



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

Webmaster: webmaster@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Parish Website and YouTube:

www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

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)

Year B

✠ ELEVENTH SUNDAY ✠

13th JUNE 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS: THE INVISIBLE FORCE Christians sometimes focus so much on the Church that they lose sight of the kingdom. They tend to think that the Church is the be-all and end-all of religious activity and they can become blind to the kingdom of God. Yet the kingdom and the Church are not the same things. The Church is the bearer of the kingdom but not the exclusive owner. The kingdom, which Jesus today speaks about in his parables, is wider than the Church and is not so visible and tangible. Jesus taught his disciples that the kingdom is already with us, though it can seem to be hidden. It has already been inaugurated, though it is yet to reach its fulfilment. Day after day it is unfurled, little by little in an almost unnoticeable way.



The ideals of the kingdom clash with the values of the world. That's because the kingdom is eternal and universal whereas the world is about fads and fashion, about exclusivity and partiality. The kingdom is about truth and life, whereas the world happily lies and trades in destruction of all types. The kingdom espouses holiness and grace, concepts which the secular world considers laudable but outmoded. And the kingdom's principles of justice, love and peace are more likely to be echoed in the world's pop songs than in its strategies. Does this mean that we've nothing to hope for? That injustice, violence, corruption and oppression will always be with us? Is it just par for the course? Jesus says not. With his arrival on earth the kingdom of God has begun to embed itself in all aspects of our world.

There are invincible forces already at work as the world matures and the kingdom silently grows. Like a seed planted in a field it grows unobtrusively, by day and by night. Like a mustard seed it starts off tiny but becomes a force to be reckoned with. And even now we some-times catch a glimpse of the power of the kingdom when world events are confounded and when men and women, even just for a moment, unite in a shared vision that reflects the will of God.

The kingdom is here now. The way we behave will help or hinder it. But it's bigger than all of us put together. That's why we pray: Thy kingdom come. *(Author unknown)*

WELCOME BACK to MASS We await the next government pronouncement on our freedom of movement and association. Meanwhile, please note our new seating plan at St Peter's (arrangements at Good Shepherd remain largely unchanged). You will see that on Sundays we will have to separate people into groups in order to achieve our best capacity. It means that you will see that sections will be allocated to **a)** individuals on their own, **b)** couples, or **c)** families. Please bear with us: ushers will help direct you. It is important that you sit directly behind the numbers indicating seats, as they are measured to give full Covid distancing protection. **Please note we are once again leaving the church by the main doors.**

DEAR PARISHIONERS We have now restarted serving coffee and biscuits after Mass on Sunday mornings at St Peter's. This is a service which enables those parishioners who want to linger after Mass for a catch up and to socialise with others. We have a monthly rota, but unfortunately for a variety of reasons this is now reduced. Can you spare ¾ hr after Mass one Sunday a month to help out? I promise it is not onerous but an enjoyable way to meet others and share in the life of the parish. Speak to me after Mass or contact me via the parish website or on 07748 378294. *Joyce Gibson*

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 13th JUNE 2021 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✠ ELEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 13th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Michael Sinnott RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Brenda Sanders RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 14th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass
Tue 15th	Feria	11.00am	✠ Requiem Mass: Brenda Sanders
Wed 16th	St Richard of Chichester	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: George Albert and Calerine Aline Weedon RIP (FM)
Thu 17th	Feria	No Mass	
Fri 18th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Margaret Sanders RIP
Sat 19th	Our Lady	5-5.30pm	Confessions
✠ TWELFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 20th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: A Special Intention
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Margaret Smith RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo

THE LAST OF THE FIRST Congratulations to Isabella, Lilly, Nadia and Zosia who made their First Holy Communions this weekend (Saturday). Our thanks to all those who helped with their preparation and those who made it such a special day. It was worth the wait!

GOOD SHEPHERD A number of roof tiles need to be replaced. We hope to get the work done before the winter. *Mind your head!*

'WELCOME BACK' BARBECUE! We are proposing to celebrate our return to near-normality with a parish barbecue on Sunday **4th July**, which by happy coincidence is also Independence Day, so expect an American theme! Because we would like as many parishioners as possible to come and celebrate, **tickets will be free!** We can guarantee good food, good company and a sing-along with Bob and Pete. However, for catering purposes we do need to know if you will be coming, so booking is essential, either by booking on the website, www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk or in person after Mass. If you can bring a salad or dessert, please see Anne, Jenny or Dan after Mass, and if you can make a small donation to parish funds on the day, this would be gratefully received. We're looking forward to seeing you in July.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE After having survived Covid, we are thinking of organizing a parish pilgrimage, both to give thanks for our own good health, and to pray for those who have suffered or died during the epidemic - sadly we probably all know of someone. We can't run one this year (no sign of flights yet), but we are planning to go next year if we have your support. We are thinking of Rome or Lourdes, but we would like those who wish to come to help us with the decision. It will most likely be in late May 2022. We will introduce more detail when we ask you to choose, probably in early July (i.e. after the Covid restrictions are lifted) - so watch this space! But if you want to know more ask Terry Kinsman 01622 730119.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June:** for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of the Christian community: may they grow in love, generosity, faithfulness and patience.
- **That the G7 and other wealthy nations will do the right thing and start donating vaccines now, throughout the summer and for the rest of the year, to help parts of Africa and Asia that are overwhelmed by the Coronavirus.**
- **For those who have asked prayers;** for the sick; for those who have died recently; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ George Weedon, Clifford Diaper, Joan Hopkins and Margaret Sanders. ✠

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION For those at home. Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

STANDING ORDER / BANK TRANSFER If you would like to donate to the parish by BACS bank transfer or standing order the details are:

Account name:	RCAS ST PETER CHRC
Bank:	NatWest
Account number:	03138925
Sort code:	51-70-55
IBAN (for international transfers):	GB22 NWBK 5170 5503 1389 25

Please include a hint in the transfer "reference" so it's easy to know what your donation is for (e.g. Mass offering, weekly collection, Easter offering). • **PayPal giving is now available [here](#)** (online edition only!). Please include a reference so it's clear how to allocate the funds you have donated.

THE FRIARS Aylesford Priory are holding their 'Summer Fayre' on Sunday 27th June, 11am – 4.30pm. Adults £4.50, under 16s free: <https://www.thefriars.org.uk/Whats%20On/Events>.

SECOND COLLECTION This Sunday there is scheduled a retiring collection in support of The Catholic Trust for England and Wales (CaTEW). This collection helps supply the Bishops of England and Wales with the revenue necessary for the central administration of the Church in this country. If you would like to be associated with this collection, please mark your donation accordingly. Thank you.

CAFOD (A note from the diocesan team.) Thanks to your support, CAFOD has been helping communities around the world cope with the pandemic. Just in Zambia, in the past year, our reports show we've been able to reach 1,234,200 people with messages on COVID-19, provide 13,312 people with access to safe water, train 392 frontline health workers from Zambia's 11 dioceses on how to prepare and respond to COVID-19 in their local communities and donate over 1,000 handwashing hygiene stations in communities to support handwashing measures. Thank you for standing alongside people in Zambia and for supporting people in more than 30 other countries worldwide. With many thanks and best wishes, Celeste Iyinbo and Sarah Cadwallader, Community Participation Coordinators Southwark (Part time).

THE G7 SUMMIT Why does it matter? This week has seen G7 leaders meeting in the UK. The G7 is an important meeting because the heads of government attending the summit are the leaders of some of the world's richest and most powerful countries. Decisions taken at these meetings impact people across the world. The 2021 summit is especially important because G7 leaders will be discussing how the world can rebuild and recover from the pandemic. This meeting is one of two gatherings of world leaders the UK will host this year, alongside the "COP26" talks in November. ("COP26" is the UN decision-making body responsible for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). *Watch this space.*

REFUGEE WEEK 14th-20th June: *We Cannot Walk Alone.* Refugee Week is a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events and activities that celebrates the contribution of refugees to the UK and promotes better understanding of why people seek sanctuary. Anyone can take part by organizing, attending or taking part in activities. With immigration and asylum very much in the news, this is a week in which we examine the welcome we offer to people struggling to improve their lot in life. Next Sunday is Sanctuary Sunday.

BIKE WEEK 13th-21st June. Maybe you've been thinking about getting the bicycle out of mothballs for some time, but never getting around to it. The excuses are running out! The weather is getting warmer, and it's 'Bike Week', so a lot more people will be leaving their cars at home and cycling to work or school. The advantages are obvious. You will feel fitter, you will save vast amounts of cash, and if a lot more people took to peddle power, the planet would be a healthier place too.

Bitesize

Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.

Josh Billings

SUNDAY MASS

The following will probably be used:

Preface and Eucharistic Prayer: IV

Mystery of Faith: We proclaim your death, O Lord. . .