



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

**Year C**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**2nd October 2016**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: Focus on Faith** Because of his faith, the just man shall live. We hear in today's first reading the original prophetic line made so central by St Paul. We are to live by faith in Christ who loved us and gave himself on the Cross for us. The world, though, can seem to us as seventh-century Judah seemed to Habakkuk - in the control of God's enemies. The strife and discord we face in our own lives can sometimes cause us to wonder, as the prophet does, why God doesn't seem to hear or intervene when we cry for help. We can't let our hearts be hardened by the trials we undergo. As today's psalm reminds us: Israel forgot his mighty works, lost faith in the sound words of his promise. They tested God in the desert, demanding a sign, but God didn't redeem Israel from Egypt only to let them die in the desert. And he didn't ransom us from futility only to abandon us in our trials. He is our God and we are the people he shepherds always - though at times his mercy and justice seem long delayed.



If we call on the Lord, as the Apostles do in today's gospel, he will increase our faith, will stir to a flame the Holy Spirit who has dwelt within us since baptism. As Paul tells us in today's second reading, the Lord will always give us the love and self-control we need to bear our share of hardship for the gospel - with a strength that can come from God alone. Our task is to continue doing what he has commanded - to love and to build up his kingdom - trusting that his vision still presses on to its fulfilment. For his vision still has its time. One day, though, we who are merely servants will be invited to eat and drink at our Master's table. It is that day we anticipate with each celebration of the eucharist. *Author unknown*

**CONFIRMATION** Please pray for our confirmation candidates, **Aisling Day, Christopher Dixon, Thomas Dixon** and **Coralie Marsh**. They have now concluded their short period of preparation, with the generous assistance of Chrissy Combes. **This afternoon** they are joining the other candidates from the northern deanery parishes for a preparation session at St Thomas More, West Malling. This concludes with Mass at 5.30 and a short rehearsal. ✠ The Confirmation Mass is at Holy Family, South Maidstone (Park Wood) next Sunday, **9th October** at 3pm.

**THE ROSARY IN OCTOBER** (From the directory) Those who recite five decades of the Rosary in church, or as a family, a religious community, or as a group of the faithful, may gain a plenary indulgence daily; in other circumstances a partial indulgence. A partial indulgence may be obtained daily by reciting the Litany of Loreto and the Prayer to Saint Joseph.

**MASS COUNT** This Sunday there takes place the first of four national Mass counts (at each Mass); **collectors, please note.**

**CAFOD** Harvest Fast Day is this Friday, **7th October**. Envelopes for your savings are available.

**DIOCESAN SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION** On **Saturday 15th October** at St Peter's between 1.30 and 4 we are hosting an afternoon given by the Diocesan Spirituality Commission to discuss the meaning of *spirituality*. See the notice, or visit <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk> for more information. All are welcome.

**WE WILL REMEMBER** In Bearsted and Thurnham we are marking the centenaries of those from our villages who died in World War One. Wherever possible we meet outside their home on the anniversary of their death and hold a short act of remembrance and lay a wreath. All are invited to join us. • **Sunday 30th October**, 12noon: Alfred Cotterell. Meet at Thurnham Church; no address known. • **Sunday 13th November**, 12noon: Horrace Chapman. Meet at Roundwell, near old village pump. • **Friday 18th November**, 12noon: George Henry Cooper. Meet on Ware Street opposite row of white weather boarded cottages.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 2nd OCTOBER 2016  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

|  |                        |                    |                                  |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sun 2nd<br>October<br><i>Rosary<br/>Sunday</i> | <b>Saturday</b>        | <b>6.00pm</b>      | ✕ Vigil Mass: Kathleen Barry RIP |
|  | <b>Sunday</b>          | <b>(H) 8.45am</b>  | ✕ Mass: Col. Michael Dewar       |
|  |                        | <b>10.30am</b>     | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo               |
| Mon 3rd  | Feria                  | <b>7.00pm</b>      | ✕ Mass                           |
| Tues 4th                                       | St Francis of Assisi   | <b>10.00am</b>     | ✕ Mass                           |
| Wed 5th  | Feria                  | <b>(H) 10.00am</b> | ✕ Mass: Frances Eason RIP        |
| Thu 6th  | Feria                  | <b>7.00am</b>      | ✕ Mass                           |
| Fri 7th  | Our Lady of the Rosary | <b>10.00am</b>     | ✕ Mass: For the starving         |
| Sat 8th  | Our Lady               | 5.00-5.30pm        | <i>Confessions</i>               |

✕ **TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

|   |                 |                   |                          |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Sun 9th<br><i>Prisoners'<br/>Sunday</i> | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>6.00pm</b>     | ✕ Vigil Mass             |
|   | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>(H) 8.45am</b> | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo       |
|   |                 | <b>10.30am</b>    | ✕ Mass: Marie Holtom RIP |

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for October:** *That World Mission Sunday may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially Nellie Marshall; for those who have died recently especially Fr Piet Wijngaard O Carm, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For world leaders,** that they might listen to the needs and concerns of the people whom they serve and might work together for peace and mutual understanding.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£510.56** (gift aided, **£326.00**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ The retiring collection for the **National Shrine to Our Lady at Walsingham** amounted to **£169.43**. ♦ Next week there is a voluntary collection in aid of the Prison Advice and Care Trust (see below).

**PRISONERS' SUNDAY** (<http://prisonadvice.org.uk/>) This year, we mark Prisoners' Sunday on **9th October**. It is a day to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners, their families and their children. Prisoners' Sunday provides an important opportunity to make a difference and be there for those who most need our support. There is a voluntary retiring collection in aid of Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust); these funds enable valuable services both in and out of prison to continue.

**CENTRE for CATHOLIC FORMATION** Four CCF Year of Mercy talks take place at St Teresa's, Maidstone Rd, Ashford TN24 8TX starting **10th October**; see poster. Each of the talks will start at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). All are welcome. Entry is free, however, donations will be welcomed. Refreshments provided. Register your interest at 020 8672 7684; office@ccftootingbec.org.uk or <http://www.ccftootingbec.org.uk/>.

**APPEAL FOR SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNORS** St Francis' Catholic Primary School is looking for committed, enthused individuals for the role of Foundation Governor. A Foundation Governor is appointed by the Diocese and by definition is a practising Catholic; they will not only have the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school, but are appointed for the purpose of securing the school's vision, including Catholic ethos. See the notice board for full details. If you feel you can make this commitment, please email the chair of governors ([swhitbread@st-francis.kent.sch.uk](mailto:swhitbread@st-francis.kent.sch.uk)) or speak to one of the clergy.

**THE BEGINNING of LIFE CONFERENCE** A free half day conference for juniors and students of the healthcare professions (doctors, nurses, midwives, medical students, nursing students etc.). Starts at 1.30pm on **22nd October** at Newman House, Gower Street, London. An opportunity to make new friends and hear what the Catholic Church teaches. Visit [www.CatholicMedicalAssociation.org.uk](http://www.CatholicMedicalAssociation.org.uk) for more details. Email [events@catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk](mailto:events@catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk) by 17th October as places are limited.

**NATIONAL SHRINE of St JUDE** Mass with blessing of oil, **Friday 28th, Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th October**. See poster.