



# 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-THIRD SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 9th September 2018

**FAITH IN FOCUS: Opening New Possibilities** It seems the older we get, the more we learn to keep our mouths shut! Over the years we have learned that speaking from the heart can get us into trouble. Perhaps saying what is on our minds might not earn us the reputation we would like. It might not fit in with our sophisticated image to admit that we are afraid, or neurotic, or in need of help. We tend to avoid issues that we've learned to keep private... money, relationships, and religion are possibly the top three subjects we have learned to keep to ourselves.

Today's gospel reading gives us at first impression a straightforward account of the healing of a deaf man. After a few more readings however, we realise that the point of the miracle is a sign that Jesus was the Messiah. It was a sign that the Jews of that time would have expected of a Messiah. It had long been prophesied that the ears of the deaf would be unsealed, and that the tongues of the dumb would sing for joy. More than this, by choosing a Gentile as the subject of his miracle, Jesus is telling us that there is no discrimination when it comes to Gods' salvation.

When it comes to matters of faith, many of us have a bit of a speech impediment. Sadly, in this day and age, people who talk openly about their religious beliefs can be viewed as odd, and so we keep our mouths shut. Today's gospel points out the wrong in keeping our beliefs private. Time and time again, Jesus shows us that God's love is available to everyone without prejudice. Time and time again Jesus shows us that love and acceptance can open up whole new possibilities in broken lives. Our faith cannot be limited to one hour on a Sunday morning. We are invited to 'open up' and share the possibilities God offers with everyone we meet.



*Chapel Bell*

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE to LISBON, FATMA and SANTIAGO de COMPOSTELA, 9th – 15th September**  
*28 pilgrims*

**Sunday, 9th September**

Flight from Gatwick North Terminal, EasyJet Flight EZY8717 departs 10.30, arrives Lisbon Airport 13.25

17.00 Mass at Nossa Senhora de Rosario de Fatima, Ave de Berna 26, 1050-053, Lisbon.

**Monday, 10th September**

09.00 Mass at St Anthony's Chapel.

10.30 Guided coach tour of the City.

**Tuesday, 11th September**

09.00 Coach departs hotel for Nazare.

11.30 Mass in the chapel of Our Lady of Nazare, Sitio.

15.00 Coach departs for Fatima.

18.00 Walking tour of the Sanctuary.

21.30 International Rosary and Torchlight Procession - Chapel of Apparitions.

**Wednesday, 12th September**

09.00 Coach departs for visit to Valhinos, Aljustrel and Parish Church.

15.00 Stations of the Cross on Sanctuary Esplanade.

16.30 Mass with the sick followed by Eucharistic Procession.

18.30 Official opening of the celebrations at Chapel of Apparitions.

21.30 International Rosary and Torchlight Procession followed by Vigil Mass - Chapel of Apparitions and Esplanade altar.

**Thursday, 13th September**

09.00 International Rosary followed by International Concelebrated Mass on the Esplanade altar. Procession of Our Lady of Fatima and the Adieu to Our Lady.

14.00 Coach departs for Santiago de Compostela - transfer time about 8 hours, including 1 hour for Spanish time difference.

**Friday, 14th September**

08.30 Meet with local guide in hotel reception and then coach departure for walking tour of Santiago de Compostela.

12.00 Pilgrims' Mass at St James's Cathedral.

**Saturday, 15th September**

07.45 Coach transfer to Santiago de Compostela airport, EasyJet Flight EZY8590 departs 10.15, London Gatwick North Terminal, arrives 11.10.

**WELCOME and THANK YOU!** Fr Liam Gallagher from St Francis' is celebrating Mass for us this Sunday morning while Fr Geoffrey joins parishioners and friends jetting off to Fatima and Santiago for our parish pilgrimage.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 9th SEPTEMBER 2018**  
**(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

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

|  |                              |                    |   |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Sun 9th  | <b>Saturday</b>              | <b>6.00pm</b>      | ✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo                          |
|  | <b>Sunday</b>                | <b>(H) 8.45am</b>  | ✕ Mass: Harry Jenkins RIP                         |
|  |                              | <b>10.30am</b>     | ✕ Mass: Gwladys Bailey RIP                        |
| Mon 10th   | Sorry, no parish Mass        |                    |   |
| Tue 11th   | Feria                        | <b>10.00am</b>     | <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>     |
| Wed 12th   | Feria                        | <b>(H) 10.00am</b> | <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>     |
| Thu 13th   | Sorry, no parish Mass        |                    |   |
| Fri 14th   | Exaltation of the Holy Cross | <b>10.00am</b>     | <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>     |
| Sat 15th   | Our Lady of Sorrows          | <i>5-5.30pm</i>    | <i>Confessions</i>                                |
| ✕ <b>TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)</b> ✕ |                              |                    |   |
| Sun 16th   | <b>Saturday</b>              | <b>6.00pm</b>      | ✕ Vigil Mass: John Iloenyosi & Elizer Obineze RIP |
|  | <b>Sunday</b>                | <b>(H) 8.45am</b>  | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo                                |
|  |                              | <b>10.30am</b>     | ✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP             |

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

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2019** Preparations begin in **October**. Application forms are now available from Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril; they should be returned by **7th October**. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply; they must live in the parish. If they were not baptized here we need a copy of their baptismal certificate.

**COMING UP:**

- **Adoremus:** 7th – 9th September, Liverpool: <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/2018Eucharist.htm>.
- **Day of Renewal:** 15th September, Aylesford.
- **Home Mission Sunday:** 16th September.
- **Day for Catechists:** 22nd September, Cathedral.
- **Harvest Fast Day:** Friday 5th October.

**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,** *for those who have died recently especially Gwladys Bailey and Fr John Mulligan; 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 those travelling to Portugal and Spain on our parish pilgrimage this week:** *for a spiritual and uplifting experience that may bless and benefit us all.*
- **Anniversaries this week (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ *Alice Piddock, Pauline Lockyer, Albert Nutley, Winifred Moffat, Alida Powers and Jeanne Adam.* ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£352.55** (Gift Aided, **£171.92**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ This Sunday there is a collection for the **Catholic Education Service** (see note below). ♦ Next Sunday is **Home Mission Sunday**: a collection will be taken to fund the bishops' national work of evangelization.

**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.