



# 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 A TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 15th October 2017**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: MUST TRY HARDER!** Do we fondly imagine that people ought to love us just the way we are? We are told often enough that God loves us warts and all. But do we carry this belief through life with not much thought of betterment?

In today's parable a king invites guests to his son's wedding. When the guests refuse to turn up, the king extends the invitation to a different set of guests, both good and bad. The guests fill the wedding hall, but as they do so, the king notices one man not wearing a wedding robe and he has him bound hand and foot and thrown out into the darkness! The consequences for not wearing the right outfit seem overly harsh as far as this poor guest is concerned, but of course the parable has not really very much to do with wedding receptions and even less to do with wearing the right tie. The overriding theme in this story is to do with standards. Jesus explains that the Kingdom of God is open to all but that doesn't mean that anyone and everyone can stroll into heaven. Just as guests make an effort to be correctly dressed for a wedding, so too must we put in the preparation and effort to be accepted into God's Kingdom.

The guest who was thrown out of the wedding feast for his cavalier 'accept me just the way I am' attitude presents a warning for us all. Too often we go about our daily routines not feeling any need to live life better. Far too often we look on our Christianity as making choices between good and evil, and we are confident that we rarely choose evil. But Jesus is asking more of us than simply choosing between right and wrong, he is asking us to choose between good and an even greater good. What we imagine is our 'best' very rarely is.

Just as the guest in today's parable did little more than turn up to the wedding, so we live life going through the motions but not much more. Accepting God's invitation to join him is only the first step, it's how we live out that acceptance that really matters. (*Chapel Bell*)

**THANK YOU** to those who helped with the Deanery Confirmation Mass at St Peter's last Sunday afternoon. It was a squeeze, but all went smoothly. A link to a video of the ceremony will be available in due course.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Rev. Dr John Huggins who was installed last Tuesday evening at St Mary's Lenham as C of E Priest-in-Charge for the four churches in the Len Valley Benefice. Fr Geoffrey and Deacon Cyril represented our Catholic community.

**PASTORAL TEAM** So few were able to make the meeting last week that it had to be postponed.

**MASS COUNT** This Sunday there takes place the third of four national Mass counts (at each Mass); **collectors, please note.** (Last week: 6pm, **48**; 8.45am, **13**; 10.30, **51**. At the deanery Confirmation Mass, **250**.)

**SEE IT, SPEAK OUT** Churches across the world are being encouraged to take part in a global day of worship and action against human trafficking. Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing global crime, involving over 30 million men, women and children around the world today. This is more than at any other time in human history. Freedom Sunday is a day for global faith communities to stand together in prayer and take action to put an end to this horrendous crime. This year, Freedom Sunday takes place **this Sunday**.

**NEXT SUNDAY is WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his official charity for overseas mission. Your support on World Mission Sunday will help brave missionaries in proclaiming the Gospel of peace in South Sudan and around the world. Please join in this special day that unites Catholics all over the world in prayer, celebration and care for the mission of the Church. You will be able to Gift Aid all donations by using envelopes provided by Missio (at the back of the church). Thank you.

**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 or a partial indulgence. A partial indulgence may be obtained daily by reciting the Litany of Loreto and the Prayer to Saint Joseph.

**RED BOXES** Would holders please bring their Missio Red Boxes in to church to be emptied. (Please remember to fill in your name on the label so we know whom to return them to.) Thank you.



**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 15th OCTOBER 2017  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)**

Sun 15th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Special Intention
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 16th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Tues 17th	St Ignatius of Antioch	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Fr Gerald Coates RIP
Wed 18th	St Luke	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 19th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 20th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 21st	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)**

Sun 22nd <i>World Mission Day</i>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Marie Baroness Redwitz RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: For Missio

**NATIONAL SHRINE of St JUDE Faversham** Mass with blessing of oil, **28th and 29th October**. See poster.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** Details of next year's programme will be out soon. It is hoped to begin our sessions before the new year.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for October – that all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.**
- **For all the victims of the wildfires in California:** those who have died, those fleeing their homes and those who have lost everything, that the Lord in his mercy and compassion may save them.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes** especially Elsie Hampshire and Rosaleen Stephens; for those who have died recently especially Canon Gerald Coates and Terry Meaney; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **Anniversaries this week** (from St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Alice Brown, Stephanie O'Neill, Bill Kennedy, Alec Paris, Gerald Alcock, Lilian Lavender, Richard Ryan, Elizabeth Smith, Michael Gillam, James Stevens and Thomas McCready. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£606.83** (Gift Aided, **£224.93**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£149.00**). ♦ The CAFOD fast day contributions came to **£212.56**. ♦ **Next Sunday**, World Mission Sunday, there will be a retiring collection for **Missio**, the Church's official charity for overseas mission (see above). Envelopes are available.

✕ **NOVEMBER** ✕ is the month of the Holy Souls when we commemorate and pray for our beloved dead. Envelopes are available for you to enclose a list of your deceased loved ones. These may be placed in the box as you enter church. The envelopes remain in front of the altar throughout the month. Any donations in the envelopes are used as stipends for Masses for the Holy Souls during November and throughout the year. *Remember to Gift Aid your offering if appropriate.*

**CATHOLICS in HEALTHCARE** *Extraordinary lives Extraordinary Saints.* A conference for young Catholics in Healthcare from the Catholic Medical Association. Saturday **4th November**. An inspirational one-day conference hosted by and for young catholic healthcare workers / students: a celebration of catholics in healthcare. Catholic doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and many others make huge contributions to healthcare, in Britain and around the world. Please book by emailing [events@catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk](mailto:events@catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk). Held at St Aloysius Catholic Church, Euston. 12pm-6pm.

**POSSIBLE ECONOMY PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LAND 7th-14th August 2018.** Special Pilgrimages Ltd are considering putting on an extra pilgrimage next year. At this point, they are seeking the level of interest and hope to get 20 or more people. The cost is expected to be £900 per person based on sharing a double/twin room, and includes breakfast and evening meal. Rooms have air conditioning. Led by a priest. For more information, please email David Carter on [david.b.carter@btinternet.com](mailto:david.b.carter@btinternet.com) or speak to him after Saturday evening Masses.

**SHELTERED HOUSING** –Vacant flats available: St Scholastica's Retreat in Buckinghamshire. For practising Catholics aged 60 or over at £429pcm – more information on the poster or: [www.stscholasticas.co.uk](http://www.stscholasticas.co.uk).

**CATHOLIC SINGLES** An organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. Visit [www.catholicsingles.org.uk](http://www.catholicsingles.org.uk) or tel. 0161 941 3498.