



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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

21st JULY 2019

FAITH IN FOCUS: CHOOSING THE BETTER PART "Don't just stand there gawping," we're told as children, "... do something!" We have grown up knowing that we all must pull our weight, and so when the overworked Martha complains to Jesus that her sister Mary has not helped with the meal, we get understandably hot under the collar when Jesus condones Mary's choice to sit at his feet in conversation. There is of course a big danger in the story of Martha and Mary. The danger is that we feel the need to side with one sister, thereby judging the other wrong. In truth, both sisters have something to teach us.



Martha we are told, was concerned with many things, but we're led to believe that all of them were finite and transitory. If we took time to make a list of the concerns in our own lives, we might find that we have a lot of Martha in us. We worry about work, we worry about money and we worry about how we are going to fit our chores in. If we look back at our anxieties of last year, or last month, or even last week, we might be forced to admit that most of those worries had no lasting significance, yet they still managed to dominate our lives and rob us of what was important. Mary on the other hand was only concerned with one thing, ... the Kingdom of God ... finite, ultimate and lasting.

It is important to note that Jesus was not reproaching Martha, after all without Martha there would have been no meal on the table that night. Without the Marthas of the world nothing would get done. On the other hand, it doesn't matter how hard we work, without God at the centre of our lives, our actions are hollow. Mary chose 'the better part', but we all need a little of Martha too. (Chapel Bell)

SPIRITANS APPEAL This weekend, we welcome Fr Dennis Bukenya from the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers). He is in the parish to make our annual 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.** (Fr Geoffrey is seizing the opportunity to get away, and is grateful to Deacon Cyril and Truda who will be conducting Communion Services as in the diary overleaf.)

OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP John Wilson will be installed at St George's Cathedral **this Thursday, 25th July at 12noon.** Parishioners who are unable to attend are invited to **watch the live stream of the installation Mass on the diocesan YouTube channel.** The link to the video is: <https://youtu.be/wemICGkP6pA> or <https://cutt.ly/newarchbishop>. **The stream will go live at 11:50am on Thursday.**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION The Blessed Sacrament is exposed **each Tuesday** after the 10.00am Mass at St Peter's until midday. We hope to continue this throughout the summer. ✕ 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).

WHO WAS St MARY MAGDALENE? (22nd July) Poor old Mary Magdalene, dubbed as a prostitute and a sinner, but who was she really? Mary Magdalene is mentioned in each of the four gospels in the New Testament, but not once does it mention that she was a prostitute or a sinner. At some point Mary Magdalene became confused with two other women in the Bible: Mary, the sister of Martha and the unnamed sinner from Luke's Gospel (7:36-50) In 1969 the Catholic Church declared that Mary Magdalene was not the penitent sinner of Luke's Gospel, but the reputation still lingers.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 21st JULY 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

Sun 21st	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Bryan Marshall RIP
		12noon	Baptism: Seth Alexander Corrigan
Mon 22nd	St Mary Magdalene	Sorry, no parish Mass	
Tue 23rd	St Bridget	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> (followed by Adoration until 12noon)
Wed 24th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 25th	St James the Great	Sorry, no parish Mass	
Fri 26th	Ss Joachim and Anne	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Sat 27th	Feria	5-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>

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

Sun 28th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: James Hamilton RIP (FM)
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Trixie Hall RIP

HIROSHIMA and NAGASAKI REMEMBRANCE Service at The Friars, Aylesford, **TUESDAY 6th 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 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):** ✕ Henry Ruffle, Frank Hampton, Theresa Schreiber, Margaret (Trixie) Hall, Desmond Baker, Frederick Sanity and Marjorie Poole. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£397.23** (of which, **£212.23** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). The retiring collection for the Apostleship of the Sea raised £268.66. Thank you.

♦ **This weekend** there is a retiring collection in aid of our **Mission Appeal**.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD 2020 will be the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini, Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These events in the life of the Church have motivated the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to make 2020 a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'. More information as we get it. Visit the Bishops' Conference website: <http://bishopsconference.org.uk/>.

SOUTHWARK BRETHERN CHARITY A note from the secretary, Father Paul Hough: 'The Southwark Brethren is a longstanding charity which helps sick and retired priests who are in need. We thank you for your continuous generosity in the past and ask your help again this year. Please send donations to Rev. Paul Hough, St Elphege's Presbytery, 120 Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9AY. Last year they were able to give £1,700 each to 40 priests in the Dioceses of Southwark and Arundel and Brighton, and also help 2 working priests who had serious sickness. In addition, we have a Gift Aid Scheme for those who pay tax and we thank the lay people who have joined by applying for a Gift Aid form. Tel: 020 8647 5079.