



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-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

20th OCTOBER 2019

World Mission Day

FAITH in FOCUS: PRAYING WITH PERSISTENCE Whether you're a fan or not, few can have avoided tuning into 'The Apprentice', Lord Sugar's quest to make entrepreneurs. In watching the weekly tasks you will be struck by the candidates' persistence. In an attempt to realize the ambition closest to their hearts, candidates will do almost anything to earn a favourable judgement. Whilst not always applauding their talent we have to give the would-be entrepreneurs top marks for nerve. It appears that success is more about not giving up than anything else. So what if we adopted the same attitude when it comes to matters of faith and prayer?

All too often we lack persistence when it comes to prayer, sometimes losing faith in it altogether. We give up on prayer for lots of reasons. We give up on prayer because we have stopped believing that God is really listening. We give up on prayer because we think that we are unworthy of God's attention, or that God must be busy doing other things. We give up on prayer because we have an immature expectation and can't understand why God doesn't pander to it. Whatever reason we have for giving up on prayer we need to re-think, because at worst, giving up on prayer can mean giving up on our relationship with God.

Today Jesus urges us to persist in prayer. However disillusioned we might feel, we are urged not to give up. Just because God hasn't granted a prayer in the past doesn't mean God won't grant a future prayer. The key is to remember that God isn't a magician giving us quick fix answers whenever we're feeling at a loss. God sees the overall picture, and as long as our prayer fits that picture how much more readily will he answer us, than the unjust judge gives in to the widow in today's parable. We are encouraged to pray with a genuine desire to build our relationship with God. We are encouraged to pray with persistence.



Chapel Bell

✠ **ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL BOWEN RIP** ✠ It is with sadness we announce that Archbishop Emeritus Michael Bowen died on Thursday at St Peter's Home, Vauxhall. A faithful servant of the Church, especially of the two diocese of which he was the chief shepherd (he was Archbishop of Southwark for 26 years before retiring in 2003, and consecrated St Peter's in 1984). Please pray for the repose of his soul, and for his family.

CONGRATULATIONS to Joseph Clinton from Bearsted, and all those confirmed last Sunday at St Francis'.

WORLD MISSION DAY (TODAY) World Mission Sunday supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries like Sr Clara share the love of Christ with those most in need. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can. If you are a taxpayer, please use the **Gift Aid envelopes**. For more information, visit <https://missio.org.uk>. Thank you.

FIRST COMMUNIONS There are two sessions 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, today**. † 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.

SOUTH AMERICAN EVENING We've received thanks from the *Young Lives Foundation* for the money generously raised at our recent South American evening. In total, we were able to donate £331 to this very worthy cause. Thank you!

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.

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 20th OCTOBER 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕
World Mission Day

Sun 20th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Archbishop Michael Bowen RIP
Mon 21st	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tue 22nd	St John Paul II	10.00am	✕ Mass (followed by Adoration until 12noon)
Wed 23rd	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 24th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Joy McKelvey RIP
Fri 25th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
		(H) 11.30am	✕ Requiem Mass: Sarah (Sally) Osborne
Sat 26th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

Sun 27th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Frank Wheeler</i>

THE YEAR OF THE WORD In partnership with Bible Society, the Year of the Word focuses on celebrating, living and sharing God's word throughout the Catholic Church in England and Wales until the end of December 2020. Pick up a booklet 'The God who Speaks' for more information, or visit: <http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>.

✕ **NOVEMBER** ✕ is the month of the Holy Souls when we commemorate and pray for our beloved dead. Envelopes are available for you to enclose a list of your deceased loved ones. These may be placed in the box as you enter church. The envelopes remain in front of the altar throughout the month. Any donations in the envelopes are used as stipends for Masses for the Holy Souls during November and throughout the year. *Remember to Gift Aid your offering if appropriate.*

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.

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, especially on this World Mission Sunday.
- **For Kurdish people** as they cope with renewed attacks from Turkey following the withdrawal of American troops from Syria: that they might find courage and strength to face their situation and that a peaceful solution might be found.
- **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 Archbishop Michael Bowen; 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):** ✕ Elizabeth Smith, Bill Kennedy, Ronald Macklin, Michael Horgan, Peter Barratt, Denis Macklin, Renata Menegatti-Rogai and Valerie Tipper. ✕

Attendance: Last weekend, there were **149** people at Mass. ♦ **Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£656.15** (of which, **£238.85** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ Last week's collection for *Pact* raised **£91.53**. ♦ **Today** there will be a **retiring collection** for *Missio* (see above).

SAMARA'S AID APPEAL EVENT See the notice about this.

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:

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

29th October: St Simon Stock Catholic School 6th Form open evening. See poster.

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.