

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

✠ TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY ✠

26th SEPTEMBER 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS: IN IT TOGETHER We can't go through life without being part of a group, a club, or an organization. Schools, the workplace, and organized religions are all like being part of a club. Clubs have something in common. When we're in a club we enjoy a sense of belonging, friends, shared values and an agreed way of doing things. But being part of a group also has its dangers. We can tend to see our club as our territory, and woe betide anyone who treads on our patch. We see the newcomer as an outsider.... worse, a mistrusted outsider. A new teacher arrives in school with some radical new views. A new supervisor joins the workplace and changes the coffee breaks. In church, someone arrives from a different parish with their own ideas about how something should be done. We don't like it. Routine gives us a sense of security, and when that routine is changed, particularly by an outsider, we resist. If the outsider is successful at what they do, we resent it even more because we are left feeling threatened. Clubs can be good, but they are not good if we close ranks against someone else working to the same ends.



In today's gospel reading, the disciples complain to Jesus about an exorcist who is working as an outsider to their group. That the exorcist is working successfully is making them feel all the more threatened. Jesus' answer is very plain. "Whoever is not against us, is for us." In other words, if someone is working towards the same end, it doesn't matter whether or not they are in the same 'club', or whether their ways are quite the same as ours.

Jesus' lesson is very relevant to us today. Catholicism is not served by rejecting other religions. Accepting other Christian religions doesn't have to mean a watering down of our own beliefs. God is bigger than any 'club', and by following Jesus' example we are working 'for' each other and not 'against'. *Chapel Bell*

WORLD DAY of MIGRANTS and REFUGEES The 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated today, *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.

ALFRED (FREDDIE) NIEBERGALL RIP Freddie's funeral will take place at 10.30 on Wednesday 13th October at St Peter's. ✠ May he rest in peace. ✠

THIS WEEKEND The second of four National Mass Counts will be taken. *Last week:* 6pm, **24** (110); 8.45am, **12**; 10.30am, **50** (214). The figures in *brackets* represent those joining us on YouTube.

FOOD BANK Many thanks to those who continue regularly to add to our food bank at St Peter's. And thanks to those who from time to time convey items to the depot in Maidstone. They are always gratefully received.

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

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 26th SEPTEMBER 2021 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✠ 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
Mon 27th	St Vincent de Paul	10.00am	✠ Mass
Tue 28th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Giuseppe and Palma Nucilli RIP (followed by Adoration until 11.30am)
Wed 29th	SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Holy Souls
Thu 30th	St Jerome	No Mass	
Fri 1st October	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus • <i>Harvest Fast Day</i>	10.00am	✠ Mass: Yvonne Plummer RIP
Sat 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 3rd October	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Michael Cowie's welfare
	Sunday <i>Rosary Sunday</i>	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Sylvia Farley RIP
		12noon	Baptism: Aoife Ainsworth

COLLECTION Last weekend our door collections at all Masses amounted to **£237.40**. The Home Mission collection made **£61.20**. We also gratefully acknowledge donations to our St Peter's Roof Fund amounting to **£600.00**. Thank you for your generosity!

St PETER'S ROOF You can add to the 'Bucket and Brolly Project' to contribute to the cost of roofing repairs at: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/brollyandbucketproject?utm_term=kGVMzG7qe. Thank you to everyone for your support. ■ Donations continue to come in (see above) and notification has been received concerning online giving through PayPal – some from overseas. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness from so far away! ♦ UK taxpayers are reminded that we can claim gift aid on their donations via Gift Wise. ■ The builders last week soon repaired the hall guttering that was damaged by ivy. Our thanks to Kevin, the builder.

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.

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.



St MICHAEL, St GABRIEL, and St RAPHAEL *29th September.* Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are called saints because they are holy; but they are different from the rest of the saints because they were not human; they were Archangels. Each Archangel, we are told, has a specific mission or an 'essence'. Archangel Michael is the angel of protection. This powerful being of light, whose name means 'Who is like God', has a purpose to protect as the 'defender of the light and goodness'. Gabriel's name means 'the power of God'. Gabriel is the announcer, the communicator of good news. We can ask him to help us be good communicators as he was. Raphael, whose name means 'God heals', is invoked when we need healing, not only for ourselves but for others too.

St JEROME: 30th September The Bible was originally written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. Before the Latin Vulgate there were Old Latin translations which were widely copied, but carelessly and therefore affected the authenticity of the Bible. In 382, to keep the Western Bible free of corruption, Pope Damasus I commissioned Jerome to revise and translate the Bible. • **The Bible Society** Since the Bible is God's divine revelation it makes sense that it should be translated so that everyone may benefit, whatever their dialect. Essentially The Bible Society exists because millions lack the Bible in a language they can understand, in a form they can use or at a price they can afford. However, for the rest of us the Bible Society is an interesting and informative resource, full of historical information and general knowledge. Visit the Bible Society at www.biblesociety.org.uk/.

LITTLE FLOWER PILGRIMAGE The Little Flower Pilgrimage will take place today, *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 HARVEST FAST DAY: Friday 1st October On Family Fast Day, this Friday, you can support people around the world who are dedicating their lives to protecting God's creation. CAFOD's local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. By donating to CAFOD this Family Fast Day you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Donate online through the CAFOD website (<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD>) or by using a CAFOD envelope. Take an envelope from the back of church and put into it whatever you save this Fast Day. Don't forget to fill out the Gift Aid section if you are a UK tax payer. Look for simple menus for this CAFOD Fast day on the website.



FAIR TRADE FARMERS' PETITION We are all invited to sign a petition now to back farmers' challenge to politicians at COP26 climate summit. As global leaders meet at the COP26 UN climate summit, Fairtrade farmers and workers are calling for urgent action. Climate change is already severely damaging the lives and livelihoods of farming communities who grow so much of our food. They are on the frontline of a worsening crisis they have done the least to cause. And deeply unfair trade means many simply cannot earn enough to adapt to rapid changes in weather. That's why 1.8 million Fairtrade farmers and workers are calling on politicians at the COP26 summit to *Be Fair with your Climate Promise*. Sign the farmers' petition at www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/.

BRITISH FOOD FORTNIGHT 'A Modern Day Harvest Festival'. British Food Fortnight, takes place from 18th September to 3rd October, during Harvest Festival, the traditional time for celebrating our food. British Food Fortnight is all about supporting our national and regional cuisine. By supporting local producers we are not only helping the local economy but also doing our bit for the planet. Give local produce a try this fortnight you might change your shopping habits for good.



PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for October:** evangelization - Missionary disciples. That every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.
- **For the safety of our citizens,** especially women, on our streets at night.
- **For those who have asked prayers:** for the sick, especially Amanda; in thanksgiving for prayers answered; for those who have died recently; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- **Anniversaries** (St Peter's Chapel memorial): ✠ Xavier Schreiber, George Colson, Timothy O'Keefe, Rosemary Rumble, Iris Warner, Palmira Nucilli, Joseph d'Arcy, Gerry Chapman, Jeanne Williams, Richard Sullivan and Elizabeth O'Driscoll. ✠

THE ROSARY in OCTOBER (from the diocesan directory): Those who recite five decades of the Rosary in church, or as a family, a religious community, or as a group of the faithful, may gain a plenary indulgence daily; in other circumstances a partial indulgence. A partial indulgence may be obtained daily by reciting the Litany of Loreto and the Prayer to Saint Joseph.

DEANERY CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Parishioners will be aware that the Covid pandemic meant that the Confirmation programme in 2020 was postponed. In an effort to try and catch up with our outstanding Confirmations we will be running a deanery course for young people between November and February, with the Confirmation Mass being towards the end of February. The programme will be run by Deacon Ian and the Confirmation catechists at St Francis' parish. Young people in Year 10 or above who would like to join the programme are invited to email a request for an application form to:

confirmation@stfrancisparish.org.uk. You will then receive the application form, which contains details of all the course dates, to apply to join the programme.

Please note:

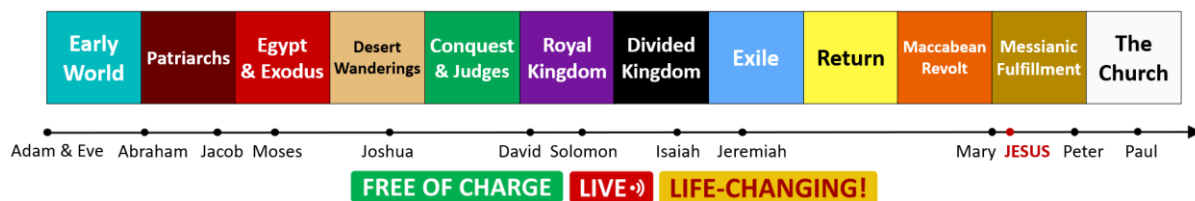
- Applicants must be in school Year 10 or above.
- It is the applicants themselves who have to apply.
- They are required to attend all of the sessions on the programme.
- They must have made their First Holy Communion.
- They will be required to provide a copy of their Baptism Certificate (or proof of Baptism).
- They must live in one of the parishes in Maidstone Deanery - Bearsted, Maidstone, Maidstone South, West Malling and Cranbrook, Goudhurst or Tenterden.

If you have any questions, then please contact the Confirmation mail box as above and someone will get back to you.

Thank you.

Deacon Ian Black.

The Bible Timeline Course



THE BIBLE TIMELINE COURSE

Understand the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, with this **FREE OF CHARGE**, worldwide-famous course delivered online LIVE by Mauro Iannicelli. Starts **Wed 29th September**. Eight Wednesday sessions (7pm-8:40pm). Info & Registration: www.comeandsee.org.

Bitesize

Could Hamlet have been written by a committee, or the Mona Lisa painted by a club?... Creative ideas do not spring from groups. They spring from individuals. The divine spark leaps from the finger of God to the finger of Adam.

Alfred Whitney Griswold

SUNDAY MASS

The following will probably be used:

Preface: VII of Sundays

Eucharistic Prayer: II

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