: a collection will be taken to fund the bishops' national work of evangelization (see note below).

**HOME MISSION SUNDAY (NEXT WEEK)** On the third Sunday of September the Catholic Church celebrates Home Mission Sunday. This is an opportunity to inspire Catholics and help them to engage with the mission of the Church, whilst supporting the work of the Home Mission Office. A retiring collection will be taken.

**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.)

**MORNING of RECOLLECTION** for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. This will take place at St Peter's, Bearsted, on **14th October** from 10 o'clock, finishing at 1pm. More information later.