

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

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Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

Webmaster: webmaster@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Parish Website and YouTube:

www.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)

Year B

✠ TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY ✠

12th SEPTEMBER 2021

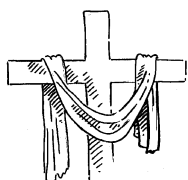
FAITH IN FOCUS: Picking Up Our Crosses Today Peter recognizes Jesus as the Son of God, but he completely fails to grasp the implications. He certainly doesn't understand the necessity for Jesus to die on the cross and he tells him so. Jesus puts Peter straight. "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel will save it." Taking up our crosses is essential to being a Christian; and far from being a burden, it can be the source of huge happiness and fulfilment. Taking up our crosses, means understanding the needs of others, and putting the needs of others first. We need to forget about our own problems and look to the problems of others. We don't have to look far. The news is full of other people's problems at the moment, and it certainly puts our own problems into perspective. Taking up our crosses means imagining how others feel and how we would like to be treated if we were in their shoes. Empathy is key to taking action. Taking up our crosses means giving up our time and our skills and our money for the happiness of others. Jesus didn't need to choose the road to Jerusalem and crucifixion, but he did. In the same way, Christians need to be proactive about choosing their crosses. Do we see the need of others and take action, or do we sit back and leave things to others? Being proactive requires us to be strong, caring and deeply discerning.



There are an estimated **2,100,000,000** Christians on our planet. How very different the world would be if each one of us picked up our crosses.

Chapel Bell

EDUCATION SUNDAY 12th September. For well over one hundred years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales. It is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education. This year we focus on a recovery from two disrupted academic years. We hope and pray that our teachers and our children worldwide will manage to focus on brand new horizons.



THE TRIUMPH of THE HOLY CROSS 14th September. We are called to participate in the struggle against evil in every form: racism, social injustice, oppression, infidelity, dishonesty, and corruption. The Risen Lord wishes to deliver us from all evil. But how? Not by removing every difficulty, but by giving us courage to face it and overcome it. Our sufferings are stepping-stones to victory. We look to the cross as a symbol of triumph over suffering and the promise of eternal life.

MESSAGE for all FLOWER ARRANGERS (or anyone interested in joining us at St Peter's) As promised, we are having a coffee morning on **Thursday 16th September** at 10am in the parish room at St Peter's. Anyone who is interested in flower arranging is welcome to come for coffee, cake and a chat. Covid interrupted our little 'get-togethers' for a while, but we are back... and hopefully safer than before. No pressure - just come along and enjoy meeting up with each other again! Any queries, please phone: Beatrice: 01622 730492 or Shelagh: 07887 656421.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 12th SEPTEMBER 2021 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✠ TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 12th September	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Thomas Gerard Flynn RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Archie and Mary Cram RIP
Mon 13th	St John Chrysostom	10.00am	<i>Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Tue 14th	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	10.00am	✠ Mass: Hilda Bache RIP (followed by Adoration until 11.30am)
Wed 15th	Our Lady of Sorrows	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Fr Christopher O'Brien RIP
Thu 16th	SS Cornelius & Cyprian		No Mass
Fri 17th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Fr Terry Donnelly RIP
Sat 18th	St Edith of Kensing	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 19th September	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Fr Christopher O'Brien RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Maria Bozić, wellbeing
		After Mass	Baptism: Seren Clinton

BROLLIES and BUCKETS Many of you will have noticed the buckets which have occasionally decorated the church floor in the last couple of years. The problem is, we have had a leaking roof which has proved difficult to fix. This means that Fr Geoff has to place the buckets strategically every time we have heavy rain. At last we have found a builder who can fix the problem for us. You may have seen the giant 'cherry picker' and water bowser which they had to call in to do a 'wet test' of the whole roof (no - rain is the 'wrong kind of wet!'), but they identified the problem and have now completed the repairs. Unfortunately, the work (to the tiles, roof gullies and lead work) comes in at just under **£6,000**, but we have a good, sound, dry roof for many years to come! This Covid year has hit our church finances hard, and so you will see us doing some fundraising to help bridge this gap. Never has the Sunday collection and Gift Aid been more important. Perhaps consider signing up to our Gift Aid programme if you haven't already. Thanks for your support!

SAFEGUARDING We have for many years carried out DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checks on everyone who undertakes parish activities involving children or vulnerable adults. The diocese has now asked us to carry out updating checks on all DBS members, and these will in future be repeated every 3 years. We have looked at our activities, and will be contacting everyone who is still active in these roles to arrange the updating of their check. We will only do those we currently need, and may come back a bit later if we need more people to help. Any queries, please contact me, Terry Kinsman, 01622 730119.

CAFOD HARVES FAST *Friday 1st October*. Envelopes for your customary savings are available. ♦ Also information about the COP26 climate talks in November.

SAVE THE DATE! ADVANCE NOTICE 'Death by Paintbrush', a chilling Murder Mystery is coming to St Peter's Parish Hall on Saturday 9th October. Full details will follow in a few weeks' time – except, of course, the identities of the victim and the murderer! To find out whodunnit, put this date in your diary and come prepared to play detective!

COLLECTION Last weekend our door collections at all Masses amounted to **£272.05**. There is a second collection for **Education Sunday this week**.

PARISH FINANCE MEETING This Monday evening at St Peter's.

NEXT WEEKEND The first of four National Mass Counts is to be taken.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for September:** *That we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.*
- **On the twentieth anniversary of '9/11':** *that God soften the hearts of those intent on violence to achieve their ends.*
- **For those who have asked prayers:** *for the sick; for those who have died recently, especially Fr Terry Donnelly CSSp; Nuala Scarisbrick, Martin Loughnane and Michael and Ruth Cowles; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.*
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ *Pauline Lockyer and Albert Nutley.* ✠

ASSISTED DYING BILL This October, an ‘Assisted Dying’ Bill will be debated in the House of Lords. If successful it will allow a terminally ill adult with less than 6 months to live, assistance to commit suicide. The Catholic Church teaches that this represents a crime against human life, we cannot directly choose to take the life of another, even if they request it. The Bishops therefore urge you to **PRAY** that this Bill be defeated, **WRITE** to Peers and MPs expressing concern about this proposed legislation and **SHARE** our resources and those of our allies, in the weeks ahead with family and friends, especially via social media. Resources, which will be updated in the weeks ahead, can be found at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/life-issues/>.

CHRISTIAN GAP YEAR 2021/2022 Christian Gap Year opportunities differ from secular gap year placements, in that the work is related to the Christian faith. These days there are many Christian Gap Year opportunities, which give young people a chance to express their faith in a number of practical ways. These ways may involve administration, youth work, evangelization, working with children, working in the community, etc. Alternatively, the Christian Gap Year could involve having practical duties in a Christian Project in either a Western, or a Third world Country. The term Gap Year implies the duration of twelve months, but many Gap Year opportunities are not that long. Some Gap Year placements are limited to three months, due to visa restrictions, whereas other projects are even shorter. So there’s no reason to think you can’t take advantage of a free year, week or month to spend some valuable time in a gap year programme! Read more at www.year4god.com/.

LITTLE FLOWER PILGRIMAGE The Little Flower Pilgrimage will take place on *Sunday 26th September* at Aylesford Priory and will be led by the Grand Prior. The day will commence with a Gathering Service and Banner Blessing at 12noon. There will time for private prayer before joining together for the Blessing of the Roses on the Rosary Way. The pilgrimage will conclude with Mass at 3pm in Honour of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus. All are welcome.

ARCHBISHOP’S CERTIFICATE The Archbishop’s Certificate (ArchCert) is an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply. Participants will take a two-year journey through the Church’s teaching to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy. The course will commence this October and the cost will be £365 per year. Registration must be completed in advance. Further details: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert>.

FESTIVAL of LEARNING: *Have a Go Month 2021* September is the month we are invited to embrace learning. Leaving school or college is no excuse never to pick up a book again. This month is also a good opportunity for our younger parishioners to help us ‘oldies’ out. Just because someone is the wrong side of 80 doesn’t mean that they wouldn’t enjoy the opportunity to learn how to use an iPad. Whether you have a yearning to learn something new or to pass on one of your skills to a family member, September is traditionally the month to get started.

Bitesize

They gave him a manger for a cradle, a carpenter’s bench for a pulpit, thorns for a crown, and a cross for a throne. He took them and made them the very glory of his career. *W.E. Orchard*

SUNDAY MASS

The following will probably be used:

Preface: II of Sundays

Eucharistic Prayer: II

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