



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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

7th JULY 2019

FAITH IN FOCUS: GOD'S CAMPAIGN TRAIL How can we promote Jesus' message in a society that tries to confine Christianity to a Sunday afternoon TV Slot? How do we promote Jesus' teachings of unity and sharing in a world of division and materialism? How do we campaign for peace and love in a world hampered by indifference and injustice?

We might feel small in face of impacting our beliefs on an unbelieving world. That we feel small perhaps helps us to understand the task the early disciples faced in Luke's Gospel. The scene set in today's gospel must have looked something like a biblical 'campaign trail'. Jesus sent seventy-two disciples ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit prepare the way. Jesus knew that they were up against the odds. He describes them as lambs among wolves. "The harvest is abundant," he says, "but the labourers are few." More credit then, to those early disciples that the Christian message has survived for over two thousand years. What can we learn from their obvious success?

Jesus gave his early disciples some important practical advice. His first words of advice were for us to travel light. How can we concentrate on impacting Jesus' will if we are burdened with other concerns? Having a clear and focussed mind is crucial to any kind of success. Next Jesus advocates relying on hospitality and walking away from opposition. Perhaps today we would call it 'knowing one's audience'. In a nutshell, Jesus is asking us to focus on the job in hand, avoid distraction, and not to be deterred by opposition or setbacks.

God's message needs 'selling' just as much now as it did two thousand years ago. Two thousand years later, our world still needs a lot of 'fixing'. The job to be done might seem impossible, but we take encouragement from those few early disciples and the scale of their obvious success. To give up on the job would be to negate the work of those who have gone before us. If we care at all about the work our predecessors have put in, it's our turn to take to God's campaign trail. (Chapel Bell)



ABORTION AMENDMENT See the urgent attached message from Bishop John Sheridan. To contact your MP see: <https://righttolife.org.uk/take-action-abortion-amendment/>.

PARISH BARBECUE Our thanks to those who organized the catering and the barbecuing last Sunday: we were a small family this year, but the sun shone and we all enjoyed ourselves.

SEA SUNDAY is **next Sunday**, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It provides practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. As it is dependent on voluntary donations, please give generously. For more information about its work, visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

SPIRITANS APPEAL In two weeks' time we will welcome Fr Dennis Bukenya from the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers). He will be in the parish on the weekend **20th/21st July** to make a mission appeal. The Spiritans fund projects which care for the poor, the marginalized and the most abandoned in our world, providing education, evangelization, pastoral care, relief in famine and drought, healthcare and religious formation. Please be generous in responding to the appeal.

NEW ARCHBISHOP Bishop John Wilson, will be installed at St George's Cathedral on Thursday **25th July**.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION The Blessed Sacrament is exposed **each Tuesday** after the 10.00am Mass at St Peter's until midday, for a trial period. ✕ 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).

JUSTICE & PEACE Our charity bookstall will be open **this weekend** at St Peter's.

DAY for DISABILITY Southwark's annual day of celebration for the disabled is **this Sunday, 7th July** at The Friars, Aylesford from midday onwards.

CAFOD: Climate change The Prime Minister Theresa May has announced that the UK government will commit in law a by 2050 net zero emissions target. Almost three quarters of a million people signed a petition calling for the UK to take urgent action on climate change. To continue the campaign for an end to climate change, please sign our new petition.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 7th JULY 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✧ **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✧

Sun 7th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Jim Kelly RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Breda Curtin RIP
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 8th	Feria	7.00pm	✧ Mass: Joan Brown RIP
Tue 9th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass: Winifred Erskine RIP (followed by Adoration until 12noon)
Wed 10th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✧ Mass: Thomas Thompson RIP
Thu 11th	St Benedict	7.00am	✧ Mass: Springett Family
Fri 12th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass: Sheila Barber RIP
Sat 13th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✧ **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✧

Sun 14th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Therese Sophie Weeden RIP (FM)
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Kay Glenn RIP
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo

HIROSHIMA and NAGASAKI REMEMBRANCE SERVICE at The Friars, Aylesford on Monday **5th August**, 8.20pm.
PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for July:** for the integrity of justice, that those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word. ✧ For those being ordained to the diaconate and the priesthood this month in the diocese. ✧ And for our Archbishop elect John Wilson as well as in thanksgiving for the ministry of our retiring Archbishop Peter Smith.
- **For the people of Hong Kong who are fearful for their future:** that they are given the assurances they need that they will be treated with justice. For the safety and protection of the unborn.
- **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 those getting married in the parish next month; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✧ *Bridget Ledger, Michael Yorke-Miller, Paul Fittock and John Horgan.* ✧

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£362.90** (of which, **£168.40** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ The collection last weekend for Peter's Pence amounted to **£102.08**. ♦ **Next weekend** there will be a retiring collection in aid of the Apostleship of the Sea, a Catholic charity supporting seafarers worldwide, and working in over 250 ports worldwide to provide advice, care and friendship to those who work on the sea.

PILGRIMAGE to CANTERBURY this coming Saturday (**13th July**) there is a pilgrimage to Canterbury, organized by the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. See poster for times and full information.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED *A message from the Diocesan Communications Team:* We are looking to create a group of volunteer photographers / videographers that would be willing to cover occasional services or events within the diocese. Both videos and photographs are increasingly popular among those that visit our social media platforms, and are a wonderful way to increase interest and engagement in the life of the Church. If you are interested in contributing to the mission of the diocese in spreading God's message through the media, we would love to hear from you. We need willing hands across all areas! Ideally you will have some professional level experience, or be a good amateur, and have your own equipment. Although we cannot pay professional fees, we can offer travel expenses and will credit your work at all times. Please contact the Communications Team at dco@rcaos.org.uk to arrange an informal discussion.

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 7592 1856. Email: tickets@passage.org.uk. It will not be possible to purchase tickets at the Abbey. All proceeds in aid of The Passage.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REQUIRED The Society of St Vincent de Paul is seeking to recruit a full time permanent Administrative Assistant for the Young Vincentians Team at National Office, London. Closing date: **Friday 12th July**. Interviews: W/C 22nd July 2019. For more details and an application pack, please visit the vacancies section of the SVP website www.svp.org.uk or email the Young Vincentians Programme Manager : moirad@svp.org.uk.