



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

✠ SIXTEENTH SUNDAY ✠

18th JULY 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS: Retreat It's the end of the day and you have been on your feet for the last twelve hours. If one more person makes demands on your good nature you will surely snap. Enough is enough; it's time to retreat. It's when you are feeling this desperate need for your own space that you can perhaps best appreciate the compassion of Jesus in today's gospel.

Exhausted by the demands of the crowds, Jesus and his apostles escaped by boat to find a quiet place to rest. Unfortunately, the crowds worked out where Jesus was off to and beat him to it. Jesus stepped out of the boat to be greeted by the same crowd he had just left behind. He might have been forgiven at this point for snapping, for showing complete exasperation. Instead, Jesus is moved by pity because 'they are like sheep without a shepherd.' These are people who long to be taught, or long to find cures for loved ones. These are people who have no one else to turn to but Jesus, and so Jesus sets about putting their needs before his own.

Jesus is not promoting a work-until-you-drop ethic here. It's important to remember in this story that Jesus was showing his apostles equal compassion. The apostles had just returned from their mission to evangelize. They had travelled many miles, and spent many hours in preaching and in driving out unclean spirits. Jesus' ministry had been timesed by twelve and it didn't take a genius to guess that the small party of men, would suddenly be swamped by excited crowds making hungry demands. Jesus clearly saw that his apostles needed rest and it was for this reason he suggested they make a getaway. We live a lifestyle nowadays where time has become telescoped. We are surrounded by devices and modes of transport designed to save us time, yet we are left with a horrible feeling that somehow, instead of creating more time we have simply ended up living in a fast lane. We work faster, travel faster and eat faster. We rush to fill our lives with more work and yet more work still. We take work home with us from the office and even take our work on holiday with us. Retreating from the world is more important now than ever. We all need time to recharge our batteries both physically and spiritually. We all need time to slow down and decide where our priorities really lie. *(Chapel Bell.)*



SEA SUNDAY Thank you for your offerings for Stella Maris last weekend: those at Mass contributed **£142.49**. • We also banked **£183.40**: the Sunday collection from the red bucket at St Peter's and the wicker basket at Good Shepherd. Our online contributions have increased significantly over recent months. Thank you so much!

PARISH BARBECUE 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. Places are still available.

SUNDAY MASS

Eucharistic Prayer: IV : Mystery of Faith: Save us, Saviour of the world . . .

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th JULY 2021 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✠ 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
Mon 19th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Theresa May's intentions
Tue 20th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Bert and Chiarina Radecke RIP <i>(followed by Adoration until 11.30am)</i>
Wed 21st	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Henry, Eliza and Anne Martin RIP
Thu 22nd	St Mary Magdalene	No Mass	
Fri 23rd	St Bridget	10.00am	✠ Mass: Nelson Macher's wellbeing
Sat 24th	Our Lady	5-5.30pm	Confessions
✠ SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Breda Curtin RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Trixie Hall RIP

COVID-19 ROUTE MAP: STEP 4 GUIDANCE From the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales' statement:

"On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by the government [in England]. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the prime minister said in his most recent statement "The pandemic is not over." Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship."

With this in mind there will be few visible changes in our parish. Many are still anxious and will either continue to stay away from Mass (the obligation to attend Mass will not be reinstated before the first Sunday of Advent) or will wish to maintain their social distance at Mass and wear face coverings. The only change will be that the capacity of St Peter and the Good Shepherd will increase from next week with the removal of taped barriers. However, those not wishing to congregate less than the recommended distance apart will be able to indicate this: from next Sunday, 25th July, people will be able to pick up simple cards with the phrase "Please leave a Space" on entry.

"Indoor congregational singing will be permitted. It is recommended that singing should be phased in gently as part of worship over the summer period and that face coverings should be worn by members of the congregation whilst singing together, until infection levels reduce." We may well introduce choired singing from August, but the custom has been to limit singing during the summer holidays. More information will be forthcoming.

We will continue to be asked to sanitize our hands on entry. As long as the NHS Test, Track and Trace system is in operation, churches should continue to make available the means for people to sign in for acts of worship using the NHS app and the associated QR codes (or other means of attendee identification – i.e. sign in as we are currently doing). For more information see the Bishops' Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/>.

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 those killed and injured in the recent flooding in Germany and Belgium.**
- **For those who have asked prayers** especially Matthew Donnelly and David Hunter ordained to the priesthood this weekend; for the sick especially Nelson Macher, Kieron, Adam, Angela, Paul and Susan; for those who have died recently, especially Deacon Joseph Bennett, Paul Fox and Terence Michael Golding; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ John Vanstone, Constance Elliott, Frank Hampton, Henry Ruffle, Theresa Schreiber, Desmond Baker, Catherine O'Connell, Kathleen Byrne, Marjorie Poole and Dominick Fanning. ✠

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.



St MARY MAGDALENE: 22nd July Poor Mary Magdalene! A prostitute, who is fallen and redeemed? No: not true. Mary Magdalene is mentioned in each of the four gospels in the New Testament, but not once does it mention that she was a prostitute or a sinner. At some point Mary Magdalene became confused with the unnamed sinner from Luke's Gospel (7:36-50). In 1969 the Catholic Church declared that Mary Magdalene was not the penitent sinner of Luke's Gospel. However the image painted for us in medieval times is hard to eradicate from our imaginations.

THE RETREAT ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK 2021 Everyone occasionally feels a need for inner rejuvenation. Whether you want simply to reclaim your inner peace in the midst of a hectic life, or do some soul searching over your life directions, or go deeper into your spiritual life, going on retreat can be a perfect solution.

The Retreat Association publishes a popular resource which includes...

- Information and programmes for 170 Christian retreat centres in the UK and beyond
- Details of courses, networks and associations that promote spirituality and spiritual direction
- Retreats with a theme - including painting, walking, Christmas and Easter
- Retreats for the beginner
- Individually guided retreats and quiet days
- Map pages divided into regions
- An index to all retreat centres

Order your copy online or by post www.retreats.org.uk

CARE for OUR COMMON HOME: Summer Eco Tip:

Green Driving (with apologies to those for whom this is second nature).

Save fuel, save cash and save the planet with greener driving habits. For example:-

- Regularly check your tyre pressure, remove the roof rack and keep windows closed to reduce drag. Remove heavy items from the car that you don't need for the trip, e.g. child's pushchair and golf clubs.
- Driving at 50 mph uses 25% less fuel than 70 mph.
- Harsh acceleration and braking can use up to 30% more fuel and can cause increased wear and tear on the vehicle: think and look beyond the vehicle in front.

Bitesize

We live in a very tense society. We are pulled apart... and we all need to learn how to pull ourselves together.... I think that at least part of the answer lies in solitude.

Helen Hayes