



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

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-FIFTH SUNDAY ✠

19th SEPTEMBER 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS: Success, Power and Wealth If you took a survey out onto the street asking, "Which people would we regard as the most successful?" celebrities like Bill Gates or Simon Cowell might figure highly on the list. Favourite pop idols, film stars, sports people and royalty might be up there too. It seems that we measure success in terms of popularity, glamour, money and power. Even in our own not so famous circles, we strive for status and job promotion. With promotion comes extra responsibility and with that extra responsibility, increased power to our elbow.



The disciples may well have been feeling bemused in today's gospel story. Jesus tells them that man will hand him over to his death. The disciples were probably wondering why Jesus should succumb to this kind of ignominy. After all, wasn't he the Son of God? Couldn't he exercise some power? Who knows, perhaps it was this idea that prompted their conversation on the way to Capernaum. We are told that the disciples were discussing amongst each other, which of them was the greatest. They must have known, deep down, that Jesus would not approve of this discussion, because when Jesus asks them what they were talking about, they fall silent with shame. Jesus places a small child in their midst to teach them a lesson. He is asking them, and us, to accept the child's world as our own. We are asked to accept a world of vulnerability and absence of status. We are asked to take stock. Who do we look up to in our society? Do we look down on those who appear to lack ambition or position? Today we remember that Jesus' way is not of pomp and circumstance, but of servitude and humility. We have to learn that success is not about what we have, but about who we are. *Chapel Bell*

HOME MISSION SUNDAY Each year in the Catholic Church, on the third Sunday of September (**today**), we celebrate Home Mission Sunday – a day when the bishops invite parishes to pray for the mission of the Church in England and Wales, There is a second collection to support the bishops' work of evangelization. The money collected enables us to support parish evangelization. Donate online: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/the-church/catholic-bishops-conference-of-england-and-wales/donate/donate-home-mission-sunday/>.

BROLLIES and BUCKETS Many thanks to those who have already made donations to last Sunday's 'Brolly and Bucket Project' appeal. Our thanks to Tony and Terry for their initiative! At least one donation (£1,000) has been received by Royal Mail. ■ *It never rains...* We are also experiencing problems with ivy invading the gutters at St Peter's hall. We are getting this looked at...

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.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 19th SEPTEMBER 2021 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✠ TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 19th September	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Fr Christopher O'Brien RIP
	Sunday <i>Home Mission Day</i>	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Maria Bozić, wellbeing
		12noon	Baptism: Serena Flora Clinton
		2pm	Baptism
Mon 20th	St Andrew Kim Tae-gön and Paul Chöng Ha-sang, & Companions	10.00am	✠ Mass: Barbara Sugar RIP
Tue 21st	St Matthew	10.00am	✠ Mass: Alf Noakes RIP (followed by Adoration until 11.30am)
Wed 22nd	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Holy Souls
Thu 23rd	St Pius of Pietrelcina	No Mass	
Fri 24th	Our Lady of Walsingham	10.00am	✠ Mass: Freddie Niebergall RIP
Sat 25th	Our Lady	5-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 26th September	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Thomas Finbarr Egan RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: H Charles Keeley RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo

✠ **FATHER CHRIS** Fr Chris O'Brien's funeral will take place at St Vincent's Church, Altrincham, Greater Manchester, at 12.15pm on **Monday 20th September**. Bishop Paul Hendricks will be presiding. ✠ RIP

POST-LOCKDOWN REPORT from the SOCIAL COMMITTEE The Social Committee chaired by Bob Piggott has remained active throughout the duration of the lockdown, despite the constraints of social distancing. It's a tale of modest achievement over adversity. On the 16th March 2020 we had all been told to stop 'non-essential contact', so provisional plans for a Baby Photo competition, Treasure Hunt, Quiz and a Murder Mystery Play either didn't materialise or were just put on hold due to the uncertainty. By autumn 2020 we were already resigned to a 'Lockdown Christmas' but our charity campaign in favour of the Salvation Army 'Crisis at Christmas' broke all parish records in terms of the amount of money raised. 2021 was welcomed in with a Short Story Competition, a Photographic Competition (both with international competitors) and then a Desert Island Discs event. Our slightly mad plan for a Virtual Pet Show were sadly thought to be too complicated. Our 'Half-Christmas / Independence Day' barbecue for June was delayed until August but it was still well attended.

Currently the Social Committee are planning a much delayed Murder Mystery event, a Christmas Quiz, our annual Christmas Appeal and (last but not least) a 'Bucket and Brolly Project' to contribute to the cost of roofing repairs. Donations can be made on this site but are welcome in any form: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/brollyandbucketproject?utm_term=kGVMzG7qe. Thank you to everyone for your support. TB.

PARISH SOCIAL 'Death by Paintbrush': *Saturday 9th October at 7.30pm, St Peter's parish hall.* It is the winter of 1923. The heirs to the late Lord Ernest Rothersfield's estate have realized that the provisions of his will are only valid until the Christmas following his wife's 80th birthday. With the event only weeks away, her family and close friends are gathered at the family house for a family portrait when the Dowager Lady Dorothy Rothersfield announces a change in the will which could leave both of her children disinherited. The family decides something must be done, but are any of the strange family capable of planning, let alone carrying out a murder? The audience will be given pens, paper, accusation sheets and a chance to interrogate the cast as they try to decide 'whodunnit!' Tickets, costing £5 per person, will be on sale after Sunday Masses or ring Jenny on 01622 734908. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

THIS WEEKEND The first of four National Mass Counts will be taken.

COLLECTION Last weekend our door collections at all Masses amounted to **£499.02**. The Education Sunday collection made **£13**. • There is a second collection **this week** for Home Mission (see above).

ADAPT and OVERCOME Shelagh's book about living with Parkinson's is once again available.

MASS at St MICHAEL'S (OLD) CHURCH, EAST PECKHAM *Michaelmas Day, Wednesday 29th September* at 12noon. Please share transport where possible as parking space at the church (postcode TN12 5NG) is limited. Further inquiries by text message to 0755 437 8228.

WORLD DAY of MIGRANTS and REFUGEES The 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated on *26th September* - the last Sunday of the month. The Holy Father has chosen the theme 'Towards an ever wider "we"'. The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) since 1914. It's always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers.

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.

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

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.*
- **For international donors to restart aid to Afghanistan** as the United Nations warn of a "looming catastrophe".
- **For those who have asked prayers:** *for those being baptized this Sunday and for their families; for the sick, especially Amanda; for those who have died recently, especially Freddie Niebergall, Yvonne Plummer, Sylvia Farley and Barbara Sugar; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.*
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ *Letitia Cavendish, Barbara Lutener, David Drozley, Sophie Drozley, Desmond Drake, Alfred Noakes, Anne Keepin, Sarah Callaghan, Giuseppe Nucilli, Kathleen Puttock, Francis Garrett and Harry Keeley.* ✠

UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY For our younger parishioners heading out to different universities, don't forget to check out the chaplaincy. Most universities have a chaplaincy, and they can be a real home from home, which is important if you are feeling out on a limb. They are places where you can pop in for a cup of tea, talk to other students, and talk to the chaplain. A good chaplaincy will also organize social events, and will of course offer daily Mass. Some chaplaincies have a Facebook presence, so you can look it up before you go.

Bitesize

Leadership is action, not position.

Donald H. McGannon

SUNDAY MASS

The following will probably be used:

Preface: VIII of Sundays

Eucharistic Prayer: III

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