



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: parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

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 A TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 22nd October 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: TORN? We live our lives torn in many directions. From the moment we wake up there are a hundred and one claims on our time. We have to look after our homes and our families. We have to go to work and deal with a whole range of tasks from the very important to the totally banal. We have to fill in forms, pay bills, make calls, answer emails, maintain the car, and pick up the shopping. If we're very lucky we might just squeeze in a bit of leisure time.

The Pharisees and the Herodians in today's gospel decided to set a trap for Jesus. "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor," they asked, "or not?" They were confident that they had put Jesus in a 'no win' situation. If Jesus said "taxes should not be paid to Caesar," then this was something akin to treason. If however Jesus said that the taxes should be paid, he would be denounced to the strict Jews. Jesus replied, "Give to the emperor, the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's."

It is tempting to imagine that Jesus might have been talking about compartments. We imagine a compartment for things belonging to Caesar, and a compartment for things belonging to God. Of course there could be no such compartments, because as we know everything comes from God, so everything must belong to God. So, had Jesus really answered the question, or merely sidestepped it?

Perhaps today we struggle with Jesus' answer as much as the Pharisees and Herodians must have done. Perhaps we see life as a conflict between God's claim on us and all life's other claims in just the way God's enemies were suggesting. Perhaps we try to put God into a Sunday morning compartment and even that will conflict with the children's football and the D.I.Y. What Jesus tells us today is liberating. Once we learn to allow God into every corner of our lives our lives become whole instead of torn and fragmented. Once we know that our only loyalty is to God there can be no conflict. *(Chapel Bell)*

TODAY is WORLD MISSION SUNDAY World Mission Sunday is your chance to support missionaries and the Church in proclaiming the Gospel of peace to those who suffer around the world. By supporting Missio, the Pope's official charity for overseas mission, you will be sharing the peace and love of Christ with all people by helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief. *Today, your prayers and your donation will help a spirit of peace spread across South Sudan and around the world.* Please give what you can, and if possible, please use the Gift Aid envelopes if you are a taxpayer. Thank you.

MASS COUNT This Sunday there takes place the final national Mass count (at each Mass); **collectors, please note.** (Last week: 6pm, **35**; 8.45am, **24**; 10.30, **98**.)

CHOIR PRACTICE Tuesday **24th October** at St Peter's Church 8pm to 9pm. All welcome. Contact Mary (07792 321215) for further details.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2018 Preparations begin in **December**. Application forms are now available and should be returned by **15th November**. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply; they must live in the parish. If they were not baptized here we need a copy of their baptismal certificate.

✕ **NOVEMBER** ✕ is the month of the Holy Souls when we commemorate and pray for our beloved dead. Envelopes are available for you to enclose a list of your deceased loved ones. These may be placed in the box as you enter church. The envelopes remain in front of the altar throughout the month. Any donations in the envelopes are used as stipends for Masses for the Holy Souls during November and throughout the year. *Remember to Gift Aid your offering if appropriate.*

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2018 This will take place in Liverpool from **7th – 9th September** next year. Each parish is invited to send 2 delegates. If you would like to go to one or more of the events, please pick up an information pack and speak to Fr Geoff or Deacon Cyril. We need to know by the middle of November, if possible.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 22nd OCTOBER 2017
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sun 22nd <i>World Mission Day</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Marie Baroness Redwitz RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: For Missio
Mon 23rd	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Fr Seamus Flynn RIP
Tues 24th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 25th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 26th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Fri 27th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: In reparation for abortion after 50 years
Sat 28th	SS Simon and Jude	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

THIRTIETH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sun 29th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Mgr Augustine Hoey RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP

CHRISTMAS QUIZ *Sing-along and fish and chips supper.* It's not too early to start putting important dates in your Christmas Diary! One of the parish's favourite social events is our annual family Christmas Quiz with fish/sausage and chips supper, followed by a sing-a-long, led by Bob Piggott, of all those Christmas songs we know so well. The date this year will be Saturday **2nd December** at 7pm. In St Peter's Hall. We have been able, once again, to hold the cost of tickets at £8 each or £20 per family (2 adults plus 2 children), and tickets will go on sale next week after Masses or you can contact Ian on 736811. We are expecting this event to be a sell-out, as in past years, so please let Ian know as soon as possible if you would like tickets. All profits from the quiz and the raffle will be donated to the Maidstone Churches' Christmas Appeal for the Homeless.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for October – that all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.**
- **For the Rohingya people fleeing persecution in Burma and for all those who are helping to resettle them in Bangladesh.**
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes** especially *Elsie Hampshire and David Smith; for those who have died recently Doreen Botelho and Fr Seamus Flynn; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and for the intentions on the notice board. For Fr Liam Gallagher, being inducted this week as parish priest of St Francis', Maidstone.*
- **Anniversaries this week (from St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial):** ✕ *Ronald Macklin, Michael Horgan, Peter Barratt, Denis Macklin, Renata Menegatti-Regai and Valerie Tipper.* ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£454.01** (Gift Aided, **£241.56**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£149.00**). ♦ **This Sunday**, World Mission Sunday, there is a retiring collection for **Missio**, the Church's official charity for overseas mission (see above). Envelopes are available. ♦ We made a profit for church funds of **£148** at the Wacky Races event 2 weeks ago. Thank you everyone!

ABORTION ANNIVERSARY 8.7 Million abortions have taken place since the abortion act was passed in 1967. On Friday **27th October**, the 50th anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act, please join the Good Counsel Network in praying and fasting for the end of abortion. As well as praying and fasting wherever you are, please consider coming to an all-night vigil of prayer **27th and 28th October**, at St James' Catholic Church, George Street, London, W1U 3QY. For further information please see: www.goodcounselnetwork.com

CATHOLIC LEGACY WEEK, 5th – 11th NOVEMBER Gifts in your Will are a wonderful way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission, and help meet the needs of future generations. Do please consider gifts to the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your Will. For more information pick up a leaflet, contact Your Catholic Legacy on 020 7095 5370, see <http://www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk/>, or contact Adrian Radford, the Diocesan Financial Controller, email adrian.radford@finance-rcdsouthwark.org.

POSSIBLE ECONOMY PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LAND Special Pilgrimages Ltd are considering putting on an extra pilgrimage next year (**7th-14th August**). At this point, they are seeking the level of interest and hope to get 20 or more people. The cost is expected to be £900 per person based on sharing a double/twin room, and includes

breakfast and evening meal. Rooms have air conditioning. Led by a priest. For more information, please email David Carter on david.b.carter@btinternet.com or speak to him after Saturday evening Masses.