



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

Contact us:

Parish Priest: Reverend 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

More information:

Parish Website: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Diocesan Website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

The Catholic Church in England and Wales: www.catholicchurch.org.uk

Prayer: www.life4seekers.co.uk; www.holyspiritinteractive.net

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)

2nd November 2014

ALL ✕ SAINTS



FAITH IN FOCUS The first reading focuses us for today's solemnity. In the Book of Revelation, St John reports a vision of "a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language". This is Good News. Salvation has come not only for Israel, but for the Gentiles as well. Here is the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham, that by his seed all the nations of the world would bless themselves. The Church celebrates many famous Christians on their individual memorials, but today she praises God for all his "holy ones," his saints. That is the title St Paul preferred when he addressed his congregations. Divinized by baptism, they were already "saints" by the grace of God. They awaited, however, the day when they could "share in the inheritance of the saints in light". And so do we, as the Scriptures give us reasons for both celebration and hope. In our second reading, St John tells us that to be "saints" means to be "children of God", and then he adds: "and that is what we are". Note that he speaks in the present tense. Yet John also says that we have unfinished business to tend to. We are already God's children, but "what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed." Thus we work out our salvation: "Everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ". We do this as we share the life of Christ, who defined earthly beatitude for us. We are "blessed," he says, when we are poor, when we mourn, when we are persecuted for his sake. It is then we should "Rejoice and be glad, for our reward will be great in heaven". Until then, we pray with the psalmist: "Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord". Salvation has come through Abraham's seed, but it belongs to all nations. For "the Lord's is the earth and its fulness; the world and all its peoples".
Author unknown



BLESSING of GRAVES This afternoon (Sunday) with Holy Family and St Francis parishes at Sutton Road cemetery at 2.30. *Sorry for the short notice.*



30th ANNIVERSARY We will be concluding the celebrations to mark our 30th Anniversary with a Mass celebrated by our first parish priest, Bishop John Hine. Mass will start at 7pm this **Tuesday, 4th November**, which is the actual date of the consecration of St Peter's Church in 1984 by Archbishop (now Emeritus) Michael Bowen. After Mass there will be light refreshments in the parish hall. If you can supply a plate of 'finger food' for the buffet, it would help enormously with the catering. Please see Anne Hayden or sign your name on the list on the parish notice board. Thank you.

YOUTH GROUP Back again this Monday, **3rd November**, 7pm: *Board Games and Hot Dogs*: we make the bread rolls ourselves and create some unusual hot dogs - and eat them of course! We welcome young people aged 10 – 15; older teenagers welcome to join in as young leaders. ✕ National Youth Sunday is 23rd November, feast of Christ the King; the theme is 'How Happy Are You?' See www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk.

CHOIR NEWS If you are able to help with music for our anniversary Mass this Tuesday, **4th November**, please talk to Bob or Erika. Next rehearsal, **Tuesday 25th November**, 8pm. All are welcome. Thank you.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 2nd NOVEMBER 2014 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ ALL SAINTS ✕			
Sun 2nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Francis & Margaret Almeida RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Christy Whitnell RIP
Mon 3rd	COMMEMORATION of ALL The FAITHFUL DEPARTED	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
		7.00pm	✕ Mass: Jimmy and Elish O'Rawe RIP
Tues 4th	DEDICATION of St PETER'S	7.00pm	✕ Mass: For all parishioners, living and dead
Wed 5th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 6th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: David and Nancy Mendes RIP
Fri 7th	Dedication of the Cathedral	10.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Sat 8th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
The DEDICATION of THE LATERAN BASILICA <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>			
Sun 9th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: James Stevens RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Donal Coakely RIP
		10.30am	✕ Requiem Mass: For the dead of all wars

MASS COUNT Last week there were **50** on Saturday evening; on Sunday morning there were **17** at Harrietsham and **68** at St Peter's.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for November:** *That all who suffer loneliness may experience the closeness of God and the support of others; and that young seminarians and religious may have wise and well-formed mentors.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially Margaret Moses; Pierre Niebergall, Cyril Adam and Barbara Casey; for those recently dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.
- **For all those affected by the troubles in Jerusalem;** we ask that all be kept safe and that international dialogue and co-operation will bring about a lasting peace.
- **For the consecrated lay people of our diocese** and for all those who have chosen to embrace the single life. May their celibate witness be a sign to us of God's Kingdom and an opportunity for them to serve more generously.

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£383.12** (£253.61 was Gift Aided). ♦ **Next Sunday** there will be a collection for the **Archbishop's Diocesan Administration Fund** which helps meet the cost of the central administration of the diocese.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2015 Preparations begin in January. Application forms will soon be available. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply.

DEANERY MASS for DECEASED CLERGY At St Thomas More, West Malling, on Tuesday **11th November** at 12noon.

CELEBRATE YOUR MARRIAGE An invitation to married couples to explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into their communication; it also reinforces the call of the Church to married life. It's an opportunity, with informal guidance, for couples to discuss privately the highs and lows of marriage. It takes place on Saturday, **15th November**, at St Teresa's Church Hall, Ashford, Kent, from 9.45am to 4.30pm and costs £25 per couple. Booking is essential; please ring Phil Pond on 020 8651 2477 to book or for more information.

CHRISTMAS There have been requests to change the timing of the Christmas 'Midnight' Mass. In view of this and since what was termed 'Midnight' Mass is, in the present Missal, referred to as Mass 'During the Night', it was agreed at a recent meeting of the Pastoral Committee that our **Mass During the Night** will be at **10.30pm** this year. Hopefully this will attract more worshippers. ★ Our pre-Christmas carol service will be on

Sunday 21st December at 6pm. ★ See the attached for details of our 'It's almost Christmas' [indeed almost Advent] Social on **29th November**.

The PILGRIM November's issue of the diocesan newspaper is now available.

DEANERY NEWS Archbishop Peter has appointed **Canon Luke Smith** as Dean of Maidstone.