



# 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

Webmaster: [webmaster@catholic-bearsted.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

Year B

✠ THIRTEENTH SUNDAY ✠

27th JUNE 2021

**FAITH IN FOCUS: NOT DEAD BUT SLEEPING** If we ever stop believing that God can heal us from sickness, then we have set aside much of Jesus' ministry in the gospels. If we ever start believing that death is what we're made for, then we have missed the whole point of Jesus' life and work. So, if we're not careful, we could end up listening to today's gospel and hearing two nice stories about a woman with a chronic illness and a little girl who was at death's door. It is about them, of course. But it's also about you and me. Not merely that we may have some physical ailment that we would like healing. Nor even the fact that someone dear to us may be close to death.



Like the little girl, most of us are not dead but just sleeping. It's not that we've given up on our faith, on the practice of our religion. It's simply that with the passage of time, we start to take things for granted. What once seemed momentous, what at one time seemed so wonderful, we now see as ordinary bread and butter.

That's why we can feel slightly awkward when a convert to Christianity starts talking about how they feel at having experienced Jesus and been received into his Church. We know that we've been there, got the T-shirt etc. But we also know that we're not really there now, and we should be. We remember what it was all like, but our recollections have become jaded.

We don't automatically stay alive in faith. We have to work at it and co-operate with God's grace. There are no season tickets. It's a day to day, week to week exercise. And imperceptibly we can find that what once raised our spirits and caused us to sing hymns of thanks to God, has now become commonplace.

Prayer is what stops us from becoming grey Christians, what stops the rigor mortis of religious apathy from setting in. A constant conversation with God allows us to feel his presence, his strength and support, his encouragement to go beyond the ordinary and find the extraordinary. Jesus cures the woman with a haemorrhage and raises the little girl. He will also come to our aid when, although not dead, we have been sleeping. *(Author unknown.)*

**TIMES AND SEASONS** It's strange to say, but from the last week in June the nights are drawing in again. The longest day means that we've reached the summer solstice and we are gradually getting shorter days. The Church recognizes this in its liturgical year. In pagan times people used to light bonfires this week to usher in the start of the summer and mark the change in the season. But to chime in with the gospel account of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the Church celebrates the birth of John the Baptist on 24th June. This is three months after Gabriel told Mary that she would give birth to Jesus, and announced that Elizabeth was in her sixth month. It is exactly, therefore, six months before the birth of Christ. Maybe there's more than coincidence in the fact that, as the days grow shorter till the birth of Jesus, John reminds us that he must grow smaller whilst Christ must grow bigger? And maybe that's why we speak of the December birth of Christ as bringing a "light into the world". Who knows?

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th JUNE 2021 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✠ 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
Mon 28th <i>Holy ✠ Day</i> Tue 29th	SS PETER & PAUL	(Monday 28th) (H) 7.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Kay Glenn RIP
		(Tuesday 29th) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo (followed by Adoration until 11.30am)
		(Tuesday 29th) 8.00pm	✠ Mass: Holy Father's Intentions
Wed 30th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass
Thu 1st July	St Oliver Plunket	No Mass	
Fri 2nd	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Joan Christina Brown RIP (FM)
Sat 3rd	St Thomas	5-5.30pm	Confessions
✠ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 4th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Brenda Sanders RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo

**FLOWERS at St PETER'S** Urgently needed ... flower arrangers to help with altar flowers. Due to covid restrictions, we have been unable to meet up again as a group, to have coffee, to discuss the different flower arrangements and the need for a rota. This has led to just a few people taking on this task for the past year. If you are willing to have a go, then remember that the arrangements do not have to be huge, and they can be done at home and brought into the church when finished, or you may just want to bring in a lovely bunch of flowers to put in a vase. We will be able to meet as a group soon, but until then, could we have a few offers of help now? Thank you! Please contact Shelagh Oates: 07887 656421, Annie Bailey: 07823 334299 or Beatrice Tree: 01622 730492.

**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 the victims of the Miami building collapse:** for anxious relatives, and for those faced with the grim and dangerous task of recovery.
- **For those who have asked prayers;** for the sick, especially Kieron, Adam, Angela, Paul and Susan; for those who have died recently; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ Charles Ryan, Jeremiah Horgan, Maurice Walsh, Heather Harrington, Roger Murray, Natacha Keyser, Phillip Ranner, Leonard Stewart-Day and Raymond Blake. ✠

## **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:

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

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** The Friars regret to announce that it has been necessary to cancel their Summer Fayre at the Priory this Sunday, 27th June, due to government guidance. It is hoped that it may be possible to re-schedule in due course.

**FEAST OF SS PETER and PAUL, 29th June** The Church today is a testimony to Peter's faith, it exists because Peter and others like him trusted and believed in God. It exists because Peter and people like Peter acted out their faith despite hostilities and persecution. In this country Christians do not face persecution. However we do face other problems. We face lethargy, conflicting secular values, and the complexities of scientific debate. The Church cannot be silenced. Christians are still needed to challenge injustice and greed. Fearless Christians like Peter and Paul are still as relevant to our lives as they ever were.



**SAINT THOMAS the APOSTLE, 3rd July** Thomas shares the lot of Peter the impetuous, James and John, the "sons of thunder," Philip and his foolish request to see the Father, indeed all the apostles in their weakness

and lack of understanding. We must not exaggerate these facts, however, for Christ did not pick worthless men. But their human weakness again points up the fact that holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ, the courageous, trusting and loving one. *American Catholic*



**SUMMER "FUNRAISER"** This summer, CAFOD invites us to become Summer FUNraisers! By raising money, you'll be helping people around the world who are suffering because of the climate crisis, the pandemic and poverty. Take on an active challenge for CAFOD this summer in celebration of the return of international sporting events! Run, cycle, swim, play tennis or football, or anything else that you love doing. You can do it on your own or with your family! You'll be helping people around the world who are suffering because of climate change. The idea is simple: set up a Just Giving page and collect sponsors and then have fun. To find out more visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise>.

### **Bitesize**

Where the loser saw barriers, the winner saw hurdles.

*Robert Brault*

### **SUNDAY MASS**

*The following will probably be used:*

**Preface:** II of Sundays

**Eucharistic Prayer:** II

**Mystery of Faith:** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup . . .