



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-SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Rosary Sunday

6th OCTOBER 2019

FAITH in FOCUS: HAVING FAITH in FAITH In the face of the seemingly impossible demands of discipleship, it is easy for our faith to falter. This is probably how the apostles felt when they approached Jesus and made the plea, "Increase our faith!" Now if we were hearing this story for the first time, how would we expect Jesus to respond? We'd expect Jesus to work a miracle of course. A miracle would certainly have increased the faith of those who could have witnessed it first-hand, but would it have had the same impact for the rest of us? Jesus refrains from working a miracle to increase the faith of his apostles, instead he gives a piece of wisdom which is as inspirational and as motivational for us today as it must have been all those years ago.



Jesus tells us that if we only have faith the size of a tiny mustard seed we have enough. In other words, faith is so powerful that we don't need very much of it to do great things. This is good news for all of us who have long felt our faith is flagging. Suddenly the challenge is not to strengthen or develop our faith, but to have faith in the little faith we've already got.

So how can we use our mustard seed of faith to do great things? Jesus tells us that all we have to do is take our mustard seed of faith and act. We should stop worrying about how little or how much faith we have and get on with God's work. Like the tireless servant who comes in from the field and prepares his master's evening meal before his own, so we must live our lives faithful to Jesus' teachings. When we live our lives faithful to God how can we fail to see results, and once we begin to see results how can our seeds of faith fail to grow?

Chapel Bell

EXPOSITION and ADORATION continues at St Peter's on Tuesday mornings. If you are free any time between 10 and 12 (this week **11.30am**), please join us.

FIRST COMMUNIONS There will be a parents' meeting at **7.30pm tomorrow (Monday)** at St Peter's (join us before for Mass at 7pm).

PRISONERS' SUNDAY Next Sunday we mark the national day of prayer and action for prisoners and their dependants. It's a day to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners and their families, providing us with an opportunity to reflect on how we as a community can make a difference to the lives of those who affected by the criminal justice system. ♦ Envelopes are available if you would like to make an offering to Prison Advice and Care Trust (*pact*).

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, **today at 3pm at St Peter's**.

RED BOXES Would holders please bring their Missio Red Boxes in to church to be emptied. (Please remember to fill in your name on the label so we know whom to return them to.) Thank you.

READERS and EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS There will be a morning of recollection for readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on **Saturday 19th October** at Holy Family parish, Park Wood, ME15 9PS. It will be led by Canon Luke Smith, former parish priest of Maidstone. The day begins with coffee at 9.30am and finishes at 1pm.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY Thank you if you managed to forgo a meal and give what money you saved to CAFOD. Envelopes can be returned from this weekend. ♦ Six months ago, Cyclone Idai devastated towns and villages across southern Africa. Thanks to our church network and your donations, we have reached thousands of people with lifesaving aid. Together we reached: 1.3 million people in Mozambique with safe, clean water; 150,000 people in Mozambique with hygiene kits and health advice; 90,000 families in Mozambique with seed kits; 32,000 people in Zimbabwe with tarpaulins, shelter, toilets, soap, towels and sanitary products. Thank you so much!

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**.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 6th OCTOBER 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✠ **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: Fr Wilfrid McGreal RIP
		3.00pm	October Devotions
Mon 7th	Our Lady of the Rosary	7.00pm	✠ Mass
Tue 8th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Alicja's Special Intention (followed by Adoration until 11.30am)
Wed 9th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Fr Colin Ward RIP
Thu 10th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass
Fri 11th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Fr Donal O'Brien RIP
Sat 12th	St Wilfrid	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✠ **TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✠
Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependants

Sun 13th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Alf Noakes RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Leonora Pinto RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		3.00pm	✠ Deanery Confirmation Mass (at St Francis')

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. ✠ **A DAY with MARY** takes place on Saturday **2nd November** at St Mary of the Crays, Old Road, Crayford from 9.30am. 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.
- **We pray for civil unrest in Baghdad, Hong Kong and elsewhere:** may the underlying issues be addressed swiftly with fairness. We ask that all sides look to keep protests peaceful and non-violent.
- **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 Sarah (Sally) Osborne; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and those who have asked for prayers.
- **For our young people from the deanery being confirmed next Sunday,** may the Lord's Spirit dwell securely within them, and accompany them in the years ahead.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ Edward Murphy and Maurice Ryan. ✠

Attendance: Last weekend, there were **139** people at Mass. ♦ **Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£361.90** (of which, **£176.20** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ Last weekend's extra collection in favour of **Survive Miva** raised **£270.50**. We are still waiting for Gift Aid envelopes. Apologies to those who are keen to donate in this way.

COMING UP:

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

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

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.

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

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

Sunday 13th: Prisoners' Sunday

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

Sunday 24th November (Christ the King): Sacred Heart Devotions and Benediction, followed by **Parish meeting in the hall.**