



# 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**

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**27th OCTOBER 2019**

**FAITH in FOCUS: RIGHTEOUS or SELF-RIGHTEOUS?** Can you remember the thrill of a good exam result? The trouble with exam results is, that despite the knowledge that exams are about measuring our own potential, we still like to compare our marks against those of our classmates. Our success is made all the more meaningful by the fact that others have done less well. If this mentality stopped at exams this wouldn't be so bad, but what happens when the same attitude spills over into the rest of our lives? Do we feel superior to others because they have more menial jobs, because they're on benefits, because they don't go to church or haven't given as much to charity as we have? Do we look down on those who have made mistakes in life, who drink too much, take drugs, or end up in prison? When this mentality afflicts us, we are in danger of becoming smug, unfeeling and self-righteous.

There's a big difference between being righteous and self-righteous. The Pharisee in today's parable is a good man, but his mistake is in thinking that he is a better person than the sinner who prays next to him. The Pharisee fails to see the sinner's worth and he completely fails to see his own shortcomings. It comes as no surprise that it's the sinner's humble prayer that God hears and not the Pharisee's proud boasts. Is God going to love us more because we are getting things right? Is God going to love the vagrant or the criminal less because they have made mistakes or enjoyed fewer privileges?

As we forge our individual relationships with God, we are asked to do it not by comparing our progress with those around us, but by keeping a careful eye on our own failings.

*Chapel Bell*



✠ **ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL BOWEN RIP** ✠ Archbishop Michael's funeral Mass will be at St George's Cathedral on **Monday 4th November** at 12.30pm. Please pray for the repose of his soul, and for his family.

**MISSIO** Thank you very much for your contribution to last week's World Mission Sunday collection. Your prayers and donations will help missionaries work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Please pray for the work of Missio and all those working to offer the love of Jesus, that we may remain strong in our witness to Christ's love for all peoples. To continue supporting mission throughout the year, please go to <https://missio.org.uk/> or call 020 7821 9755.

✠ **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.*

**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.

**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**, the vigil of All Saints, **at 12noon**.

**NEED A WHEELCHAIR?** When our last parish wheelchair became unserviceable, we were kindly donated a very good replacement wheelchair, but it is too small a size for general use, and so we have bought a new standard wheelchair to use at the church (with grateful thanks to Charterwood Mobility at Newnham Court who gave us a very generous discount). We no longer need the smaller wheelchair (which would suit an average 12 stone person but not much more). It is in very good condition, so if anyone could use a smaller wheelchair you can have it at no charge (perhaps a donation to church funds if you wish). If you know anyone (not just at church) who might be interested, please contact Fr Geoffrey or Terry Kinsman (01622 730119).

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th OCTOBER 2019  
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✠ THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✠

Sun 27th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✠ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✠ Mass: Special Intention (CD)
		<i>12.30pm</i>	<i>Baptism of Frank Wheeler</i>
Mon 28th	Ss Simon and Jude	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tue 29th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	<i>Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion (followed by Adoration until 12noon)</i>
Wed 30th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	<i>Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 31st	<b>✠ ALL SAINTS ✠ Holyday of Obligation</b>	<b>(H) 7.00pm</b>	✠ Vigil Mass ( <i>Thursday 31st October</i> )
Fri 1st November		<b>10.00am</b>	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>8.00pm</b>	✠ Mass: Holy Souls
Sat 2nd	<b>✠ ALL SOULS ✠</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	✠ Mass
		<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✠			
Sun 3rd	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✠ Vigil Mass
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✠ Mass: Deceased Members of Maidstone Catenians
		<i>3.00pm</i>	<i>Blessing of Graves at Sutton Road Cemetery</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/>.

**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 World Mission Sunday.
- **For those who lost their lives in the lorry found in Essex;** that the Essex police be successful in their investigation, and that the families of the victims find comfort in their grief, and peace when justice comes.
- **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 Frank, being baptized today and for his parents and godparents; 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. ✠

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£372.29** (of which, **£128.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). • Last week's collection for *Missio* raised **£198.88**.

**GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW** Tickets for our annual Christmas Draw will be available from this weekend. The Christmas Draw is the major fund-raising event for parish funds, so please support it as much as you can by taking books of tickets to sell to your friends and family and/or by donating a prize. Sorry, but we cannot accept bric-a-brac, second-hand or electrical items. Please return your counterfoils, with the correct money by Sunday 8th December.

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

**COMING UP:**

**November: Month of the Holy Souls** – envelopes are available to include a list of your deceased loved ones.

**Friday: All Saints' Day**

**Saturday: All Souls' Day**

**Monday 4th:** 35th anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's.

**Sunday 10th November: Remembrance Day**

**Sunday 24th November (Christ the King):** Sacred Heart Devotions and Benediction, followed by **Parish meeting.**

**FR GEOFFREY WRITES...** 'I am going to Rome tomorrow to visit our dear friend Fr Joseph Aduse Poku. Consequently, you will notice a few changes to weekday Mass times (those who come to Mass during the week). Where it's not possible to have Mass, there will be services of the Word and Holy Communion – I'm indebted to Deacon Cyril and Truda for their help with this. Thank you to Fr Joe O'Connor who has kindly offered to say Mass from Thursday until the weekend; I'm sure he will be made to feel very welcome indeed!'