



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

✠ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY ✠

4th JULY 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS: PROPHECY ON BRICK STREET? No one wants to think of Mrs Blatherthorpe at 37 Brick Street as a prophet. That's because she's just ordinary, like everyone else on Brick Street. We expect prophets to be a bit more spectacular, perhaps with long straggly hair, a wooden staff and a book of blessings and curses. But it's not to be.



Prophets are not fortune-tellers. They are spokespeople. Rather than predict the future, they tell us what God wants us to know about the present. In the bible the only predicting they ever did was about the birth of the Messiah. Usually they were in the thick of it announcing the mind of God and denouncing corrupt practices.

And contrary to popular opinion, they did not die out in biblical times. They are alive and well and living somewhere close to you today. For prophecy is what God demands of all Christians (speaking up for their faith) and is a gift that is given in special measure to certain chosen individuals.

The word prophet comes from two Greek words that mean to speak on behalf of. So a prophet speaks on behalf of God. And prophets are found in the most unlikely of circumstances. Besides Mrs Blatherthorpe at number 37 there are countless politicians, religious leaders, sports men and women (think of Marcus Rashford), teachers, parents, celebrities and entertainers whose words strike us as God-centred when they speak up publicly about issues that affect our society. But what today's gospel shows us is that the people on Brick Street will never accept Mrs Blatherthorpe because a prophet is rarely accepted in their own territory.

To be keyed-in to prophecy means keeping an ear out for those people who are unafraid of bringing God's word to bear in situations of injustice and exploitation and whose actions support the poor, the vulnerable and the needy. It also means being faithful to our baptismal promise to be prophets ourselves by the way we live our lives, and are prepared in big ways and small to stand up for what is right and what comes from God. Like Mrs Blatherthorpe at number 37. (Author unknown.)



SEA SUNDAY Next week is Sea Sunday when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for Stella Maris (the Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church: envelopes are available. For an appeal talk from Bishop Paul Mason, and a video showing some of what Stella

Maris does, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday. To donate and for more information, please visit: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

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. See the poster and the website.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 4th JULY 2021
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ 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 |
| Mon 5th | Feria | 10.00am | ✠ Mass: Celebrant's Intention |
| Tue 6th | Feria | 10.00am | ✠ Mass: David Arnold Jr RIP <i>(followed by Adoration until 11.30am)</i> |
| Wed 7th | Feria | (H) 10.00am | ✠ Mass |
| Thu 8th | Feria | No Mass | |
| Fri 9th | Feria | 10.00am | ✠ Mass: Jim Kelly RIP |
| Sat 10th | Our Lady | <i>5-5.30pm</i> | <i>Confessions</i> |

✠ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠

Sea Sunday

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Sun 11th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✠ Vigil Mass: A parishioner's wellbeing |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✠ Mass: Brenda Sanders RIP |
| | | 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.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for July:** *that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.*
- **For the victims of the Miami building collapse:** *and for all those suffering the extremes of heat in North America.*
- **For those who have asked prayers;** *for the sick, especially Kieron, Adam, Angela, Paul and Susan; for those who have died recently, especially Natasha Papadopoulou; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.*
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ *Agnes O'Brien, Don Armstrong, James Sinott, Phyllis Russell, Bridget Ledger, Paul Fittock, John Horgan, Giovanna Bartoni, Michael Yorke-Miller and Patrick Lavender.* ✠

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, weekly collection, Easter offering). • **PayPal giving is now available** [here](#) (online edition only!). Please offering include a reference so it's clear how to allocate the funds you have donated.

DIOCESAN CATECHIST ZOOM MEETING This Thursday 8th July, from 7:30pm-9:30pm. This will give catechists the opportunity to meet others, including members of the new Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis, and find out how we can work together to create a missionary diocese. There will also be an opportunity to support fellow catechists through sharing their experiences during this time of pandemic. Catechists are invited to register individually before the meeting. The registration page is available at <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/catechesis-events>.

BUILD a BETTER MARRIAGE An online 'Building a Better Marriage' opportunity is being held on Saturday 10th JULY running from 9am -1pm. The course offered means that you can attend the course from your own living room and there is no group sharing. For further information contact: Carole - Tel: 07983524727 - email: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk.

WORLD DAY for GRANDPARENTS and the ELDERLY The inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly falls on Sunday 25th July. Pope Francis has given it the theme "I am with you always" from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 28: 30). See <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/world-day-grandparents-elderly-2021/> for more information.

GRIEF in LOSS, HOPE in the LORD A retreat for those who have lost a loved one through death. A time to mourn and share with others. Aylesford Priory, 8th-10th October. For more information, please contact the Retreat House 01622 717272 or email enquery@thefriars.org.uk.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL MARRIAGE MASS Saturday 9th October, St George's Cathedral, Southwark at noon. Please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk if you are celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th or 60th wedding anniversary and would like to attend the Annual Marriage Mass.

STOP ABORTION up to BIRTH BECOMING LAW Catholics, and anyone who cares in England and Wales, are urged to write to their MP requesting they vote against an amendment to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill that could see abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth. Right to Life, a charity that defends the right to life of every human being from conception to natural death, has an online submission form that finds your local MP and provides a template letter, that you can edit, to make your views known: <https://righttolife.org.uk/stopabortionuptobirth>.

GLOBAL HUNGER EMERGENCY APPEAL *Covid, Conflict and Climate*. More than 41 million people in 43 countries are teetering on the brink of famine. Without immediate action, men, women and children will lose their lives. This is a global hunger emergency. The Covid-19 pandemic, violent conflict and the climate crisis have all increased global hunger. Now, people in countries including South Sudan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Burkina Faso are facing the very real threat of starvation. Families desperately need food and clean water to survive. If we act now, we can prevent unnecessary deaths. You can donate online at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/global-hunger-emergency-appeal>.

CARE for OUR COMMON PLANET *The Tree Warriors*. Trees are our strongest warriors in the battle against climate change. They lock up carbon, fight flooding and cool our cities. But there are simply not enough of them to tackle the climate emergency. To hit the Government's 2050 carbon net zero target, the UK desperately needs more trees, and it's down to every last one of us.

Five things to do this summer:-

- Plant a new tree in your garden, or encourage your council to plant more trees.
- Teach your children how to plant seeds.
- Give trees as gifts to family members and friends.
- Support the Woodland Trust with your time and donations.
- Get involved in 'Plant for Our Planet'. You can download the toolkit at <https://www.dropbox.com/t/ClkN1Kp7gS1VtSDB>

Bitesize

Learning sleeps and snores in libraries, but wisdom is everywhere, wide awake, on tiptoe.

Josh Billings

SUNDAY MASS

Preface: I of Sundays

Eucharistic Prayer: III

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