



Parish of St Peter, Bearsted
and
The Good Shepherd, Harrietsham
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-SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

4th October 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: SCIENCE and RELIGION The story of the boy who cried wolf is not true. But what it says is true. There never was such a historical boy. But the moral remains true: if you consistently lie then you run the risk of not being believed when you are telling the truth. Sometimes Church people engage in battles with scientists about what the bible says on the origins of humanity and what science says it now knows to be virtually certain. It's the old Creation versus Evolution debate. Today's Genesis readings tells us about God making Adam fall into a deep sleep and then making Eve out of one of Adam's ribs. Is this true? Do we have to believe it? Did it really happen like that?



Most Christians would accept that the bible is telling a story. It is not trying to be historical; it can't be since there was no one else there in the story except God and Adam. It is not trying to be scientific or to give a medical explanation for how men and women came about. It's just a story. But it's still true. Because, like the tale of the boy who cried wolf, it's what it's really trying to say that is important. It's the "meat" of the story that counts. And what the writer is attempting to convey is that animal and human life comes from a divine creator and our surroundings depend on that creator for everything. Because men and women are the product of God's love then they are drawn to each other in the bond of marriage in a way that reflects God's love: eternal, indissoluble and unconditional. Genesis wants to say nothing more and nothing less. What a pity it would be if Christians thought that their faith precluded them from rejoicing in scientific discoveries about the origins of our universe and human life. And what a pity, too, if scientists were given the impression that Christians were so hidebound that they believed in a talking snake.

Author unknown.

DEANERY CONFIRMATIONS There is a deanery event **this afternoon** at 3p.m. at St Thomas More, West Malling in preparation for Confirmation. Please remember all the candidates from the deanery; there are none this year from our parish, but we hope to have some next year. Confirmation Mass, which we always jointly celebrate with West Malling, St Francis and Holy Family parishes, is next **Sunday, 11th October at 3pm at St Francis, Maidstone.**

DEANERY DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS will be held at St. Peter's on *Saturday 24th. October.* Please make every effort to attend this important annual event.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 4th OCTOBER 2015
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✧ TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✧

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|----------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Sun 4th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✧ Mass: Alfred Noakes RIP |
| | | 10.30am | ✧ Mass: Pauline Sexton RIP |
| Mon 5th | Feria | 7.00pm | ✧ Mass: |
| Tues 6th | Feria | 10.00am | ✧ Mass: |
| Wed 7th | Our Lady of the Rosary | (H) 10.00am | ✧ Mass |
| Thu 8th | Feria | 7.00am | ✧ Mass |
| Fri 9th | Feria | 10.00am | ✧ Mass |
| Sat 10th | Our Lady | <i>5.00-5.30pm</i> | <i>Confessions</i> |

✧ TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✧

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|----------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Sun 11th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✧ Mass: |
| | | 10.30am | ✧ Mass: George Cropper RIP |

PLEASE PRAY...

- ***With the Holy Father for October:*** that with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the gospel to those who are still awaiting it.
- ***For all the sick*** especially Barbara Casey and Stephen Hannant and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead, especially 'Bobby' Conan; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- ***That men and women will be open to the voice of the Lord,*** asking the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother to help them recognize and answer his call to serve him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

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| Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £408.23 (Gift Aided, £272). |
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The CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE in RELIGIOUS STUDIES covers the central teachings of the Catholic Church. Introductory evenings this week at Tooting and Dartford. See notice.

TYBURN CONVENT Monastic afternoons **every first Sunday:** 8 Hyde Park Place, London. See poster.

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE Saturday **7th November** at St Teresa's, Ashford. See poster

RETIRING COLLECTION this weekend is for **CAFOD**; Harvest fast day envelopes should be returned today.