



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 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 30th September 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: WHO'S ON OUR SIDE? There's a subtle humour that lies just below the plot in many of the stories from scripture. Human nature bubbles to the surface in all its complicated glory. Take Moses, for example. He went into the tent with seventy elders and they all received the spirit of prophecy. But two men, Eldad and Medad, although they never went into the tent, started prophesying like the rest. Joshua got annoyed at this and told Moses to stop them from prophesying. Moses had the sense to realize that if they were doing no harm, they could only be doing good and should be left alone. The same happened to Jesus (who incidentally also sent out seventy elders to preach) and his disciples. They found a man who was "not one of us" casting out devils and they wanted Jesus to tell him to stop. Jesus points out that anyone who is not against him is for him, and tells the disciples to leave the man alone.



Today we suffer from the same problem. We have an urge for neatness. We like to know who's in and who's out. We set nicely drawn boundaries and we expect people to stay within them. There's a place for everything and everything in its place. Sometimes it's a question of feeling put out when a Methodist comments on Anglican worship. At other times a Reformed Church member can come close to the bone about Catholic devotion to Mary and the saints. Married people can feel assaulted when a celibate bishop starts to sound off about family life, when priests write about business ethics, or nuns bring out a book on child-care. It's natural for our defences to rise. Even on parish committees and councils the same can apply. For a variety of reasons, certain people's opinions, clerical or lay, are more acceptable to us than others. Yet the message of the gospel is never to prejudge, always to keep an open mind, not to require a reference before listening to someone's opinion, and to be prepared for some very pleasant surprises when the Spirit is allowed to work in the most unexpected of people.

So the Church has constantly to resist the temptation to entrench itself within artificial boundaries. It has to be open-minded enough to listen to suggestions and criticism from whatever quarter, and to accept that the Spirit can be at work even among those who are not strictly "one of us". *(Author unknown)*

PARISH PILGRIMAGE Our thanks to Terry for our attached report on the parish pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain, and to those who supplied the pictures. Sorry for the lack of colour, this is available online. Would pilgrims who have some good photos of the event, please send them, full size, to David Combes at webmaster@catholic-bearsted.org.uk so that a selection can be made and added to our gallery.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2019 Preparations begin in **October**. Application forms are now available from Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril; they should be returned by **7th October (next weekend)**. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply; they must live in the parish. If they were not baptized here we need a copy of their baptismal certificate. There will be a meeting for parents on **Monday 8th October** at St Peter's, after the evening Mass.

PRECISION SAFETY The diocesan agency that helps with electrical testing, fire regulations and health and safety paid a visit last week; we passed with just a few minor recommendations. One was that we conduct a fire drill one Sunday; so please be prepared!

THIS SUNDAY The second of four National Mass Counts is to be taken. **Collectors, please note.**

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 30th SEPTEMBER 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)** ✕

Sun 30th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Palmira and Giuseppe Nucilli RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Private Intention
Mon 1st October	Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Fr John Mulligan RIP
Tue 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels	10.00am	✕ Mass: Shirley Taylor RIP
Wed 3rd	Feria	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 4th	Saint Francis of Assisi	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 5th	Feria (<i>Harvest Fast Day</i>)	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 6th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)** ✕
Rosary Sunday

Sun 7th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Alf Noakes RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
		1.30pm	Baptism: Jamie Martin Stafford

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.

COMING UP:

- **Justice and Peace:** Tuesday **2nd October**, 7.30pm, St Peter's
- **CAFOD Family Fast Day:** Friday **5th October** (see below). *Envelopes available.*
- **Ministry to the bereaved:** Saturday **6th October** at Tonbridge; *see notice board.*
- **St Peter's choir practice:** Tuesday **11th October** 8pm to 9pm.
- **Deanery Confirmations:** Sunday **14th October** at St Francis' with the Archbishop.
- **Prisoners' Sunday:** Sunday **14th October.**
- **Readers' Day:** Saturday **20th October** at St Peter's.

PLEASE PRAY...

- ***With the Holy Father for October – The mission of Religious men and women:*** *that consecrated religious men and women may actively seek to be present among the poor, the marginalised, and those who have no voice.*
- ***For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes,*** *for those who have died recently especially Margaret Ranner; 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.*
- ***At harvest time;*** *for a fairer sharing of the world's bounty, for the proper use of the world's resources and for sound education, that those who suffer hunger and starvation be not overlooked.*
- ***For the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia.***
- ***Anniversaries this week (St Peter's Chapel memorial):*** ✕ *Joseph d'Arcy, Gerry Chapman, Jeanne Williams, Richard Sullivan and Elizabeth O'Driscoll.* ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£371.89** (Gift Aided, **£158.24**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Our Mass count revealed that there were **152** people at Mass last weekend.

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.

OPEN EVENING St Simon Stock Catholic School has an opening evening on Tuesday **16th October** from 5.45-8pm. Open mornings and a Sixth Form open evening are also coming up. For full details, see the noticeboard.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT The organizations involved in caring for the homeless in Maidstone are appealing for donations of food in preparation for the onset of the colder weather. Tinned fruits, vegetables, long-life foods, pasta and preserves are in great demand. If you're able to help, a full list of 'most wanted' items *is* now available on the noticeboard.

ROSARY CRUSADE The thirty-fourth annual Rosary Crusade of Reparation is on Saturday **13th October**. Assembling outside Westminster Cathedral by 1.45pm, the procession with the statue of Our Lady of Fátima will make its way to Brompton Oratory, praying the rosary en-route. For more details, see the poster on the noticeboard.

A DAY WITH MARY For those who would like to know more about the message given in Fátima over 100 years ago, there is a Day With Mary at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 20th October** including Mass, exposition, processions, sermons and meditations. For full details, see poster on the parish noticeboard.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY This Friday is Family Fast Day. CAFOD invites us to share in the abundance that God has given us. We are asked to fast, pray and give to help people like Longora, who lives in a remote village in Uganda. The area is so hot and dry, people used to struggle to get enough clean water to survive. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners in England and Wales, CAFOD has made sure Longora and her neighbours now have a reliable supply of clean, safe water. On Family Fast Day (Friday 5 October), CAFOD invites us to eat simply – perhaps having a bowl of soup instead of a meal – and give the money we save to help people like Longora. Please collect your Fast Day envelope from the church this week and give what you can in next week's collection. ★ The Lent appeal exceeded £4.2m which would be aid-matched by the government. The 'Share the Journey' walks had now covered more than 24,900 miles which was enough to more than lap the planet. 30,000 people had signed the 'Power to be' petition, calling for renewable energy access for the world's poorest people. □ Countering Consumerism a CAFOD retreat: CAFOD Southwark Volunteer Centre, Bishop Challoner School, 228 Bromley Road, Shortlands, BROMLEY, BR2 0AB on Saturday **24th November** from 10am to 4pm. Book at cafod.org.uk/retreat or call 0303 303 3030.

CCF EVENTS This term, the Centre for Catholic Formation is offering courses aimed at catechists, those involved in faith formation, members of pastoral councils and evangelization teams and the clergy. For full details including dates and locations, see the *On Offer* guide, or visit www.ccftootingbec.org.uk.