



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)

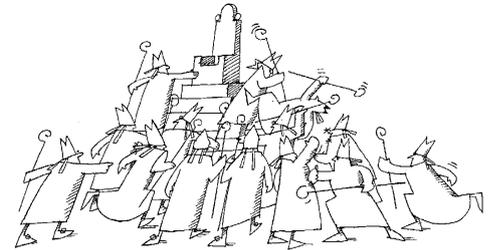
St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

Parish Website and YouTube:
www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Year B

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 21st October 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: I'M IN CHARGE! It's a very human picture created by James and John who ask Jesus for a good job when the kingdom arrives. After all, they had left everything to follow him and they were merely hoping that they would be rewarded with a good seat on the board. The amusing picture of Church leaders fighting for the best positions is not that far from the truth; those who work in the Church are not freed from natural ambitions, and it's not unheard of for politics and patronage to play a part in selecting people for roles of service and ministry.



But Jesus is very gentle in his reply. He realises that they don't really know what they are asking of him. If they are to "drink the cup" that he must drink, then they must be prepared to be crushed with suffering, to undergo all sorts of anguish and ultimately to give their lives in the service of the gospel. Following Christ is no religious bed of roses. Its promise of eternal life comes via the path of suffering and service. So we have no need to invent hardships for ourselves, since our Christian lives are not exempt from trials and difficulties. However, what marks us out from those who do not believe, is that we actively embrace our difficulties as part of God's plan for salvation. This is not some kind of masochism that glories in pain and struggle, but it is the belief that through suffering of all description God is able to turn what looks like disaster into triumph. That's precisely what he did with his Son.

Another aspect of this is that we do not look for the same sense of recognition that the world seeks. Time and time again Jesus reminds us that we are in the world but not of it. He teaches us that our way of behaving must be radically different, springing from the gospel. So if we have any pretensions about exercising authority, then it must be in a different style from that of the world's leaders. Making one's authority "felt" is alien to the gospel, according to Jesus. Whatever role of authority we have must be seen in terms of service. If you are someone's "boss", then you will be judged on how well you make yourself their servant. This applies to the way we bring up our children, the way we teach our students, how we are with those at work and how we accept any leadership within the Church. If you want to be "in charge" of people then you must become their slave. Jesus says that good leaders are those who put themselves out for others, not those who glory in their own power and authority.

We all exercise authority on one level or another. The proof of the pudding is how much people are allowed to grow and flourish when we are "in charge".

(Author unknown)

TODAY is WORLD MISSION SUNDAY your chance to support missionaries and our Church in proclaiming the Gospel of hope to those who suffer around the world. By supporting Missio, the Pope's official charity for overseas mission, you will be sharing the love of Christ with all people by helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief. Today, your prayers and donations will help build a future of hope both in Ethiopia and around the world. Please give what you can, and if possible, please use the Gift Aid envelopes if you are a taxpayer. Thank you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2019 There are two sessions before Christmas (sorry for misinformation last week), the first of which will be at 4pm on **16th November** at St Peter's.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mikolaj Szpytma from Bearsted, and all those confirmed last Sunday at St Francis'.

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 Please continue to hand in your envelopes. ☐ 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.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 21st OCTOBER 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

Sun 21st	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
<i>World Mission Day</i>	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Elsie Hampshire RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 22nd	St John Paul II	7.00pm	✕ Mass: James (Jim) Brown RIP
Tue 23rd	Feria	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Wed 24th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 25th	Feria	NO MASS	
Fri 26th	Feria	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Sat 27th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 28th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Peter Kinsman RIP

COMING UP:

- **World Mission Sunday: today** – a day of prayer for the evangelization of the world.
- **Catholic Legacy Week – 1st – 7th November** (see notice or <https://www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk/>)

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 Peter Kinsman and James Brown; 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.
- **On World Mission Sunday;** for the Church as a whole. that we will shine brightly with the love of God, providing a beacon of hope and welcome for all, especially those who are lost and alone.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ Bill Kennedy, Ronald Macklin, Michael Horgan, Peter Barratt, Denis Macklin, Renata Menegatti-Rogai and Valerie Tipper. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£479.66** (Gift Aided, **£301.92**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Our final Mass count indicated that there were **153** people at Mass last weekend (down 5 from last week). ♦ **Today**, World Mission Sunday, there will be a retiring collection for **Missio**, the Church's official charity for overseas mission (see above). Envelopes are available.

RED BOXES Thank you to those who have brought 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.)

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.ccfootingbec.org.uk.

A DATE for YOUR DIARIES It's not too soon to start getting into the Christmas spirit, so here is advance notice of our popular annual Christmas Quiz and Sing-along, which will kick off the festivities on Saturday **1st December** at 7pm in St Peter's Hall. As always we will be providing a fish/sausage and chips supper, so everything is catered for, just bring your own drinks. Tickets will be priced at £10 adults, £22 per family (2 adults + 2 children) and additional children £5. All profits will be donated to parish funds. Teams will consist of up to 8 people, so if you can't bring your own team, just come along anyway and we will find a team for you to join. Tickets will be on sale next week, so consult your diaries, bring along your ticket money and reserve your table for a good evening!

✕ **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.*

WELCOME Next week we welcome Father Francis Kemsley, or one of the priests from Aylesford, who has kindly agreed to supply for Fr Geoffrey while he is on a short break.