



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: bearsted@rcaos.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 C

FIFTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME

10th FEBRUARY 2019

FAITH IN FOCUS: Those Same Old Banana Skins!

We work to live ... or at least, that's the idea. But as we get up, go to work go to bed, get up, go to work, go to bed, get up, go to work, go to bed it begins to feel that instead of working to live we are living to work. Our lives can become a pattern of chores formed by the pressures of life rather than by our own design. After years and years of doing the same things, these patterns can become a comfort zone that imprisons, confines and limits us. Before we know it, there are a whole raft of opportunities outside our comfort zone that we decide we are not capable of, or simply aren't 'us'.



Today we are reminded that we don't need to go through life slipping on the same old banana skins or beating our head against the same old brick walls. We can live life differently. We just need to be a bit braver and try that bit harder. The writer J.K. Rowling reminds us all to have the courage of our convictions. She submitted Harry Potter nine times before finally getting it accepted by Bloomsbury. "Success is failure that tried one more time!" All we need to step out of our self-made prisons is vision, belief and courage.

Today we find Peter and his fellow disciples at a low ebb. They have been fishing all night, but have caught nothing. Jesus advises them to do things a little differently. He asks them to cast their nets a little farther from shore. It is heartening to see Peter knowing a moment of doubt. Jesus might be an expert when it comes to matters of faith, but what does he know about fishing? What Peter doesn't realise is that he is on the brink of a life changing experience. Fortunately for him, he trusts in Jesus despite his fleeting doubt, and follows the advice. The result is more fish than his nets can hold. Faith, courage, and a willingness to do things a little differently has brought its own rewards.

Peter James and John left their fishing nets behind them and completely changed their lives not because they were superhuman, but because Jesus had taught them to see themselves in a new light. Today's invitation is to see ourselves in a new light, get excited about the possibilities ahead, and ask God for the courage to leave behind those old banana skins!
(Chapel Bell)

WORLD DAY FOR THE SICK 11th February. The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On this day the Church ask us all to pray and give attention to the sick and those who care for them. *Suggestions:* • Take copies of the newsletter to those who are sick and housebound. • If you have a family member who is caring for someone who is sick, offer to help out and give them a break from time to time. A couple of hours on a regular basis can make a big difference. • Consider volunteering your services in a hospital, hospice or healthcare centre. If you haven't the time, consider perhaps making a donation instead. ✕ Online Lourdes Petition / Prayer. You might never get to go to Lourdes in person, but you can still post a petition online. When you post online your petition / prayer request will be placed at the Grotto in Lourdes, as quickly as possible. Millions of pilgrims visit Lourdes, and many of them place their prayers at the Grotto. Visit www.lourdesprayerrequest.com.

OUR LADY of WALSINGHAM STATUE: visit to St George's Cathedral. The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham from the Slipper Chapel will soon visit St George's Cathedral in Southwark as part of her ongoing Dowry Tour of visitations to the Catholic Cathedrals of England. The visit will take place between **21st and 23rd February**. There is an extensive programme (see notice board) and Archbishop Peter will be presiding at the closing Mass on Saturday **23rd February** at 12.30 pm. All are welcome.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 10th FEBRUARY 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

Sun 10th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Wellbeing of Frances Betts
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 11th	Our Lady of Lourdes	7.00pm	✕ Mass: For all the Sick
Tue 12th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Robert Kellett RIP
Wed 13th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Anthony Holland RIP
Thu 14th	SS Cyril & Methodius	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 15th	Feria	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Sat 16th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

Sun 17th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Charles Ryan RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Patrick Dempsey RIP

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP) Debt Counselling. Around 7.9 million of people say they are likely to fall behind with their finances in January after spending too much at Christmas. 'Christians Against Poverty' exist because nobody should be held hostage by debt and poverty. But the truth is that they are rife in the UK. In a society where people live behind closed doors, thousands are desperately poor. Unable to feed their children, incapable of paying to heat their homes in winter, the grip of poverty is relentless. The website is a good starting point for those looking for debt counselling. The charity is always looking for donations to set up more centres across the UK. Visit CAP at www.capuk.org. "If money and material things become the centre of our lives, they seize us and make us slaves." Pope Francis.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **As we celebrate the World Day for the Sick on Monday** we remember especially the people in our parish who are ill: may they find hope and healing and may we all find ways of responding to their needs.
- **With the Holy Father for February** – For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence (see: <http://santamartagroup.com/>).
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for those who have died recently especially Joan Lawson, Robert Kellett and Anthony Holland and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for the intentions on the notice board, especially those undergoing and recovering from surgery at this time; and for our children preparing for First Communion in May.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ Peter Barrett, Edward Bullock, Maurice Walsh, Marie Cryer, Dorothy Oxford, Colin Dring and Charles Ryan. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£452.04** (Gift Aided, **£169.20**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). • Next Sunday is Racial Justice Day, focusing this year on 'Dignity for all workers'; a collection will be taken to support the work of the Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society.

PEACE ACTIONS Support Fairtrade Fortnight **25th February - 10th March**. This year's focus is on ensuring that cocoa farmers are paid fairly for their work and are able to live a dignified life. Make an effort to buy Fairtrade Chocolate. • Our parish **Advent Appeal** in aid of the Winter Shelter raised **£586.10**. We have also had a generous response to our January appeal for clothes etc. for the **Maidstone Day Centre**. A big thank you to everyone who donated! • **CAFOD** The Lent Family Fast Day is Friday **15th March**. Envelopes will be available in due course. Please feel free to include any donations you plan to give in Lent in the **Family Fast Day** envelope. Your generosity will give vital support to the communities we work with around the world. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR The diocese is looking to fill this post. See the notice.

SPECIAL MESSAGE While Fr Geoffrey is away on his pre-Lent break to focus on preparing the 2020 diocesan calendar (yes, it's that time again), there will be no weekday Masses. However there will be some days when the Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion will be celebrated; please check the diary. • We are grateful to Fr Joseph O'Connor who will be celebrating the next weekends' Masses.