



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-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

15th SEPTEMBER 2019

FAITH in FOCUS: WHY SHOULD GOD CARE FOR ME? It's easy to hear the story of the 'Prodigal Son' from afar. It's easy to disassociate ourselves from the feelings of the younger son and make the same judgments that the older brother reached. The story takes on a totally fresh significance when you imagine yourself in the prodigal son's shoes.

When we are young everything is clear cut. The difference between right and wrong is obvious, and the path through life is uncomplicated. Then life begins to test our principles. Poverty encourages us to make poor choices. Fear of failure encourages us to cheat or lie. Depression causes us to eat and drink too much. Desperation leads us to gamble or steal. Pride prevents us from seeking help. Every poor choice takes us further and further away from God. Like the young man in the story we begin to feel as though we are not worthwhile. The young man does not consider that his father will welcome him back as his son. We must have felt the same way at some time or another. We must all have started to pray and then thought, "Why on earth should God listen, why on earth should he care?"

Imagine the joy of learning that God has never given up on us. Imagine the young man's rush of relief and joy at finding that his father had never given up waiting for him to come home. For God, forgiveness is just a part of a love that never gives up.

The 'Lost Sheep', 'The Lost Coin', 'The Lost Son'. Three stories that remind us that no one is worthless or insignificant in God's eyes. God is continually looking to bring us back to him. Today's parables are about wholeness and inclusion in a society seemingly intent on division and exclusion. Today's parables speak to us about the need to be found and carried. Today's parables are about transcending the human instinct to sit in judgement over others and to feel the joy of God the Father's reconciling love.

Chapel Bell

TODAY is HOME MISSION SUNDAY A chance to look closer to home as we grow missionary parishes and form missionary disciples. We pray for the spread of the Gospel; there will be a **second collection** to support the Home Mission. The money raised from this collection is used to help Catholics in England and Wales become more confident in sharing their faith. For more information about the Home Mission Office, or to donate online, please visit www.homemission.org.uk.

EXPOSITION and ADORATION continues at St Peter's on Tuesday mornings. If you are free any time between 10 and 12, please join us.

BEARSTED AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER There will be a meeting **this Tuesday**, 17th September at the Methodist church at **7.30pm**. Bob Fyffe, the General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland will be joining us at this meeting to talk about the work of CTBI. There will also be time for questions. All of the meeting is open to anyone who would like to come, but it would be particularly good to have people join for Bob's talk.

FIRST COMMUNIONS Application forms are now available for those wishing their child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist next year. Forms must be returned by **6th October**; parents' meeting **7.30pm on 7th October** at St Peter's. • Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply; they must live in the parish.

NEXT SUNDAY The first of four National Mass Counts is to be taken. **Collectors, please note.**

SURVIVE-MIVA On **Sunday 29th September**, there will be a special appeal at each Mass on behalf of Survive-MIVA, a Catholic lay association providing funding for essential transport for health outreach work in isolated rural areas, and for the Church's pastoral care in places of difficult access in the developing world. Please respond generously to their appeal. See www.survive-miva.org or the poster.

SOUTH AMERICAN EVENING will be held on **Saturday 5th October**; don't miss it! **Tickets are on sale now!** See the poster for more details.

DIOCESAN DAY for CATECHISTS including those involved in Children's Liturgy of the Word and the RCIA process. **Saturday 28th September** at St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HR. Beginning at 10.30am. Please see Fr Geoffrey for timetable and to register.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 15th SEPTEMBER 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✧ **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✧
Home Mission Sunday

Sun 15th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Jadwiga Brzuchalski RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✧ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP
Mon 16th	Ss Cornelius and Cyprian	Sorry, no parish Mass	
Tue 17th	Feria	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> (followed by Adoration until 12noon)
Wed 18th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 19th	Feria	Sorry, no parish Mass	
Fri 20th	Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Sat 21st	St Matthew	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✧ **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✧
Day of Prayer for the Harvest

Sun 22nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Alf Noakes RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Philip Birch RIP
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo

BUILDING a BETTER MARRIAGE A day for married couples to explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into their communication. To be held in Selsdon, Surrey, **28th September**. See the poster.

ROSARY CRUSADE of REPARATION will take to the streets of London in honour of our Blessed Mother in the month of the Rosary. Saturday **12th October** beginning 1.45pm outside Westminster Cathedral. See the poster for information.

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**.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for September:** *for our oceans, that politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.*
- **On Home Mission Sunday:** *for all who reach out to those Prodigal Children looking for a way back; and for all those looking for the 'truth that will set them free'.*
- **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 Leonora Pinto; for Richard and Filomena getting married in the parish this 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):** ✧ *David Drozley, Sophie Drozley, Desmond Drake, Letitia Cavendish, Alfred Noakes, Anne Keepin, Barbara Lutener and Sarah Callaghan.* ✧

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£414.03** (of which, **£155.20** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). The second collection last weekend in aid of the Catholic Education Service raised **£132.88** • **Today** there is a second collection for Home Mission, enabling so much work to be done in support of parish evangelization in our own country.

COMING UP:

Today (Sunday): 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Information Event, 4pm to 6pm in Holy Family Parish Hall. From 25th September to 3rd November, you are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. See the poster.

Tuesday 17th September: Bearsted Churches Together Meeting: 7.30pm at the Methodist church (see above).

24th September: Parish Finance Meeting.

28th September: Wedding (St Peter's), Richard Heron and Filomena Verrillo.

28th September: Diocesan Day for Catechists, St George's Cathedral.

29th September: Survive Miva (*Missionary Vehicles for Africa*) Appeal.

In October: St Simon Stock Catholic School open evenings. See poster for dates.

4th October: CAFOD Family Fast Day – special Gift Aid envelopes are available for the money you save.

6th October: October Devotions – 3pm at St Peter's.

6th to 27th October: Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region

(<http://www.sinodoamazonico.va>).