



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-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependants

13th OCTOBER 2019

FAITH in FOCUS: LIVING in WHOLENESS You must have met people who blame God when bad things happen. Do those same people give credit to God when good things happen? Today's gospel reading is a lesson on living in gratitude and wholeness.

Jesus cures ten lepers and nine of them hurry off without a word of thanks. Presumably they can't wait to get back to their families and loved ones. They can't wait to get back to where they left off. They can't wait to get back to 'normality'. To the nine lepers Jesus must have seemed nothing more than a biblical paramedic. How often do we fall into the same trap? We pray to God to help us through some crisis, but when the crisis blows over, do we remember to thank God, or do we heave sigh of relief and carry on as 'normal'?

The one leper who returned to thank Jesus recognized that his life would never be 'normal' again. Something extraordinary had happened; his life had been touched by God. The nine lepers who returned to normality knew they had been made well, but the one who returned to thank Jesus recognized that not only had he been made well he had been made whole. The leper who returned was not about to forget what God had done for him. The leper who returned was bubbling over with gratitude.

We all have reasons to bubble over with gratitude to God. The key to living in wholeness is to appreciate when God lifts us from 'normality' and 'ordinariness'.



Chapel Bell

SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN See details of the canonisation (watch live from 8.30am today (Sunday)) by following: <https://www.newmancanonisation.com/>.

PRISONERS' SUNDAY today 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).

FIRST COMMUNIONS Thank you to those parents who took time to attend the meeting last Monday. There are two session for the children before Christmas on **15th** and **22nd November** at St Peter's. Parents will be contacted. Our First Communion group is now full and no further applications are being accepted.

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, next Sunday**, when we celebrate universal solidarity and recognize our common responsibility as regards the evangelization of the world. There will be a retiring collection to support the work of Missio, the Church's official organ for the support of foreign missions, helping fund churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. **Gift Aid envelopes are available.** † During this month of the Rosary, those who recite five decades of the Rosary in church, or as a family or group, may gain a plenary indulgence daily.

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 **this Saturday** 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.

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. See poster for full details and schedule.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 13th OCTOBER 2019

(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕ <i>Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependants</i>			
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')
Mon 14th	Feria	2.30pm	✕ Requiem Mass: Teresa McManus
		7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tue 15th	St Teresa of Jesus (<i>of Ávila</i>)	10.00am	✕ Mass: Florence Walters RIP <i>(followed by Adoration until 12noon)</i>
		1.00pm	✕ Requiem Mass: Leonora Pinto
Wed 16th	St Hedwig (<i>Św. Jadwiga Śląska</i>)	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Frère Philippe-Marie's intentions
Thu 17th	St Ignatius of Antioch	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 18th	St Luke	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 19th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕ <i>World Mission Day</i>			
Sun 20th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass

NIGHT UNDER the STARS The Passage, a Christian Charity working with homeless people, is holding a fundraising concert at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday **5th November** on the theme 'Magic of Italian Opera' with Petroc Trelawny as presenter. The music includes *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* and *Nessun Dorma* with soloists Joyce El-Khoury, Michael Fabiano, Clare Presland and Simon Thorpe. See the poster for more details, call 020 7592 1856 or email tickets@passage.org.uk.

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

TABLET EVENTS The Catholic weekly journal is hosting three events in November in Central London, featuring an impressive line-up of Catholic speakers. For details of times, dates and speakers, see the poster or visit www.thetablet.co.uk/events for more information or to book tickets.

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.
- **Today, when Blessed John Henry Newman will be canonised in Rome, we remember his words, "Growth is the only evidence of life."** Let us pray that St John Henry Newman might be instrumental in bringing Catholics and Anglicans closer together in faith and understanding.
- **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 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 today:** 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 **135** people at Mass. ♦ **Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£308.64** (of which, **£138.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ **Today** there will be an optional **retiring collection** for *Pact*, the Prison Advice and Care Trust. ♦ **Next Sunday** there will be a retiring collection for *Missio* (see above).

SURVIVE-MIVA *Better late than never?* If parishioners would like to Gift Aid this charity and learn more about where their donation is helping, pick up a Gift-Aid envelope and 'Awareness' magazine from the back of the church.

COMING UP:

Wednesday: Social Committee meeting, 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>).

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