



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

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 B

✠ TWELFTH SUNDAY ✠
Day of Prayer for Human Life

20th JUNE 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS: Transcending Life's Storms. Fear of what others might think of us; Fear of getting things wrong; Fear of our children getting things wrong; Fear of poverty; Fear of the bills in the letter box; Fear of opposition; Fear of illness; Fear of loneliness or alienation; Fear of running out of time. Most of us fear something, and our fears all have something in common. We fear most, the things that seem beyond our control.

In today's gospel the disciples are out in their fishing boat when a storm whips up the waves. Water crashes into the little fishing boat threatening to sink it. Jesus sleeps on a cushion in the stern, and to the disciples he seems not to care. Can we identify with the frightened disciples? When our lives are out of control that's when most of us pray our hardest, and when our prayers are answered we either thank God, or perhaps if we're honest, we imagine that the problem wasn't as bad as we thought in the first place. Only when God seems indifferent to our prayers is our faith called into real question. If God has the power to quell life's storms why does he seem to remain indifferent? The trouble with God is that he doesn't rush round fixing the lottery for us or texting us with our dream job. Would we really expect God to behave like this? Yet it's at times when God seems to do nothing that we need our faith most. It's at times like this that our faith is hardest to find.

It's a very useful exercise to look back at life and take a second look at the seemingly insurmountable problems that we have navigated in the past. We might imagine that we have conquered our own problems single-handedly. In retrospect, it is clear that God has steered us safely through the storms often in totally unexpected and surprising ways. The great comfort is that if God has helped us before, he will help us again and again.

We will always have fear, it's part of our human condition, but as Christians we have a way of transcending it. We are asked to remember Jesus' words "Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?" We are asked to remember that even the wind and the sea obey him. If we have faith that Jesus is the master of our lives and that God has ultimate control, then we need feel no fear.

Chapel Bell

DAY FOR LIFE: 20th June Day for Life is marked on different days in England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland. **Day for Life is marked this year on 20th June in England and Wales.** Each year takes a different focus. This year the focus is on 'Assisted Dying'. Day for Life has compiled some online resources to help inform Catholics and to share some responses. You can find these resources at www.dayforlife.org/article/online-resources/. (There is an additional collection to support 'Day for Life' today.)

COFFEE AFTER MASS at ST PETER'S Can you spare ¾ hr after Mass one Sunday a month to help out? Contact Joyce via the parish website or on 07748 378294. *Thank you.*



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 20th JUNE 2021 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✠ TWELFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠ <i>Day of Prayer for Human Life</i>			
Sun 20th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: A Special Intention
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Margaret Smith RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 21st	St Aloysius Gonzaga	10.00am	✠ Mass: Margaret Cardwell RIP
Tue 22nd	SS John Fisher and Thomas More	10.00am	✠ Mass: Gilbert Monckton RIP <i>(followed by Adoration until 11.30am)</i>
Wed 23rd	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: George Albert and Calerine Aline Weedon RIP (FM)
Thu 24th	Nativity of St John the Baptist	No Mass	
Fri 25th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Marie Brooks' welfare
Sat 26th	Our Lady	5-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ THIRTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 27th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Margaret Moran RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Olive Joan Gonsalves RIP
		12noon	Baptism: Archie Morey

PARISH BARBECUE POSTPONED Unfortunately, due to the extension of Covid-19 restrictions, we have had to postpone the parish 'Welcome Back' barbecue. The barbecue will now take place on **Sunday 1st August** after Mass. Those of you who had already booked tickets will have received an email changing them to 1st August. You do not need to take any further action. If you had not previously booked but would like tickets for Sunday 1st August, please scan the QR code on the poster in the parish room or on the parish website. Alternatively, please speak to Dan, Jenny or Anne after Sunday Masses. It is essential that you book for catering purposes. There is no charge for this barbecue and we are looking forward to welcoming back as many of our parishioners as possible.

BAPTISMS A number of applications have recently been received. Current government restrictions mean that baptisms are limited to an attendance of 30, with the usual distancing and masking restrictions in place. A preferred time for baptisms is Sunday around 11.30am. A meeting with the parents and others involved will need to be arranged in order to explain the obligations that parents take on for their children. You need to live in our parish, or regularly attend Mass here for your child to be baptized here.

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.
- **For all fathers on 'Fathers' Day':** may God bless and reward them for their gift of life, many acts of kindness and their loving support.
- **For those who have asked prayers;** for the sick, especially Kieron, Adam, Angela, Paul and Susan; for those who have died recently, especially Margaret Cardwell; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ Mary Anne Macklin, Bridget Ruffle, Alice Sinott, Edward Gibson, John Younger, Margaret Smith, Gertrude Grimes, Lord Gilbert Monckton and Dame Alma Harvey. ✠

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.

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

NICK PUGA Our dear friend Nick in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, has kindly been in touch with a contribution 'for the red bucket'. Thank you Nick – much appreciated. Keep cool (currently 116°F)!

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>.



SS THOMAS MORE and JOHN FISHER *Matters of Conscience: 22nd June.* On this day we remember those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights. Close friends, Thomas More and John Fisher refused to render allegiance to King Henry VIII as the Head of the Church. As a result they were tried and convicted of treason and executed. Thomas More told the court that he could not go against his conscience and wished his judges that "we may yet hereafter in heaven merrily all meet together to everlasting salvation." Today we are not asked to die for matters of conscience but we are asked to live by them.

BEE HAPPY *Summer Time Eco-tip.* Bees pollinate nearly 90% of plant species and they contribute to more than 35% of the world's food supply, but they're under threat.

To do:- Give pollinators an extra boost in your backyard by planting a variety of wildflowers and native plants to provide nectar that will bloom throughout the season. You can build bee boxes for bees to make their home. Leave a flat saucer of water lined with pebbles or marbles to create a bee watering station.

Bitesize

There is much in the world to make us afraid. There is much more in our faith to make us unafraid.

Frederick W. Cropp

SUNDAY MASS

The following will probably be used:

Preface: V of Sundays

Eucharistic Prayer: III

Mystery of Faith: Save us, Saviour of the world . . .