



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 B

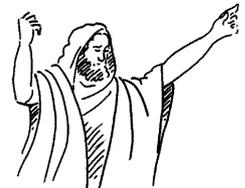
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME

8th July 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Closed Minds Hands up did your older brothers and sisters try to teach you things as a child only to be met with protests, scoffs and yawns? It was only when your parents stepped in and paid up front for an expensive tutor that you would finally sit up and pay attention. It seems that we disregard as unimportant what is right under our noses. The next-door neighbour might speak words of great wisdom to us over the garden fence, but unless the same words were boomed at us from a cloud or a mountaintop we would barely heed them. The old adage that 'familiarity breeds contempt' is certainly a true one.

When Jesus returned to his hometown to preach, he was treated with similar disregard. When the Nazarenes heard him speaking they could not take him seriously because they could remember all too well his humble origins. Wasn't he just a carpenter ... Mary's son? They closed their minds against Jesus, and because their minds were closed, Jesus could not work any great deed that day.

Of course, there is more to this story than Jesus being rejected in his hometown. This is a story about how we too can ignore or reject God. This is a story about the stumbling blocks we encounter in our faith. Perhaps our pet stumbling block might be our unwillingness to listen to others in the belief that we know best. Our stumbling block might be a reluctance to ask for help, fearing that this might be a sign of weakness. Our stumbling block might be the inability to recognise the voice of God in our day-to-day surroundings. Could God be talking to us through a partner, through our children, parents or friends? Where will the next prophet come from, the other side of the globe or the other side of the street? The trick is, not to rule anything out. God is less likely to work wonders in a closed mind. *Chapel Bell*



SEA SUNDAY Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. Today's second collection is for Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), the Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This collection is vital to enable it to continue its work, so please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. Thank you. To donate online please visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

PARISH BARBECUE Our thanks to those who organized the catering and the barbecuing last Sunday: if you weren't there you missed a treat: once again the sun shone upon us! Proceeds (about £300) went to Slideaway: a small local charity that gives counselling and help to bereaved children; see <http://slideaway.org/>.

St PETER'S CHOIR We are practising this Tuesday, **10th July**, 8 - 9pm.

MISSIONAL APPEAL Each year the archbishop asks us to host a missionary society to give an appeal. This year, on **14th and 15th July**, we will be welcoming a sister from the Daughters of Divine Love who will be appealing on behalf of the Missionary Sisters of England and Wales. They write: "The Daughters of Divine Love Sisters were founded in Nigeria by a late Nigerian bishop in 1969. Part of the work they do is to educate, care and add value to the lives of less privileged children, which includes orphans, motherless, abandoned children, street children/teenagers and children with special needs."

MASS ONLINE Apologies that our webcasting has been failing lately. We are still working on it.

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE Our next gathering will be for Benediction at 3.30pm on Sunday, **22nd July**. (You don't have to be going on the pilgrimage to attend the Benediction.)

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 8th JULY 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)** ✕

Sun 8th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Deacon Peter Smith
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Jim Kelly RIP
Mon 9th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Fr Joseph's intentions
Tues 10th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Thomas Thompson RIP
Wed 11th	St Benedict	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Greg Czerniawskyi RIP
Thu 12th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Philomena Woodger RIP
Fri 13th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 14th	Our Lady	5-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 15th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Truda and Joseph Ryans RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Baz Jackson RIP

PRAYER VISITING 'Bearsted Area Churches Together appeal for volunteers. We are collecting prayers in the Monday – Wednesday, **16th-18th July**. If you can offer between 60-90 minutes from 6.30pm on one of these days, please give your name and contact details to Fr Geoff who will pass them on to me. The last time we organised this I was the only Catholic participating so I am hoping for one of two more.' - *Bob Piggott*. ★ **Ecumenical prayer group**: It has been suggested that as churches together we should meet to look at and learn about various troubled areas in the world and then pray about them. If you are interested contact Margaret Doak 01622 738508.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for July – Priests and their pastoral ministry**: that priests who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes**, especially Cyril Adam; for those who have died recently especially Greg Czerniawskyi; 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.
- **For the young footballers and their coach trapped in a cave in Thailand**, that a way may be found very soon for them to return safe and well to their families. Also for the rescuer who sadly died in the bid to free them.
- **On this Sea Sunday**, with gratitude for all seafarers, all those involved in the rescue services and all whose lives are affected by the sea, that the Lord may keep them safe and guide them as they work for others.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Chapel memorial): ✕ Paul Fittock and John Horgan. ✕

<p>Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £524.76 (Gift Aided, £220.50; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank, amount to £190.00). ♦ This week there is a retiring collection for Sea Sunday (see above). ♦ Next week we have our Mission Appeal (see above).</p>

SOCIAL JUSTICE From time to time people meet to discuss progress upon issues such as reducing poverty, persecution, conflict, discrimination and environmental degradation - all dear to the heart of the Pope. The next such meeting will be from 2.00 to 4.00pm this Sunday, **8th July**, at the Area Bishop's house (More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN - near the Catholic Church and school). All are welcome.

60th ANNIVERSARY MASS for St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL On Saturday **14th July** at 12.30 there will be a Mass to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the re-opening of St George's Cathedral following its closure after significant bomb damage during the second world war. All are welcome to attend.