



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Year B TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 16th September 2018**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: DISMANTLING THE CROSS** There's no shortage of self-help books in the shops today. Each one has a different cover, but they all have the same aim: they claim to show you how to get through life without pain and suffering. And while they are mostly well intentioned, we know in our heart of hearts that they won't really work. Wanting to avoid suffering is natural. In fact, it's part of our instinct for self-preservation. If we wandered haplessly into every physical and psychological minefield, then we would end up severely damaged. Pure masochism is not a Christian virtue.

Yet if we read the gospels then we cannot deny that suffering plays a major part in Jesus's life, and it is promised to those who decide to follow him. We have become familiar with the phrase "carrying our cross", so much so that our language happily uses phrases like "She has a heavy cross to bear" without thinking of its origin.

It's not surprising that Peter wanted to spare Jesus from pain and suffering in today's gospel. Perhaps what is surprising is Jesus's answer: "Get behind me, Satan!" Jesus knew that he had to suffer in order to fulfil the mission given him by his Father. To shy away from the cross would have been to back out of his redeeming act. And he wanted Peter to be in no doubt.

If only it were easy to say why this suffering is necessary! It isn't. What we do know is that God's ways are not ours, that we do not think in the same way as God does. But following Christ means being constantly prepared to lose one's life in order to gain it. It means being ready to die to self in order to rise with Christ. It involves putting ourselves always in second place, serving in order to rule, allowing ourselves to be rejected like Christ.

It's tempting to dismantle the cross in our lives and to think that we can live a life that is trouble free if only we use the right psychological techniques or follow the latest diet or lifestyle regimen. But we know this can never be. It's not that we actively go and seek out pain and suffering. It's what we do with it when it comes our way. Do we see it as defeat? Or do we meet it head on in order to rise above it?

*(Author unknown)*



**HOME MISSION SUNDAY** On the third Sunday of September the Catholic Church celebrates Home Mission Sunday. This is an opportunity to inspire Catholics and help them to engage with the mission of the Church, whilst supporting the work of the Home Mission Office. A retiring collection will be taken.

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

**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.

**DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS** A reminder that the annual diocesan Day for Catechists is this **Saturday, 22nd September** at the Cathedral. Beginning at 10.30am, and ending with Mass at 4pm, it's an in-service training day for all catechists, children's liturgy teams and those involved in RCIA. Names required by tomorrow, Monday 17th. Full details on the noticeboard.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 16th SEPTEMBER 2018**  
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (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 & Elizabeth Drummy RIP
Mon 17th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tue 18th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 19th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 20th	St Andrew Kim Tae-gön & Companions	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 21st	St Matthew	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 22nd	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

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

Sun 23rd	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Alex Smith RIP

**A DAY WITH MARY** For those who were unable to join us on our pilgrimage to Fátima, and for those who would like to know more about the message given there over 100 years ago, there is a Day With Mary at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 20th October** including Mass, exposition, processions, sermons and meditations. For full details, see poster on the parish noticeboard.

**CCF EVENTS** This term, the Centre for Catholic Formation is offering courses aimed at catechists, those involved in faith formation, members of pastoral councils and evangelization teams and the clergy. For full details including dates and locations, see the *On Offer* guide, or visit [www.ccfootingbec.org.uk](http://www.ccfootingbec.org.uk).

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** The organizations involved in caring for the homeless in Maidstone are appealing for donations of food in preparation for the onset of the colder weather. Tinned fruits, vegetables, long-life foods, pasta and preserves are in great demand. If you're able to help, a full list of 'most wanted' items is available on the noticeboard.

**COMING UP:**

- **Home Mission Sunday:** today.
- **Day for Catechists:** 22nd September, Cathedral.
- **CAFOD Family 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; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends, especially Fr Peter Lessiter; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- ***Anniversaries this week (St Peter's Chapel memorial):*** ✕ David Drozley, Sophie Drozley, Desmond Drake, Letitia Cavendish, Alfred Noakes, Anne Keepin, Barbara Lutener and Sarah Callaghan. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish.

**GROUNDS at St PETER'S** As parishioners will note, a new gardener has now been found. Our thanks to those who offered suggestions and help.