



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 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 2nd September 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: How Not to Impress God! It's easy to be fooled. Mr and Mrs Devout are always in church, always to be seen praying, always lighting votives, always to be found kneeling in their favourite pew. Are Mr and Mrs Devout good people? Well very possibly, but outward appearances can be deceptive. Perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout are the salt of the earth, but not necessarily. Despite their Sunday best, perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout spend the rest of the week, complaining about the refugees next door, gossiping about other parishioners and ignoring the plight of the beggar sitting on the church doorstep. Outward appearances are no indication of what lies beneath.



Today the Pharisees complain to Jesus, that his disciples do not wash their hands before eating. Their complaint does not stem from food hygiene. The Pharisees had very many rituals intended to keep themselves pure and undefiled, and one of these rituals was washing before eating. The ritual in itself is not so very wrong. We ourselves have a ritual of saying 'grace before meals', but where Jesus finds fault is in their flawed grasp of what is important. Jesus uses their complaint to teach a lesson, and the lesson isn't really anything to do with washing.

What do we think pleases God? The Pharisees were not bad people, but they had strayed a long way from pleasing God. To the Pharisees, religion was all about abiding by hundreds of rules and regulations. Many of these rules were about keeping themselves segregated from anything in the world that would make them unclean. They had become so obsessed by this that they no longer engaged well with the world and all its suffering. They lived by lofty and judgmental ideals that Jesus totally rejected. Jesus didn't deliberately set out to disregard tradition, but at the same time, he had come to engage with the world and its needs. Jesus' main concern was for the poor the sick and the marginalised, and he went out of his way to associate himself with them. He saw the Pharisees placing barriers between man and God, and he wasn't having it!

We do not become unacceptable to God by failing to follow a set of outward rules. We become unacceptable to God when our hearts become cold. God is not impressed when we turn up for Mass in our Sunday best. God is best pleased when we show the world a loving and sincere heart. *Chapel Bell*



FATIMA PILGRIMAGE A reminder to our pilgrims: **Saturday evening**, 8th September: Terry will be at the church for suitcases (if pilgrims wish) between 7.00 and 8.00. **Sunday morning**: park cars against garage, tight in, nose to tail, close together, nose to fence right across car park. Those who are able: please help bring suitcases up from the church to the coach. **Coach departs 6.30 sharp!**

GROUNDS at St PETER'S Unfortunately our contract gardener for the grounds at St Peter's has moved away. We are looking for someone to take their place. It would need to be someone who has the necessary heavy equipment and who is prepared to dispose of all garden waste. If any parishioner can help identify such a gardening company will they let Terry or Fr Geoff know? Thank you.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Meeting this **Monday**, 7.30pm, presbytery.

St PETER'S CHOIR Rehearsal this **Tuesday**, 8-9pm.

FAITH CLUB See the notice about this new venture for parents and children starting at St Peter's on **16th September**.

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS needed in Kent. For further information please see the KCSP website at <http://www.kcsp.org.uk/recruitment/> or contact the Trust on office@kcsp.org.uk.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 2nd SEPTEMBER 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)** ✕

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| Sun 2nd | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Brian Smith RIP |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: William Stenhouse RIP |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo |
| Mon 3rd | St Gregory | 7.00pm | ✕ Mass |
| Tue 4th | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Wed 5th | Feria | (H) 10.00am | ✕ Mass: Ivy and Murray Fraser RIP |
| Thu 6th | Feria | 7.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Fri 7th | Feria | 12midday | ✕ Requiem Mass: Cyril Adam |
| Sat 8th | Our Lady's Birthday | <i>5-5.30pm</i> | <i>Confessions</i> |
| ✕ TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕ | | | |
| Sun 9th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Harry Jenkins RIP |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass |

COMING UP:

- **Adoremus:** 7th – 9th September, Liverpool: <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/2018Eucharist.htm>. St Francis' parish is holding events to mark this from next Friday through to Sunday; see their website (<http://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/>) for details.
- **Parish Pilgrimage:** 9th – 15th September, Fatima and Santiago de Compostela.
- **Ride and Stride:** 8th September.
- **Day of Renewal:** 15th September, Aylesford.
- **Home Mission Sunday:** 16th September.
- **Day for Catechists:** 22nd September, Cathedral.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for September – Young people in Africa:** *that young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.*
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes,** *especially Dan Cram; for those who have died recently especially Cyril Adam; 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 all teachers, assistants, parents and pupils:** *our prayers are with you this week, especially for those feeling a little bit uncertain or anxious.*
- **Anniversaries this week (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ *Ivy Fraser, Angela Stewart, Hilda Gibson, Edward (Tomo) Thompson, Frank Drennan, Marjorie Armstrong, Kathleen Ahearne, Sheila Dell and Cecile Cavendish.* ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£338.68** (Gift Aided, **£171.02**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank, amount to **£190.00**). ♦ Next Sunday there will be a collection for the **Catholic Education Service** (see note below).

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.

KERALA FLOODS: an SVP APPEAL Terrible floods have been taking place in Kerala in southern India. Hundreds of people have been killed and many more are missing; countless homes have been washed away. The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), is very active there and they are doing great work helping the victims of the flood in local communities. They desperately need funds. Please contribute to the SVP's Kerala appeal. To donate visit www.svp.org.uk, telephone 020 7703 3030 or send cheques made out to SVP (write 'Kerala appeal' on the back) to SVP, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. And please remember the people of Kerala in your prayers.