

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-SEVENTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME

7th October 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: CHRISTIAN POLYGAMY? The priest was giving out little wooden crosses to the people who had attended a service for married couples. "Put the room where you find yourself arguing, and it will remind you of your renewal of today." One woman came up to him and said, "You'd better give me five."

Marriage is probably the most complex of human relationships and is certainly the one on which civilisation has been founded over the centuries. It is the most natural in the world for men and women to leave the safety of the family home and branch with another partner to restart the whole process of love, companionship and pro-

tion. But any married couple will tell you that if a marriage is to be successful then you have to get married to several different people! This is not a plea for divorce but for accepting that people change as they mature and that if a marriage is to be successful then both partners have to adapt to the changes in each other. In a certain sense each one has to keep "remarrying" the same person as he or she changes over the years. A Christian polygamy but with only one wife and one husband! The young love of the courting couple is beautiful but unlikely to stand the test of time if one of them thinks that the other is going to behave in the same way when he or she is forty, sixty or eighty. If we refuse to allow each other to develop and grow then we are guilty of trying to "infantilise" the other person. We are trying to freeze them at a moment of time, the wedding day, and prevent them from ever developing and expanding the embryonic gifts and personality that God has given them.

All of this is just another way of saying that Christian marriage is not simply a state of life but is a sacrament. A wedding takes a day but a marriage takes a lifetime. The love between two Christians is a reflection of the love that God has for each of us and that Christ has for his bride, the Church. Being married means striving at all times to be signs to the world of God's love through the way we love our partners. And that means "remarrying" them many times before we both grow old.

(Author unknown)

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2019 Preparations begin this month. Application forms should be returned **this weekend**. There will be a meeting for parents on **Monday 8th October** at St Peter's, after the evening Mass.

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.

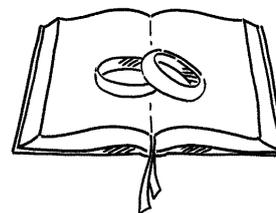
ABORTION 'REFORM' Please contact your MP to vote against a law that would decriminalize abortion. Pick up a card. The vote is on **23rd October**. See notice.

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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY Please hand in your envelopes with savings after Mass. □ Countering Consumerism a CAFOD retreat: CAFOD Southwark Volunteer Centre, Bishop Challoner School, 228 Bromley Road, Shortlands, BR2 0AB on Saturday **24th November** from 10am to 4pm. Book at cafod.org.uk/retreat or call 0303 303 3030.

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.

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.



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**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 7th OCTOBER 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **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
Mon 8th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tue 9th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 10th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 11th	St John XXIII	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 12th	St Wilfrid	12.30pm	✕ Requiem Mass: Margaret Ranner
Sat 13th	St Edward the Confessor	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

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

Sun 14th <i>Prisoners' Sunday</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass
		<i>4.00pm</i>	✕ <i>Confirmation Mass at St Francis'</i>

COMING UP:

- **St Peter's choir practice:** Tuesday 9th October 8pm to 9pm.
- **Deanery Confirmations:** Sunday 14th October at St Francis' with the Archbishop.
- **Prisoners' Sunday:** Sunday 14th October; a day of prayer and action in support of prisoners and their families: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>. This will also mark the beginning of [Prisons Week](#) (14th - 20th October). Archbishop Peter asks all parishes to pray for all those in prison and their families.
- **Day for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:** Saturday 20th October at St Peter's.
- **World Mission Sunday:** 21st October.

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; 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.
- **For the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia;** for families left homeless and traumatised; for those tasked with the recovery and for all the aid agencies involved.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ Edward Murphy, Elizabeth Browne and Maurice Ryan. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£363.71** (Gift Aided, **£169.90**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Our second Mass count revealed that there were **169** people at Mass last weekend (an increase of 17).

HELPERS of GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS reach out in love and compassion to mothers who are in crisis pregnancies and to those who have suffered the effects of abortion. The next Rosary Procession Vigil will be held on Friday 12th October at St Francis' Church, Maidstone. We begin with 10.30am Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We begin our Rosary Procession at 11am following an Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to Marie Stopes abortion centre, Brewer Street, where we pray 20 decades of the Rosary, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and sing hymns, returning at approx.12.30pm for refreshments nearby. Full details on poster in church porch or contact tel. 01727 763832 or 07747 746411 or e-mail marq@helpersuk.org. **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