



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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

8th SEPTEMBER 2019

FAITH in FOCUS: CALCULATING THE COST We hear a lot about calculating the cost of discipleship, but how many people actually sit down and do exactly that... calculate the cost? We certainly do our calculations if we're paying a visit to the bank manager for a loan. We certainly start calculating if we're down to small change and there are two long weeks left to pay day. Today Jesus tells us that calculating the cost of discipleship should be no different. "For which of you intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?"



Discipleship means different things to different people at different stages in their lives. Discipleship might mean deciding how best to use our gifts to help people at home and in the workplace. Discipleship might mean coming up with a plan to transform a local community or some kind of global project. Whatever our vision we will need to sit down and plan it. Inevitably this will involve personal cost, and if we don't calculate that cost, we are setting ourselves up to fail before we have begun. Will we be able to accomplish our plans alone or will we need help? How will we make time to achieve our goals, and will this involve an element of sacrifice? Do we have enough money to realize our ideas, or will we need to fundraise? Do we have the necessary skills, or will we have to step out of our comfort zones in order to learn something new?

In today's gospel Jesus says, "Whoever does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Discipleship is demanding. Jesus is looking for a fulltime commitment. Discipleship is not something that can be slotted easily and comfortably into our existing lifestyles. Discipleship involves cost, and today's invitation is to sit down and calculate whether that cost is within our means.

Chapel Bell

TODAY is EDUCATION SUNDAY and it 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.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY is **next weekend**, and it is a chance to look closer to home as we grow missionary parishes and form missionary disciples. We pray for the spread of the Gospel and there will be a second collection to support the Home Mission. The money raised from this collection is used to help Catholics in England and Wales become more confident in sharing their faith.

EXPOSITION and ADORATION will continue at St Peter's on Tuesday mornings. 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!

FIRST COMMUNIONS Application forms are now available for those wishing for their child to receive the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist next year. Forms must be returned by **6th October**; parents' meeting **7.30pm on 7th October** at St Peter's. • Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply; they must live in the parish.

A SPECIAL VISITOR will be at Mass at Bearsted **this weekend**: 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 are on sale now!** See the poster for more details.

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

CONFIRMATION There will be a prayer evening at St Peter's this Friday from 7pm.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 8th SEPTEMBER 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

Education Sunday

Sun 8th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Myra Warren RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Debbie Smith
Mon 9th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Henry (Harry) Jenkins RIP
Tue 10th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass (followed by Adoration until 12noon)
Wed 11th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 12th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 13th	St John Chrysostom	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 14th	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

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

Home Mission Sunday

Sun 15th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Jadwiga Brzuchalski RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP

SEA SUNDAY APPEAL (*From Apostleship of the Sea*) Thank you for your support for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea, Stella Maris. The generosity shown by you and your parishioners means that Seafarers in this country and around the world will continue to receive the care and support that they so vitally need.

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 all those affected by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas and the United States.** *We ask that those who have lost loved ones may be comforted, those who are injured – whether physically, emotionally or spiritually – find healing, and that a plan to repair the damage to buildings and infrastructure be quickly and efficiently implemented.*
- **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 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*): ✕ *Alice Piddock, Pauline Lockyer, Albert Nutley, Winifred Moffat, Alida Powers, Jeanne Adam and Cecile Cavendish* ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£442.15** (of which, **£180** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). • **Today** there is a second collection for the **Catholic Education Service** (see above). • **Next Sunday** there will be a second collection for Home Mission, enabling so much work to be done in support of parish evangelization in our own country.

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:

14th September: Ride and Stride.

Sunday 15th September: 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Information Event, 4pm to 6pm in Holy Family Parish Hall. From 25th September to 3rd November, you are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. *See the poster.*

Tuesday 17th September: Bearsted Churches Together Meeting: 7.30pm at the Methodist church. (Apologies for the incorrect information last week.)

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.

4th October: CAFOD Family Fast Day – special Gift Aid envelopes are available for the money you save.

6th October: October Devotions – 3pm at St Peter's.