



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Year C**

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**1st SEPTEMBER 2019**

**FAITH in FOCUS: GOD'S ROUND TABLE** It's hard to admit to, but most of us live on a bit of a moral high ground and it's not a good place to be. Moral high grounds are littered with treacherous pitfalls. The worst pitfall of all is to assume superiority. It's a human failing. We assume superiority over all sorts of other people. We decide we are superior to those with less money or lesser jobs. We decide we are superior to those who are less intellectual, whose tastes differ, whose accents are alien or whose values don't match ours. We decide we are better than those who have fallen foul of the law or who have succumbed to an addiction. Why is superiority a pitfall? It's a pitfall because once we imagine ourselves superior, we start to dismiss people. We start to rule out huge numbers of our neighbours as unworthy of our attention.



Today we see Jesus at a wedding banquet where the guests are jostling for places of honour at the dinner table. It's a simple occasion that raises a big question. Why are we all so anxious to be seated at the top of life's table? Jesus gives the guests a piece of life changing advice. "A person who exalts himself will be humbled, but a person who humbles himself will be exalted."

Humility doesn't sit easily in our fame-driven society, that's because we associate being humble with being "walked all over". Jesus' brand of humility, however, is very different.

Humility does not mean trading feelings of superiority for feelings of inferiority. Being humble doesn't mean being timid or falsely modest. Humility means that understanding that everything you have is a gift from God, and that everything you have is for the service of others.

In the tales of King Arthur and his knights, Arthur ordered a round table so that no one could assume a greater or lesser position. As Christians we are asked to adopt a 'round table' approach to life. *Chapel Bell*

**EDUCATION SUNDAY** Next Sunday offers us an opportunity to celebrate all that is good in education, to give thanks for teachers and learners, educational leaders and support staff; to rejoice with those who succeed, and provide reassurance for those who struggle. This Education Sunday we pray that, through God's power, all those who study or work in schools, colleges or universities, may flourish and be open to knowing God's love as they are formed and re-formed. There will be a retiring collection to support the work of the Catholic Education Service which supports Catholic education, sharing the aims of high academic standards for all, and increased parental choice.

**A MESSAGE of THANKS from CAFOD** CAFOD has been in touch to express thanks for donations received from parishioners, and with an update on their training schemes across Bangladesh from this year's Family Fast Day. In Zimbabwe, 4,293 people have been helped so far, with a target of 239,000 people in the region by the end of 2021. See the letter on the noticeboard for the information.

**EXPOSITION and ADORATION** will continue at St Peter's on Tuesday mornings. Understandably the numbers dropped off during August so it's hoped that more will join us this autumn. If you have never experienced adoration and are free why not give it a try? It's amazing how an atmosphere of prayer is created when our Lord in the Host consecrated at Mass is visible, as it were prolonging the moment that the Host is raised after the consecration at Mass. Even just 5 minutes spent in church before the Blessed Sacrament exposed is worth the effort and will pay dividends. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!

**JUSTICE AND PEACE** There is a meeting **this Tuesday** at 7.30pm at St Peter's.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 1st SEPTEMBER 2019**  
**(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕  
*Word Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*

Sun 1st September	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Ivy and Murray Fraser RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Brian Smith RIP
Mon 2nd	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: Fr Gerry O'Brien RIP
Tue 3rd	St Gregory the Great	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass <i>(followed by Adoration until 12noon)</i>
Wed 4th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 5th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 6th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 7th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

Sun 8th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Myra Warren RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Debbie Smith

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Tuesday **10th September**, 8 to 9pm (vocal warm up from 7.40pm).

**A SPECIAL VISITOR** will be at Mass at Bearsted **next Sunday**: Paddington Bear will be arriving from darkest Perú to tell us about the South American evening which will be held on **Saturday 5th October**; don't miss it! Tickets will go on sale on Sunday **8th September**. See the poster for more details.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for September:** *for our oceans, that politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.*
- **For refugees, forced to leave their homes** and perhaps their countries in search of security and peace, that they will find hope and compassion in their pain. We ask for eternal life for those who have died, comfort for those who have been bereaved, and courage for their rescuers.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for all those who have died recently especially Maria Dungate, Patricia (Trish) Gallagher, Fr Gregory Moore and Fr Gerard O'Brien; for Richard and Filomena getting married in the parish this 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):** ✕ Henry Ruffle, Frank Hampton, Theresa Schreiber, Margaret (Trixie) Hall, Desmond Baker, Frederick Sanity and Marjorie Poole. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£406.43** (of which, **£176.03** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ **Next Sunday** there will be a second collection for the **Catholic Education Service**, which acts on behalf of the Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education (see above).

**DAY of RENEWAL** *this Saturday, 7th September at Aylesford Priory.* An annual day of prayer and renewal hosted led by the Cor et Lumen Christi Community. Beginning with the Rosary at 9.30am and concluding with Mass at 4pm. For the full programme of events, see the poster. ♦ A similar day will be held at St George's Cathedral in October; see the poster.

**A DAY WITH MARY...** A day of Marian prayer and devotions is being held on Saturday **28th September** at English Martyrs' Church, Strood, ME2 4JA. For full details and times, see the poster.

**BUILDING a BETTER MARRIAGE** A day for married couples to explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into their communication. To be held in Selsdon, Surrey, **28th September**. See the poster. Booking is essential.

**FRIARS' RETURN** Archbishop John, together with the community at the Friars and clergy from all around, will be celebrating a special Mass commemorating the 70th anniversary of the return of the Carmelites to Aylesford Priory. This takes place on **Thursday 31st October**, the vigil of All Saints, **at 12noon**.

**COMING UP:**

**20th September:** Bearsted Churches Together Meeting

**24th September:** Parish Finance Meeting

**28th September:** Wedding (St Peter's), Richard Heron and Filomena Verrillo

**29th September:** Survive Miva (*Missionary Vehicles for Africa*) Appeal