



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

SAINTS PETER and PAUL

30th JUNE 2019

FAITH IN FOCUS: CARRYING THE BATON Over the years the Catholic Church has laid itself bare to criticism.

Sometimes this criticism is underserved, but sadly at other times it *is* deserved. At certain times in history the Church has been guilty of making mistakes, and doubtless it will continue to make mistakes in the future because we are all human. There are those who complain that the Church is out of step with an increasingly secular world. There are even those who point to diminishing Mass attendances and predict that the Church is living on borrowed time. The bottom line however is drawn in today's gospel. Jesus turns to Peter and says, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." Whether Jesus' idea of 'Church' is our idea of 'Church' is debateable, but one thing is for sure, Jesus intended to leave behind a group of followers initially led by Peter, united in their belief of Jesus and God until the end of time.



Because Peter recognized that God was acting through Jesus, he was entrusted with the job of leading the rest of us. The Church today is a testimony to Peter's faith, it exists because Peter and others like him trusted and believed in God. It exists because Peter and people like Peter acted out their faith despite hostilities and persecution. Fortunately today's Christians don't get chucked to the lions anymore, but we face different sorts of problems instead. Today we face lethargy, conflicting secular values, and the complexities of scientific debate. The Church cannot be silenced. Fearless Christians like Peter and Paul are still needed to carry the baton.

Peter and Paul represent two strikingly different approaches to discipleship. Peter had to learn slowly, making many mistakes along the way. Paul, on the other hand, came to the faith immediately and never backed away from his zeal for Christ after that. We aim to imitate these two great apostles in our own lives. Like Peter, we know we are likely to fail and to get things wrong, yet like Peter we aim to persevere. Like Paul, we must always fight for what is right, no matter how difficult that might be.

(Chapel Bell)

THANK YOU to Fr Michael from Aylesford Priory and Monsignor Matthew Dickens, our Vicar General, for supplying for Fr Geoffrey while he was away attending an ordination in France. Our prayers are with Fr Johann Ribette and Fr Thierry Felix who begin their priestly ministry.

NEW ARCHBISHOP of SOUTHWARK Bishop John Wilson, will be installed as our new Archbishop at St George's Cathedral on Thursday **25th July**.

ONE GOOD TURN Next Saturday, 6th July, at 8pm at the Memorial Hall. Bearsted Churches Together present a variety evening in aid of Holy Cross *Raise the Roof* fund (they need about £450,000!). Many of your favourite acts will be performing plus others from the other churches. Admission: £15 adult, £7.50 child including welcome and interval drink, available from Bob 07584 752297. Please help support our neighbours!

SEA SUNDAY **14th July**, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It provides practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. As it is dependent on voluntary donations, please give generously. For more information about its work, visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION The Blessed Sacrament is exposed **each Tuesday** after the 10.00am Mass at St Peter's until midday, for a trial period (probably mid-July). ✕ For those unable to attend St Peter's on a Tuesday, adoration takes place at St Francis' Church in Maidstone town centre on **Fridays** (7am - 10pm).

BEARSTED PRAYER VISITING *A message from Andrew Haines, our local organizer.* This valuable outreach takes place once again **this week**. Those wishing to participate are asked to complete the Doodle poll: <https://cutt.ly/prayerpoll>. Thank you.

DAY for DISABILITY Southwark's annual day of celebration for the disabled will be held **next Sunday, 7th July** at The Friars, Aylesford from midday onwards. Archbishop Peter Smith will celebrate Mass in memory of Jean Vanier. People with disabilities and their carers from across the archdiocese and beyond are invited for a joyous day of prayer, art, music and fun.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 30th JUNE 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **SAINTS PETER and PAUL** ✕

Sun 30th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Margaret and Eric Smith RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Sissie Saunders RIP
Mon 1st July	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Canon Richard Meyer RIP
Tue 2nd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Christopher Callaghan RIP (followed by Adoration until 12noon)
Wed 3rd	St Thomas	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Michael Purbrick RIP
Thu 4th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Johann Ribette
Fri 5th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Sat 6th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 7th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Jim Kelly RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Breda Curtin RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

JUSTICE & PEACE Meeting this Tuesday. ♦ Our charity bookstall will be open again **next weekend** at St Peter's.
DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL meeting this Tuesday.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for July:** for the integrity of justice, that those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word. ✕ And for our Archbishop elect John Wilson as well as in thanksgiving for the ministry of our retiring Archbishop Peter Smith.
- **For all migrants fleeing extreme suffering and poverty in their own countries;** may we be moved with compassion to help them and welcome them in any way we can. We remember especially the father and his young daughter who were drowned in the Rio Grande this week.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for Brigitte Hayward and Sidonia Banyard; for all those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for the intentions on the notice board.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ Maurice Walsh, Heather Harrington, Roger Murray, Agnes O'Brien, Don Armstrong, Leonard Stewart-Day, James Sinnott, Phyllis Russell, Phillip Ranner, Raymond Blake, Giovanna Bartoni and Patrick Lavender. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£438.31** (of which, **£198.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ **Today** there is a retiring collection **to support Peter's Pence**, our traditional offering to the Holy Father which assists him and the Apostolic See to exercise their service of the Universal Church.

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS Coming up in July are walks including Southwark and the City on Sunday **7th July** at 2pm, and Islington on Tuesday **9th July** at 6.30pm. For more information and full details on other walks, see the poster.

PILGRIMAGE to CANTERBURY On **Saturday 13th July** there is a pilgrimage to Canterbury, organized by the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. Highlights include sung Mass at St Augustine's Abbey, a talk on Cardinal Pole, and Choral Evensong and Devotions at his tomb. A big picnic lunch is available, £5 per head. Pre-book by calling 01304 374870. See poster for times and full information.

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE TRUST The IRT is reaching out, asking for help to support the Sacred Heart Sisters and the 128 children, from new-borns to 18 year-olds, in their babies' and children's homes in Uganda. They struggle to supply basic needs such as food, clothes, bedding and education. For more information, see: www.irt.org.uk.

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY Please support the excellent work which The Passage does for homeless people in Central London, by attending The Passage annual Garden Party in the beautiful and historic College Garden, Westminster Abbey on **Wednesday 18th July**, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets at £45 each, include wine, soft drinks, buffet supper and live music. Tickets are available online through Eventbrite: <https://cutt.ly/passageparty> or from The Passage, St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL. Tel: 020 75921856. Email: tickets@passage.org.uk. It will not be possible to purchase tickets at the Abbey. All proceeds in aid of The Passage.

SITE MAINTENANCE and CARETAKER St George's Cathedral is looking for someone to join their site maintenance and caretaking team at the cathedral site. The primary function of this role is to provide maintenance and caretaking services across the whole site. The successful applicant must have previous experience in a similar environment and ideally some knowledge of health and safety. This job also requires a DBS disclosure. Hours: 35 worked over a varying shift pattern to include some evenings and weekends. Salary: £21,500pa - £23,000 depending on skills and experience. Interviews will be on 10th July. To apply please send you CV to HR@rcaos.org.uk by **4th July**.