



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 C

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

24th July 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: WHAT AM I BID? In some countries auctioneers set the price at a high level and then come down in stages until someone is prepared to put in a bid. The first person to bid gets the object at the price they were willing to jump in at. The amusing story today from Genesis sees Abraham holding an auction with God and pestering God to keep lowering the price. God is angry and threatens to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, but Abraham plays on God's sense of mercy and compassion and manages to get a bargain outcome for the towns. Abraham knows that it is not God's nature wantonly to destroy what he has created. A chance for a fresh start is much more God's style.



Jesus gives us a similar impression of God when he talks about the need for praying without ceasing. He compares praying to God with a pestering neighbour who never gives up so that in the end you give in to him and let him have what he wants. Does this mean that God is soft? That God is a bit of a pushover? That we can twist God round our little fingers? More importantly does it mean that sin doesn't matter? Can we do what we like and then just ask God for pardon and expect to receive it? Can we expect that God will give us everything we ask for? A win on the lottery, a baby, a cure from terminal illness?

Jesus encourages us to pray and to be confident that whatever we need we will receive. Ask, seek, knock. Yet he is clear about the person who is listening to our prayers: a Father who knows each one of his children and knows exactly what they need. God does not promise us what we want but what we need.

Perhaps the secret of prayer is never to give up asking God to let us know what we need rather than bombarding him with endless wish lists. What we want may not be what God wants, because God knows what's not good for us. But if we ask God for what we need then we will never be disappointed.
(Author unknown.)

NEWSLETTER This is the last printed parish newsletter until Sunday **4th September**. Mass intentions and other updates will be posted on the notice board and on the website.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE in RELIGIOUS STUDIES If you would like to find out more about this nationally accredited course in Catholic theology see the notice about forthcoming introductory evenings in **September**.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM ✕ Please see the notice at St Peter's about short services of remembrance around Bearsted for those from the village who died during the Great War. Next service **Saturday 30th July**, 12noon: Thomas Louis Allcorn, at 7 Willington Street.

MISSION APPEAL This year's appeal will be given by the Verona Fathers over the weekend **6th and 7th August**.

DIOCESAN DAY for CATECHISTS St George's Cathedral, **Saturday 24th September**, 11am – 4pm. If any catechists are interested in attending, please pick up a programme from the sacristy.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 24th JULY 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 24th July	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: James Hamilton RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Hugh Pointer RIP
		12noon	Baptism: Alex Redgate
Mon 25th	St James	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Kathleen Byrne RIP
Tues 26th	SS Joachim and Anne	10.00am	✕ Mass: Therese Sophie Weeden RIP
Wed 27th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Bernard Jones RIP
Thu 28th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Lillian Allerton RIP
Fri 29th	St Martha	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 30th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 31st July	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Veronica Oyibo Nwude RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Trixie Hall RIP
		12noon	Baptism: Florence Anne Clifford

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for July:** *that through their mission, the Latin American and Caribbean Church may announce the Gospel with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. We remember the Holy Father as he prepares for World Youth Day in Krakow this week.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially Ian Taylor; for those recently dead especially Fr Bernard Jones O Carm.; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For the people of Turkey,** *that there might be a just a peaceful solution to the difficulties which are creating anger and conflict; for those killed and injured in the shopping centre attack in Munich.*
- **For children and their families** as they begin their holidays: *may they grow ever closer in love and mutual understanding.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£393.40** (gift aided, **£203.00**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**).

WORLD YOUTH DAY : 25th-31st July The theme of the XXXI World Youth Day in Krakow is: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy' (Mt 5:7). Our Holy Father Francis has chosen the fifth of the eight Beatitudes, given by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, to show the importance of the Beatitudes which are at the heart of Jesus' teaching. In his first Sermon, Jesus presents us with eight examples of qualities that bring us closer to the Kingdom of God.

PRAYER FOR PEACE The annual remembrance of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings at Aylesford Priory is **Tuesday 9th August** starting at 8.20pm. All are welcome to join in prayer that, in future, the world's nations may find less violent ways to resolve conflicts. As Pope Francis indicated when speaking at the United Nations, "An ethics and a law based on the threat of mutual destruction – and possibly the destruction of all mankind – are self-contradictory... There is urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full application of the non-proliferation Treaty, in light and spirit, with the goal of a complete prohibition of these weapons." *Phil Kerton, Kent Diocesan Area J & P Group.*