



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-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

22nd SEPTEMBER 2019

FAITH in FOCUS: GOD'S APPRENTICE Today's is a strange and difficult parable. A dishonest businessman is caught squandering and is faced with dismissal. The businessman sees a bleak future ahead of him and without a minute to waste sets about making some shrewd though dodgy deals to secure his future. We sit back waiting for his comeuppance, but it doesn't happen! In fact the businessman is applauded for his shrewdness.

This rogue businessman shares much in common with our twenty-first century businessmen and women. The rogue businessman is talented, skilled ambitious and plausible or he wouldn't have been taken on as a manager in the first place. The manager has the ability to look into the future, decide what he wants from life and make the necessary plans. More importantly he works as though his life depends upon it without a moment to waste. This man could've achieved great things but for one thing: money! Money has the power to corrupt each and every one of us, and the man in today's story was well and truly corrupt. Nevertheless Jesus tells us that the 'children of the light' can learn from the 'children of the world'. What if we could get up at six every morning, knock back a quick cup of coffee and set about God's work. What if we were to work tirelessly solving the world's problems barely stopping for lunch and getting home late every night. What if we were to use our skills and talents to persuade others to invest in our cause? What if we were to work with one eye on our ultimate destination, keen to secure our place in heaven? The world would certainly be a very different place. To achieve it we would each need to make God our master and not money.



Chapel Bell

EXPOSITION and ADORATION continues at St Peter's on Tuesday mornings. If you are free any time between 10 and 12, please join us.

FIRST COMMUNIONS Application forms are now available for those wishing their child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist next year. Forms must be returned by **6th October**; there will be a parents' meeting at **7.30pm on Monday, 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.

THIS WEEKEND The first of four National Mass Counts is to be taken. **Collectors, please note.**

SURVIVE-MIVA Next **weekend, 28th / 29th September**, there will be a special appeal at each Mass on behalf of Survive-MIVA, a Catholic lay association providing funding for essential transport for health outreach work in isolated rural areas, and for the Church's pastoral care in places of difficult access in the developing world. Please respond generously to their appeal. See www.survive-miva.org or the poster.

SOUTH AMERICAN EVENING will be held on **Saturday 5th October**; don't miss it! **Tickets are on sale now!** See the poster for more details.

DIOCESAN DAY for CATECHISTS including those involved in Children's Liturgy of the Word and the RCIA process, next Saturday **28th September** at St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HR, beginning at 10.30am. Please see Fr Geoffrey for timetable and to register.

HELP PLEASE *Dwindling personnel:* (1) **Cleaners** required, please, to keep our lovely chapel at Harrietsham clean. See the handout. (2) **Flowers** for St Peter's: if you lack confidence but would like to help, we have set up a demonstration from a local florist, Jackie Brooks. She has offered to show us how to arrange flowers, whether in a bowl or a line arrangement, and demonstrate seasonal arrangements, e.g. for autumn and for Christmas. *No experience necessary*, just bring your own flowers: Saturday **5th October** and Saturday **2nd November** in the morning; Thursday **5th December** in the evening. More details soon, or speak to Annie or Shelagh after Mass.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 22nd SEPTEMBER 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕
Day of Prayer for the Harvest

Sun 22nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Alf Noakes RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Philip Birch RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 23rd	St Pius of Petrelcina [Padre Pio]	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tue 24th	Our Lady of Walsingham	10.00am	✕ Mass: Giuseppe and Palma Nucilli RIP <i>(followed by Adoration until 12noon)</i>
Wed 25th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 26th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: H Charles Keeley RIP (FM)
Fri 27th	St Vincent de Paul	10.00am	✕ Mass: George Darcy
Sat 28th	Feria	1.00pm	<i>Wedding of Richard Heron and Filomena Verrillo</i>
		5-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>

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

Sun 29th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Peter Lupton RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Fr Kevin Fitzgerald RIP

40 DAYS for LIFE PRAYER VIGIL From 25th September to 3rd November, you are invited to join other Christians for 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You are also invited to stand and peacefully pray outside Marie Stopes Abortion Centre, 10-16, Brewer St, Maidstone ME14 1RU. If you'd like more information, and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Rebecca Luton on 07956 111909 or email: rebeccaluton@yahoo.co.uk, or come along to our Launch Event on Tuesday **24th September** 7pm - 9pm at Holy Family Catholic Church Hall, Bicknor Road, Maidstone ME15 9PS. Website: www.40daysforlife.com/maidstone.

ROSARY CRUSADE of REPARATION will take to the streets of London in honour of our Blessed Mother in the month of the Rosary. Saturday **12th October** beginning 1.45pm outside Westminster Cathedral. See the poster **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**.

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.
- **On Harvest Prayer Day:** that the fruitfulness of this time make us thankful for God's constant love and care for us. We pray especially for those suffering as a result of poor crop or weather conditions.
- **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 Leonora Pinto; for Richard and Filomena getting married in the parish this Saturday; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and those who have asked for prayers.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ David Drozley, Sophie Drozley, Desmond Drake, Letitia Cavendish, Alfred Noakes, Anne Keepin, Barbara Lutener and Sarah Callaghan. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£478.31** (of which, **£191.50** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). The second collection last weekend in aid of the national work of evangelization raised **£179.89**.

COMING UP:

Tuesday 24th September: Parish Finance Meeting.

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

Saturday 28th: Diocesan Day for Catechists, St George's Cathedral.

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

In October: St Simon Stock Catholic School open evenings. See poster for dates.

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

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

6th to 27th October: Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region (<http://www.sinodoamazonico.va>).

MAIDSTONE CHURCHES, WINTER SHELTER Volunteer needed; application forms are available on the website at <http://www.maidstoneshelter.org.uk>. See the poster.