

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)

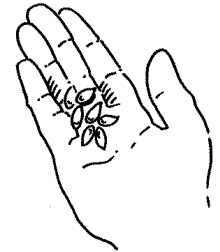
Parish Website and YouTube:
www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Year B

ELEVENTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME

17th June 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Seeds of Faith Seeds are amazing! We plant them, provide the right environment and then wait. Miraculously, the seeds flower into an array of fabulous plants. We can help the plants to grow, but we cannot make them grow, this power is out of our hands. Ultimately we cannot predict the harvest. The seeds of faith work in the same way. We can teach someone else about God but ultimately that is all we can do. People react to God's word in countless different ways, ways we cannot predict. Jesus' first disciples were to take comfort in the knowledge that although they were entrusted to plant the seeds of faith, they were not responsible for the harvest God would take care of that.



The task of planting the seeds of faith in the twenty first century can seem as daunting as it must have seemed to those early disciples. Can we really make any difference to a world that still allows war, cruelty and poverty? Today's gospel offers yet more consolation. Jesus speaks of the tiny mustard seed. Despite its insignificant appearance it grows into an impressive shrub substantial enough to provide shade. It's thought provoking that such a humble seed should provide so impressive a result. Jesus teaches us that we mustn't be overwhelmed when faced with a seemingly overwhelming task. We must simply implement Christ's teaching with whatever humble means we have, and leave God to do the rest. *Chapel Bell*

DAY FOR LIFE *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*. At this year's Day for Life, **today**, we remember all those who are suffering or have survived human trafficking and modern slavery. Day for Life is celebrated yearly by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The proceeds of the Day for Life collection will be used for the promotion of the dignity of the human person. Money collected for Day for Life will be used to fund projects that support work in this area by organizations which further this objective. All donations are greatly appreciated.

IT'S BARBECUE TIME AGAIN! Tickets are now on sale for our parish barbecue, which will take place on **Sunday 1st July** after Mass at St Peter's. Tickets are priced at £5 for adults, £3.50 for children and £12 for a family ticket. You can get your tickets after Sunday Mass at St Peter's, or ring Ian on 736811. Please bring your own drinks. We would be grateful for any contributions of a salad or a dessert and, if you can help with the catering in this way, please will you put your name on the list in the parish room. Thank you.

CAFOD This week: **Refugee Week, 16th – 24th June**; a chance to celebrate and promote understanding of why people seek sanctuary. See <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Share-the-Journey>.

NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK This year celebrates forty years of working together for justice and peace. Joan Brown established a group at St Peter's and over the years the group has become ecumenical.

SAMARA'S AID APPEAL A big thank you to everyone who donated and to the volunteers who helped in various ways.

PRAYER VISITING See the displayed list of prayer intentions following this recent event in Bearsted. ♦ Another such event is to take place next month. If anyone is interested in taking part please let Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril know. ★ **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.

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 the WEEK BEGINNING 17th JUNE 2018 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ ELEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 17th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Brian Stanford RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP
		12noon	Baptism: Oliver Simon Friend
Mon 18th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Margaret Sanders RIP
Tues 19th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Francis Mary Kumi OSB, in thanksgiving
		(H) 12noon	✕ Requiem Mass: Olive Parker
Wed 20th	St Alban	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 21st	St Aloysius Gonzaga	7.00am	✕ Mass: George Albert and Calerine Aline Weedon RIP
Fri 22nd	SS John Fisher & Thomas More	10.00am	✕ Mass: Brigid Monks RIP
Sat 23rd	Our Lady	5-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ The NATIVITY of St JOHN THE BAPTIST ✕			
Sun 24th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Phyllis Hoban RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Margaret Smith RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

60th ANNIVERSARY MASS for St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL On Saturday 14th July 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. [We have yet to be informed of the time that this will take place.]

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June – Social Networks:** that social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences.
- **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; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for those attending the Marriage Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass at St George's this weekend; for Oliver, being baptized this Sunday, and for his parents and godparents; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **For an appreciation of the value of human life:** that as a society we will grow in our awareness of the meaning and value of life at every stage and in every condition.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Mary Anne Macklin, George Weedon, Bridget Ruffle, Alice Sinott, John Younger, Gertrude Grimes, Margaret Sanders, Lord Gilbert Monckton and Dame Alma Harvey. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£336.45** (Gift Aided, **£127.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank, amount to **£190.00**). ♦ The collection for the **Catholic Trust for England and Wales** amounted to **£162.28**. ♦ This Sunday, the Day for Life, there is a **retiring collection to support Life** (see above and: <http://www.dayforlife.org/>).

VACANCY St Simon Stock Secondary School is looking for a clerk to the governors. This is a paid part-time position requiring good organizational and minuting skills. Foundation governors: voluntary roles for people who want to help in the education of the next generation within a catholic ethos. Further information from the Chair of Governors: mike.powis@btinternet.com.

CATHOLIC SINGLES Helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit www.catholic singles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498.

SUMMER YOUTH DAY Aylesford Priory, **Saturday 23rd June**. Southwark Catholic Youth Service will once again be hosting a Summer Youth Day with the Carmelites at Aylesford. You'll need to book places for catering purposes. Be part of a day of music, drama, art workshops and a barbecue. The day will culminate with Mass on the Shrine. Visit www.scys.org.uk/events for more details. To book, contact 01227 272900 or info@scys.org.uk.

COME AND SEE: SISTERS of MERCY Vocations Day, **Saturday 30th June**, 10am - 4pm. Single Catholic women are invited to explore a vocation with the Sisters of Mercy. Anyone interested in attending should contact Sr Helen at helen.furness@iolmercy.org.uk or telephone 020 8850 1877 by Friday 22nd June.

YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS WEEKEND "Tell others the truth that sets you free" (Pope Benedict XVI). During the weekend of the **7-9th September**, young catholic adults will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey. It will feature Fr Lawrence Lew O.P. and Canon Poucin. More information: <http://youngcatholicadults-latestnews.blogspot.co.uk/>.