



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

✠ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY ✠

11th JULY 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS: SING A SONG OF JUSTICE The visiting preacher told the congregation that their worship was all very fine, but they were so inward-looking that they failed to see on their very church doorstep the sort of needy people they were always singing and praying about. "Take the noise of your songs away from me; I won't listen to the melody of your harps. Instead, let justice roll down like the waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." The local priest, Amaziah, was not thrilled; he told the preacher, Amos, to push off.

Amos was never one to pull his punches. He told it like he saw it. And what he saw was a bunch of people who took refuge in a dangerous complacency. They had a lovely building to worship in; they had the finest of vestments, mellifluous music and all the latest prayers that tripped off the lips. But it all took place in an atmosphere of comfortable self-congratulation.

The constant danger with liturgy is that because it is centred on worshipping God in church, we can end up forgetting about the plight of God's people outside the church door. Of course, true worship requires conversion, and conversion includes our active care and concern for the world's needy. So worship doesn't operate in a vacuum. It presupposes that Christian worshippers are also vigorous in charity, wherever it is required: on our doorstep, in our society and in our world. Our churches would be empty if we turned our services into political rallies. But our songs, our prayers and our symbols speak loudly about the central act of Jesus in setting us free by his death on the cross. Liturgy is about liberation. It proclaims that in water, oil, bread and wine Christ offers all people freedom to live as God intended.

The Eucharist should be the liberating adventure of the whole Church, the sacrament that frees us from our unhealthy self-absorption and melts our self-satisfied cold isolation from the cries of the voiceless. Our worship is in spirit and truth only when it unites us into a bond of believers who agonize for a Church of charity and a world of justice.

So what's the next hymn, then?

(Author unknown.)



SEA SUNDAY Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Today's second collection is for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. Visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday for an appeal talk from Bishop Paul Mason, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work. To donate, 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. Envelopes are also available. Thank you.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 11th JULY 2021
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠

Sea Sunday

Sun 11th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: A parishioner's wellbeing
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Brenda Sanders RIP
Mon 12th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Aileen Howells' welfare
Tue 13th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Paul, Elspeth and the family (followed by Adoration until 11.30am)
Wed 14th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Truda and Joseph Ryans RIP
Thu 15th	St Bonaventure	No Mass	
Fri 16th	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	10.00am	✠ Mass: John Iloenyosi RIP
Sat 17th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Therese Sophie Weedon RIP (FM)
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: In thanksgiving, John Greenrod

MOBILE PHONE found in St Peter's on Wednesday.

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. **Our thanks to those who have offered help.**

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.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE Those who have shown interest will already know that we plan to go to Rome in the May of next year. Let's pray for an agreeable statement from the prime minister this Monday!

CHURCH ROOFS The diocese arranged for an inspection of St Peter's the roof (it involved a cherry-picker and a water canon) and we believe we have solved the mystery of the tiresome leak. We hope to get this fixed before too long. ● We also plan to replace some of the broken Kentish Peg Tiles on the roof at Good Shepherd.

ONE OFF GIFT AID DONATIONS We have a supply of Gift Aid envelopes for one-off donations (e.g. Mass offering, second collections). Please ask Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril if you are in the scheme and need one.

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.*
- **On this Sea Sunday** *for seafarers; may they be sustained in times of loneliness. We thank them for the vital role they play in all of our lives.*
- **For those who have asked prayers;** *for the sick, especially Nelson Macher, Kieron, Adam, Angela, Paul and Susan; for those who have died recently, especially Deacon John Newman; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.*
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ *Winifred Dring, Mary Tipper, John Vanstone, Charlotte Munn, Phillip Weight and William Coombes.* ✠

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.

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 enquiry@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.

ABORTION up to BIRTH Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues at the Bishops’ Conference, has thanked the thousands of people who contacted their MP to register their opposition to an amendment that could have led to abortion on demand in England and Wales. The controversial amendment to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill was withdrawn on Monday, 5th July.



OUR LADY of MOUNT CARMEL *16th July.* The Carmelites were known from early on as “Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.” The title suggests that they saw Mary not only as “mother,” but also as “sister.” The word “sister” is a reminder that Mary is very close to us. She leads us to a new realization that all human beings belong to the family of God. **When such a conviction grows, there is hope that the human race can find its way to justice and peace.**

Bitesize

The road leading to a goal does not separate you from the destination; it is essentially a part of it.

Charles DeLint

SUNDAY MASS

Preface: VII of Sundays

Eucharistic Prayer: III

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