

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)

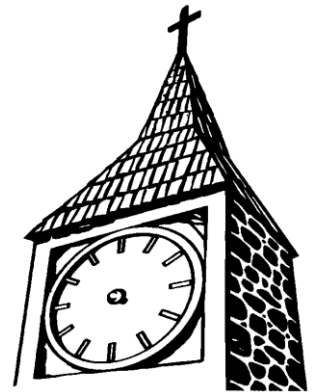
St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

Parish Website and YouTube:
www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Year A TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 24th September 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: IN GOD'S GOOD TIME Some things are so simple that we refuse to believe them. We think they can't be true. There must be a catch. There's got to be some small print somewhere. One of these things is about the way God deals with us in granting us the gift of faith. There, we've said it already: gift. God is totally generous. He doesn't make any charge for revealing himself to us. It costs us no silver or gold to respond to that gift. We can't buy faith in God. Yet no matter how many times preachers may say this from the pulpit, we find it hard to believe. We've become used to paying our own way. We don't expect to get something for nothing. After all we're not asking for charity!

It's a pity that God's ways are not our ways. For then we would be able to keep God in check. If God expected us to put in a 40-hour spiritual week and earn our own eternity, then we could make him accountable. Then God would have to be fair and just, instead of treating everyone as though he were a long-lost friend. Some people would be shown up for what they are: lazy, unreliable and undeserving. The rest of us, who lead good industrious lives, would know that we could rest in the knowledge that we have done a fair day's work in God's service and could look forward to something of a bonus. But God seems to have a soft spot for certain undesirable types. He doesn't seem to appreciate the long hours we put into our religion. In fact, he seems incapable of time-keeping at all. And before we know where we are, all sorts of eleventh hour Christians are being treated the same as us. It's as if he had grace to burn. It would make more sense if God stopped being so generous. People will only take advantage of him. And what's more, it's so unfair. Just because the boss is rich doesn't mean that all the workers should get equal pay. Why can't God be more like us? Perhaps in time he will be. But whose time? (*Author unknown*)



CHURCH PILGRIMAGE 2018: MEETING THIS SUNDAY 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 this **Sunday afternoon** (24th September, preceded by Rosary and Benediction). Please join us for benediction anyway, 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**.

CHOIR Our next practice will be this **Tuesday, 26th September** at St Peter's, 8pm to 9pm. All are welcome - no auditions! Contact Mary on 07792 321215 for more details.

CONFIRMATION Please pray for our deanery confirmation candidates. ✕ The Confirmation Mass is here at St Peter's on Sunday **8th October** at 3pm. There will be a preparation day for all candidates at St Thomas More, West Malling next **Sunday, 1st October** at 3pm and finishing with Mass at 5.30pm.

CARDINAL CORMAC MURPHY-CONNOR ✕ RIP Pick up a prayer card for the late Cardinal ✕ RIP.

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

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 24th SEPTEMBER 2017 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)			
Sun 24th [Our Lady of Walsingham]	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Palmira & Giuseppe Nucilli RIP
	Sunday <i>Day of Prayer for the Harvest</i>	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: H Charles Keeley RIP (FM)
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		3.00pm	Rosary, Litany and Benediction
Mon 25th	<i>St Finbarr</i>	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Thomas Finbarr Egan RIP
Tues 26th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 27th	St Vincent de Paul	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 28th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 29th	SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	10.00am	✕ Mass: Neville Leather RIP
Sat 30th	St Jerome	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)			
Sun 1st October <i>Rosary Sunday</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Peter Stevens' wellbeing
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Nicol family, in thanksgiving

mation later.

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. See <http://catholicnews.org.uk/why-bishops-restored-holy-days> for more information.

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 all those affected by the earthquake in Mexico; for the injured or bereaved and for all those involved in the rescue and aid operation.**
- **That we will take good care of creation and really take seriously our responsibility for the earth, our common home; for a renewed determination to make a difference where we can and bring healing to our planet.**

<p>Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £378.62 (Gift Aided, £242.84; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to £149.00). ♦ The retiring collection for Home Mission Sunday amounted to £130.01.</p>
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INTERNATIONAL DAY for the ELIMINATION of NUCLEAR WEAPONS 26th September. Achieving global nuclear disarmament is one of the oldest goals of the United Nations. It was the subject of the General Assembly's first resolution in 1946. After general and complete disarmament first came onto the General Assembly's agenda in 1959, nuclear disarmament has remained the most important and urgent objective of the United Nations in this field.

MASS at St MICHAEL'S (OLD) CHURCH, EAST PECKHAM (Postcode TN12 5NG) Michaelmas Eve, Thursday **28th September** at **7pm**. All welcome. Please share transport where possible as parking space at the church is very limited. Further inquiries to James on 01622 812368.

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: carolemfkent@gmail.com. (Tea and coffee will be provided.)

A CHURCH for the POOR New Radio Series starting **1st October**. One of the first things Pope Francis said was that he wanted a Poor Church for the Poor and he has introduced an annual **World Day of the Poor** every November. Heaven's Road Catholic Radio is producing a new series of programmes to highlight the projects that various Catholic people, charities, and parishes are running to help the disadvantaged, both in the UK and overseas. See <http://www.heavensroadfm.com/listen-now/> for more information.

HARVEST FAST DAY Friday **6th October**: envelopes for your savings are available.