



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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

28th JULY 2019

FAITH IN FOCUS: DOES PRAYER WORK? Have you ever prayed really hard for something and not had that prayer granted? Have you ever looked back in life at a prayer you once made and thought thank goodness God didn't grant it? This week's gospel reading is a lesson in prayer, but more importantly, it's a lesson in having faith that God is a parent who will not let us down.

Let's face it, we pray hardest to God when we want something. We pray hardest when something seems beyond our human means and we need some kind of miracle, this often leads us to make inappropriate prayers. How many of us pray that the love of our will notice us in the launderette? How many of us pray to win the lottery and make secret deals with God that we will donate half the winning to charity in return? How many of us pray to God for our football team to score a winning goal in the closing minutes of a match? Worse... we lose faith when such prayers aren't answered! We find it difficult to believe that unanswered prayers might mean that God knows better or has a different purpose for us.

Perhaps Jesus' disciples shared some of our frustration when they say, "Lord teach us to pray." In response Jesus gives us a model by which to pray. It's important to recognise it as a model and not a prayer as such. Reciting a prayer is not the same as praying. The model pray Jesus gives us, 'The Lord's prayer', invites us to pray to God as our Father, acknowledging his holiness and praying with the shared commitment to have his will done on earth. We are invited to pray for our 'daily bread', in other words, for the things we genuinely need. Pray for forgiveness and promise to forgive others. Pray with persistence. Prayer is about building a relationship with God, speaking to him often throughout the day. Lastly, and most importantly we should approach God with the faith we approach a loving parent. "What father," reasons Jesus, "would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish?" or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?" Even parents with very average parenting skills know how to give children what they need. "How much more," says Jesus, "will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" *(Chapel Bell)*



life

SPIRITANS APPEAL Last weekend, Fr Dennis Bukonya from the Spiritans was in the parish to make our annual mission appeal. Thank you to all of you who listened so attentively and gave so generously in the retiring collection. The Spiritans rely on donations for the bulk of the important work they do in needy parts of the world. Special thanks to Deacon Cyril and Truda, who conducted Communion Services while Fr Geoffrey took the opportunity to get away for a short break.

NEW ARCHBISHOP Archbishop John Wilson was installed at St George's Cathedral on Thursday by Archbishop Edward Adams, the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, when he also received the pallium which was blessed by Pope Francis on the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul in June. We welcome our new Archbishop and pray that, guided by the Holy Spirit, his ministry among us will be blessed. Photographs of the Mass can be viewed on the diocesan website: www.RCSouthwark.co.uk.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION The Blessed Sacrament is exposed **each Tuesday** after the 10.00am Mass at St Peter's until midday. We hope to continue this throughout the summer. ✕ 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).

St MARTHA (29th July) Some of us are more like Martha - and some of us are more like Mary; but there is in all of us a built in need to combine the two within us, for without sitting and listening to God our work for God can only lead to anxiety and anger and angst, -and without doing the work our faith is clearly nothing.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 28th JULY 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✧ SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✧

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|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| Sun 28th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✧ Mass: James Hamilton RIP (FM) |
| | | 10.30am | ✧ Mass: Trixie Hall RIP |
| Mon 29th | St Martha | 7.00pm | ✧ Mass |
| Tue 30th | Feria | 10.00am | ✧ Mass <i>(followed by Adoration until 12noon)</i> |
| Wed 31st | St Ignatius of Loyola | (H) 10.00am | ✧ Mass: Truda and Joseph Ryans RIP |
| Thu 1st August | St Alphonsus Liguori | 7.00am | ✧ Mass |
| Fri 2nd | Feria | 10.00am | ✧ Mass |
| Sat 3rd | Feria | <i>5-5.30pm</i> | <i>Confessions</i> |

✧ EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✧

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|---------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Sun 4th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✧ Mass |
| | | 10.30am | ✧ Mass: Gerry Holliday RIP |

STOP THE PRESSES..! This will be the last edition of the parish newsletter until the end of the summer holidays. The weekly diary of Mass times and intentions will continue to be printed and displayed in the parish room and online.

HIROSHIMA and NAGASAKI REMEMBRANCE Service at The Friars, Aylesford, **Tuesday 6th August, 8.20pm.**

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for August:** for families, schools of human growth, that families, through their life of prayer and love become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth". ✧ And for our Archbishop John Wilson as well as in thanksgiving for the ministry of our retiring Archbishop Peter Smith.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for all those who have died recently; for those getting married in the parish next month; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✧ Robert Poole and Kathleen Tozer. ✧

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£ 339.60** (of which, **£ 192.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ Last weekend's appeal on behalf of the Spiritans raised **£416.15**. Thank you for your generosity.

NATIONAL PICNIC MONTH July is national picnic month. The simple pleasure of packing a bag with sandwiches and juice can be massively underestimated. Aim to pack at least one Fairtrade product in your picnic. Visit www.fairtrade.org.uk for picnic ideas.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD 2020 will be the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini, Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These events in the life of the Church have motivated the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to make 2020 a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'. More information as we get it. Visit the Bishops' Conference website: <http://bishopsconference.org.uk/>.

SOUTHWARK BRETHERN CHARITY A note from the secretary, Father Paul Hough: 'The Southwark Brethren is a longstanding charity which helps sick and retired priests who are in need. We thank you for your continuous generosity in the past and ask your help again this year. Please send donations to Rev. Paul Hough, St Elphege's Presbytery, 120 Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9AY. Last year they were able to give £1,700 each to 40 priests in the Dioceses of Southwark and Arundel and Brighton, and also help 2 working priests who had serious sickness. In addition, we have a Gift Aid Scheme for those who pay tax and we thank the lay people who have joined by applying for a Gift Aid form. Tel: 020 8647 5079.