



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-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

29th SEPTEMBER 2019

FAITH in FOCUS: FOR the LOVE of MONEY A man dies and finds himself sentenced to the torments of hell for living a life indifferent to the plight of the poor. He decides to send three ghosts to warn his business partner of the fate that must surely await him too if he doesn't change his ways. Straight from the pen of Charles Dickens? Well kind of, except that Jesus told it first. Lazarus is a poor man who lies at the gate of a rich man waiting to feed on the rich man's crumbs. Eventually the poor man dies and goes to heaven and the rich man dies and goes to hell. Distraught, the rich man begs for permission to send a ghost to warn his brothers of their possible fate, but Abraham refuses. "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."



Like Ebenezer Scrooge, the rich man in today's story was a lover of money, and it is his love of money that makes him indifferent to the plight of the poor. We have to ask if he was even aware of the poor, if Lazarus lay at his gate the rich man must have had to step over him on his way in and out! In Dickens' version of the story, Ebenezer Scrooge finally realizes that he is accountable and that there are no second chances once one is dead!

What would it take for us to feel fully accountable? How can we become more aware of today's 'Lazaruses'? How can we keep in mind the plight of the poor that we see fleetingly on the evening news? The parables were written to change us. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus teaches us that we must love our fellow man more than we love money. Hopefully when we have arrived at the day of reckoning, we will have afforded the poor a bit more than a few crumbs.
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 **next Sunday, 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.

SURVIVE-MIVA this weekend there is 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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY **this Friday**, CAFOD invites us to share in the abundance that God has given us. On Family Fast Day, CAFOD invites us to eat simply – perhaps having a bowl of soup instead of a meal – and give the money we save to help others. Please collect your Fast Day (*brown*) envelope this week and give what you can.

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.

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**; **Saturday 2nd November** in the morning; **Thursday 5th December** in the evening. More details soon, or speak to Annie or Shelagh after Mass.



OCTOBER: MONTH of MISSION and THE ROSARY October is considered the month of the World Mission, culminating in its high point on World Mission Sunday, the second-to-last Sunday in October, when we celebrate universal solidarity and recognize our common responsibility as regards the evangelization of the world. In addition, those who recite five decades of the Rosary in church, or as a family or group, may gain a plenary indulgence daily. Please join us for **October Devotions** on Rosary Sunday, **next Sunday at 3pm** at St Peter's.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 29th SEPTEMBER 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **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
Mon 30th	St Jerome	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tue 1st October	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus	10.00am	✕ Mass: Special Intention <i>(followed by Adoration until 12noon)</i>
Wed 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 3rd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 4th	St Francis of Assisi <i>Harvest Fast Day</i>	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Sat 5th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕
Rosary Sunday

Sun 6th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass
		3.00pm	<i>October Devotions</i>

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. 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**.

A DAY with MARY takes place on Saturday **2nd November** at St Mary of the Crays, Old Road, Crayford from 9.30am on **Saturday 2nd November**. See poster for full details and schedule.

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

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for October:** for a missionary "spring" in the Church, that the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary "spring" in the Church.
- **For our country at this time,** that politicians and businesses will work together to bring about the greatest good for the greatest number of people.
- **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 Fr Wilfrid McGreal and Teresa McManus; 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):** ✕ Joseph d'Arcy, Gerry Chapman, Jeanne Williams, Richard Sullivan and Elizabeth O'Driscoll. ✕

Attendance: Last weekend, there were **156** people at Mass. ♦ **Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£388.27** (of which, **£176.20** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ This weekend there is our extra collection in favour of **Survive Miva**.

COMING UP:

October: Extraordinary Month of Mission – visit <http://missio.org.uk/emm/> for further information.

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

Tuesday 1st: Justice and Peace, 7.30pm, St Peter's.

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

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

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

Tuesday 8th: St Peter's, choir practice, 7.45pm.

Saturday 12th: Autumn Assembly for the Justice and Peace Commission; see poster.

Sunday 13th: Prisoners' Sunday

Sunday 20th: World Mission Day, including second collection for *Missio*.