



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-SEVENTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 8th October 2017



FAITH IN FOCUS: TENANTS' AGREEMENT One of the points of today's gospel story is that the people who worked in the vineyard were not the owners but the tenants. They rented it off the landlord. It was not theirs; they had it for only a while. Being a Christian is rather like being a tenant. So much of what we take for granted is loaned to us on trust by God, although because we live side by side with it we end up thinking it is ours. Our very lives come from God and one day he will decide to take them back and transform them into a new and everlasting existence. In the meantime we are charged with looking after ourselves. Not taking proper care of ourselves is sinful and wrong. We have a duty to develop ourselves physically and intellectually. To be happy with third

best is to abrogate our responsibility as tenants of our own lives.

And of course, we have a similar duty towards those who are less able to look after themselves than we are. The bible often speaks about "widows and orphans" to describe people who have no clout in society and who could easily fall victim to the greed and manipulation of others. Children, victims of oppression, refugees, some types of mentally and physically handicapped people, - they all fall into this category.

Then there is the very world we live in. We now recognise that we do not own the world. We lease it from God for the time we are alive on earth, and we have to keep it in good enough condition to hand it over to the next generation of tenants, our children and grandchildren. The decisions we make now about our environment will affect people for generations to come.

Tenants sign an agreement to keep the property in good shape, or else they lose their deposit. As we thank God for the many wonderful things in our lives that he has loaned us for a while, we need to remember also that as tenants we have a duty to maintain God's estate in good condition. It would be bad enough to live in a tumbled-down world. Even worse to lose our deposit. (*Author unknown*)

PRISONERS' SUNDAY Prisoners' families, prisoners and people with previous convictions often find themselves on the margins of society due to the social stigma associated with imprisonment. They are often forgotten, or come lower down on the list of causes to 'hold a hand out to'. But the gospel reminds us of our duties towards them, 'I was naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.' (Matthew 25:36). Pact's work embodies the Christian value of mercy and belief in the innate dignity of every human being. Through this campaign we are asked to engage with a core element of Catholic social teaching and put our faith into action. This year's theme 'We press on—Together, In Hope' recognises the vital role we all need to play in the coming together as a community, in compassion and without judgement, to offer hope and a fresh start to all those affected by imprisonment.

CONFIRMATION Please pray for our deanery confirmation candidates. ✕ The Confirmation Mass is here at St Peter's this Sunday, **8th October** at 3pm; parishioners are welcome.

HARVEST FAST DAY This year CAFOD and CAFOD partners are working in El Salvador to provide training and to re-introduce native seeds that were used generations ago. These seeds are strong and able to grow in the warm, rainy climate, ensuring that farmers are able to harvest crops, and with that, the surety that they will be able to provide for their families. Last Friday, **6th October**, we were asked to fast, and to put the proceeds of our fast in the donation envelopes provided at the back of church. If you are a UK tax payer, don't forget to fill out the gift aid section. Place your savings in the retiring collection today, or into the usual collection throughout the month.

MASS COUNT This Sunday there takes place the second of four national Mass counts (at each Mass); **collectors, please note.** (Last week: 6pm, **36**; 8.45am, **31**; 10.30, **86**.)

MORNING of RECOLLECTION for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. **The venue for this has had to change:** it will now take place at Holy Family, Park Wood, next Saturday, **14th October** from 10 o'clock, finishing with Mass at midday. The morning will be led by Canon Anthony Charlton, parish priest of Canterbury.

NATIONAL SHRINE of St JUDE Mass with blessing of oil, **Saturday 28th** and **Sunday 29th October**. See

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 8th OCTOBER 2017 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)			
Sun 8th <i>Prisoners' Sunday</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Prisoners and their dependants
		3.00pm	✕ Confirmation Mass
Mon 9th	Bl. John Henry Newman	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Tues 10th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 11th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 12th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 13th	St Edward the Confessor	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 14th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)			
Sun 15th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Special Intention
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

poster.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Details of next year's programme will be out soon. It is hoped to begin our sessions before the new year.

THE ROSARY in OCTOBER (from the directory) Those who recite five decades of the Rosary in church, or as a family, a religious community, or as a group of the faithful, may gain a plenary indulgence daily; in other circumstances a partial indulgence. A partial indulgence may be obtained daily by reciting the Litany of Loreto and the Prayer to Saint Joseph.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for October – that all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.**
- **For all those affected by the recent massacre in Las Vegas, that the dead might have eternal rest, the injured and traumatised will find healing, and that there might be an end to gun violence across our troubled world.**
- **During Prisons Week, that prisoners and their dependants will find hope and a way forward through the many difficult circumstances in which they may struggle to cope.**
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially Elsie Hampshire and Rosaleen Stephens; for those who have died recently; 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): ✕ Edward Murphy, Elizabeth Browne. ✕**

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£395.32** (Gift Aided, **£224.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£149.00**).

RED BOXES Would holders please bring their Missio Red Boxes in to church to be emptied. (Please remember to fill in your name on the label so we know whom to return them to.) Thank you.

AUTUMN ASSEMBLY "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice." *Isaiah 42:3*. The Justice and Peace Group for the Archdiocese of Southwark will be holding their Autumn Assembly entitled: Prison Break of a Different Kind, next Saturday, **14th October** at CAFOD's Romero House, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. All are welcome. Entrance is free. Please bring a packed lunch. Refreshments will be provided. No need to book, just go along.

MASS LOBBY SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) is organizing a Mass Constituency-based Lobby to oppose decriminalizing abortion. They are asking people to make an appointment with their MP to ask him or her to oppose any moves in parliament to decriminalize abortion. Decriminalizing abortion means removing all legal restrictions on abortion. Contact SPUC for comprehensive materials: <http://www.spuc.org.uk/>. See poster.

CATHOLICS in HEALTHCARE *Extraordinary lives Extraordinary Saints*. A conference for young Catholics in Healthcare from the Catholic Medical Association. Saturday **4th November**. An inspirational one-day conference hosted by and for young catholic healthcare workers / students: a celebration of catholics in healthcare. Catholic doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and many others make huge contributions to healthcare, in Britain and

around the world. Please book by emailing events@catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk. Held at St Aloysius Catholic Church, Euston. 12pm-6pm.