



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Year C**

**The MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST**

**23rd JUNE 2019**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: THE REAL MIRACLE** The feeding of the five thousand... no, not just a miraculous story about the multiplication of a couple of fishes and loaves. In the context of today's solemnity, today's gospel reading links the ordinary food that God provides at our regular meals to the extraordinary food we receive in Holy Communion.

In this miracle Jesus is showing us that God's reign is about satisfying both human spiritual and physical need. The importance of the miracle is not so much about the multiplication of food, but the message that God can provide for all. This claim might raise a few third world eyebrows, but the truth remains; God has provided for all, it's left to us to make sure it is shared fairly around the world. Today's real miracle would be in the change of our materialistic attitudes. The real miracle would be a change that would enable us to eradicate poverty and hunger simply by organizing a system of sharing. The scale of the problem the disciples faced on the day of the feeding of the five thousand must have seemed impossible, but the message that they should get on with the job of sharing and leave the rest to God, could be as miraculous today as it was then.

Jesus was all about sharing. He gave his time, his love and finally his body and blood. When we receive Holy Communion in Mass our action is twofold. The Eucharist is a banquet for the multitudes in which we remember Jesus' sacrificial self-giving. More than this, we remember the promise that anyone who eats his bread and drinks his blood will share eternal life.

*(Chapel Bell)*



**WELCOME** This weekend, whilst Fr Geoffrey is attending an ordination in France, we welcome a priest from Aylesford Priory on Saturday evening, and Monsignor Matthew Dickens at Good Shepherd and St Peter's on Sunday morning. We thank them for looking after us!

**POPE FRANCIS APPOINTS NEW ARCHBISHOP of SOUTHWARK** It was announced on 10th June, the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, that Pope Francis has accepted the resignation from office of Archbishop Peter Smith and duly appointed **Bishop John Wilson** as his successor and Eleventh Archbishop of Southwark. For more information see the diocesan website: <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/>. Bishop John is currently assistant Bishop in Westminster diocese. He will be installed at St George's Cathedral on Thursday **25th July**.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST** Customarily, at Mass on Corpus Christi, ministers renew the commitment to their ministry. Ministers are therefore asked to renew their commitment at whatever Mass they attend on **this weekend**.

**It's BARBECUE TIME AGAIN!** It's summertime and it's also time for our annual parish barbecue! This will take place **next Sunday (30th June)** in St Peter's Hall after Sunday Mass. Family tickets (2 adults plus 2 children) will cost £15, adult tickets £6 and only £3.50 for children not included in the family ticket. Please bring your own drinks with you. If you can help out by bringing a salad or dessert, please will you sign up on the list on the noticeboard or speak to Jenny Lovelock or Anne Hayden. **Tickets are now available** after Mass, or ring Ian on 736811. We can't guarantee the weather, but we can guarantee delicious food, a sing-along (courtesy of Bob Piggott) and plenty of good company!

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** The Blessed Sacrament is exposed **each Tuesday** after the 10.00am Mass at St Peter's until midday, for a trial period (probably mid-July). ✕ For those unable to attend St Peter's on a Tuesday, adoration takes place at St Francis' Church in Maidstone town centre on **Fridays** (7am - 10pm).

**BARBECUE + SUN = GAZEBO?** We are hoping lots of you will join us for the above mentioned parish barbecue. One small snag - we had to cut back the trees in the hall garden, so now there is very little shade. If we have a hot day this could be difficult. We already have a promise of two 'pop-up' gazebos, but we really need 2 more. Can anyone lend us one for the day? Contact Terry Kinsman 730119, or Fr Geoff.

**BEARSTED PRAYER VISITING** *A message from Andrew Haines, our local organizer.* This valuable outreach takes place once again in the week commencing **1st July**. Those wishing to participate are asked to complete the Doodle poll: <https://cutt.ly/prayerpoll>. Thank you.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 23rd JUNE 2019  
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **The MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (C)** ✕

Sun 23rd	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Sanders RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass
Mon 24th	<b>The Nativity of St John the Baptist</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tue 25th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass <i>(followed by Adoration until 12noon)</i>
Wed 26th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 27th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Requiem Mass: Anthony Patrick Tynan
Fri 28th	<b>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Mgr Tim Galligan, anniversary
Sat 29th	The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ <b>SAINTS PETER and PAUL</b> ✕			
Sun 30th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Margaret & Eric Smith RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Sissie Saunders RIP

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for June:** for the mode of life for priests, that through the modesty and humility of their lives, they may commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor. ✕ And for our Archbishop elect John Wilson as well as in thanksgiving for the ministry of our retiring Archbishop Peter Smith.
- **Remembering that Jesus told his disciples** to feed the hungry crowd who had followed them. We pray that God will bless farmers and everyone involved in food production and distribution. We also pray that we can always be ready to respond to people who are in need of our help.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for Brigitte Hayward and Sidonia Banyard; for all those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for the intentions on the notice board.
- **For Monsignor Tim Galligan,** who celebrates the fortieth anniversary of his ordination on Friday.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ Dame Alma Harvey, Edward Gibson, Charles Ryan, Jeremiah Horgan, Maurice Walsh, Heather Harrington and Margaret Smith. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£393.69** (of which, **£168.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ The retiring for the Day for Life amounted to **£85.71**. ♦ **Next Sunday** there is a retiring collection **to support Peter's Pence**, our traditional offering to the Holy Father which assists him and the Apostolic See to exercise their service of the Universal Church.

**DAY for DISABILITY** Southwark's annual day of celebration for the disabled will be held on Sunday **7th July** at The Friars, Aylesford from midday onwards. Archbishop Peter Smith will celebrate Mass in memory of Jean Vanier. People with disabilities and their carers from across the archdiocese and beyond are invited for a joyous day of prayer, art, music and fun.

**PILGRIMAGE to CANTERBURY** On **Saturday 13th July** there is a pilgrimage to Canterbury, organised by the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. Highlights include sung Mass at St Augustine's Abbey, a talk on Cardinal Pole, and Choral Evensong and Devotions at his tomb. A big picnic lunch is available, £5 per head. Pre-book by calling 01304 374870. See poster for times and full information.

**St JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP** See the poster about this activities camp at Aldham Essex during the school holidays. It is for children aged 8 to 13 and costs £160 per week. See also <http://svpboscocamp.org.uk>.

**ALTAR SERVERS' SUMMER BREAK** See the poster with information.

**PILGRIMAGE to KNOCK** 26th August. See poster at back of church.

**St JOHN'S SEMINARY** See the poster requesting help with the refurbishment of its chapel.

**INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE TRUST** The IRT is reaching out, asking for help to support the Sacred Heart Sisters and the 128 children, from new-borns to 18 year-olds, in their babies' and children's homes in Uganda. They struggle to supply basic needs such as food, clothes, bedding and education. For more information, see: [www.irt.org.uk](http://www.irt.org.uk).

**SUMMER GARDEN PARTY** Please support the excellent work which The Passage does for homeless people in Central London, by attending The Passage annual Garden Party in the beautiful and historic College Garden, Westminster Abbey on **Wednesday 18th July**, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets at £45 each, include wine, soft drinks, buffet supper and live music. Tickets are available online through Eventbrite: <https://cutt.ly/passageparty> or from The Passage, St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL. Tel: 020 75921856. Email: [tickets@passage.org.uk](mailto:tickets@passage.org.uk). It will not be possible to purchase tickets at the Abbey. All proceeds in aid of The Passage.