



# 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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Diocesan Website:** [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

**The Catholic Church in England and Wales:** [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)

**Prayer:** [www.life4seekers.co.uk](http://www.life4seekers.co.uk); [www.holyspiritinteractive.net](http://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)

9th November 2014

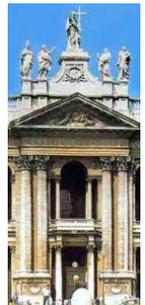
DEDICATION of The LATERAN BASILICA

✿ Remembrance Sunday ✿



**MOTHER and HEAD of all the Churches of the City and the World** Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. The Basilica of St John Lateran is the cathedral of Rome. This is not St Peter's, but it is the Pope's cathedral. Also called the Church of Holy Saviour or the Church of St John Baptist, it was the baptism church of ancient Rome. It was built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324. This feast became a universal celebration in honour of the basilica called "the mother and mistress of all churches of Rome and the world" (*omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput*) as a sign of love for and union with the See of Peter.

In fact, this basilica was the first to be built after Emperor Constantine's edict, in 313, granted Christians freedom to practise their religion. The emperor himself gave Pope Miltiades the ancient palace of the Laterani family, and the basilica, the baptistery, and the patriarchate, that is, the Bishop of Rome's residence, where the Popes lived until the Avignon period, were all built there. The basilica's dedication was celebrated by Pope Sylvester around 324 and was named Most Holy Saviour; only after the 6th century were the names of St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist added, and now is typically denominated by these last two. Initially the observance of this feast was confined to the city of Rome; then, beginning in 1565, it was extended to all the Churches of the Roman rite. The honouring of this sacred edifice was a way of expressing love and veneration for the Roman Church, which, as St Ignatius of Antioch says, "presides in charity" over the whole Catholic communion (Letter to the Romans, 1:1). In the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: *Today's feast celebrates a mystery that is always relevant: God's desire to build a spiritual temple in the world, a community that worships him in spirit and truth (cf. John 4:23-24). But this observance also reminds us of the importance of the material buildings in which the community gathers to celebrate the praises of God. Every community therefore has the duty to take special care of its own sacred buildings, which are a precious religious and historical patrimony. For this we call upon the intercession of Mary Most Holy, that she help us to become, like her, the "house of God," living temple of his love.* (Benedict XVI, Angelus Address, 9th November, 2008.)



**30th ANNIVERSARY** Well done, those of you who were able to get to our celebration Mass last Tuesday at St Peter's (there were 60 in the congregation); and thank you to all those who contributed to the liturgy, the music, the flowers and the celebration afterwards. It was a very fitting celebration and Bishop John was delighted to preside and share so many memories with us.

**YOUTH GROUP** Monday 10th November, 7 - 8.30pm: **GUESS THE BABY!** Please bring a baby picture of yourself, thank you! 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](http://www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk).

**CHOIR NEWS** Sung Mass, Christ the King, **Sunday 23rd November**. Next rehearsal, **Tuesday 25th November**, 8pm. All are welcome. Thank you. ✿ MULLED WINE and CAROLS: **Tuesday 9th December**, 8pm at St Peter's; *all are welcome!*

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 9th NOVEMBER 2014**  
**(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

**The DEDICATION of THE LATERAN BASILICA**  
*Remembrance Sunday*

Sun 9th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: James Stevens RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Donal Coakely RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Requiem Mass: For the dead of all wars
Mon 10th	St Leo the Great	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: O'Rawe family
Tues 11th	St Martin of Tours	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Holy Souls (box)
Wed 12th	St Josaphat	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
Thu 13th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 14th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Holy Souls (box)
Sat 15th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
<b>THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY</b> <i>Prisons Week</i>			
Sun 16th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: James and Gladys Marie Grogan RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Kathleen and Anthony McParland RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Joey Fitzpatrick and Kath Middlehurst

**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 the families who, today, remember the self-sacrifice of the few who laid down their lives** for the many so that others might live in peace and security. We particularly recall those who have died in modern warfare and those whom they left behind.
- **For the children of our diocese** who are preparing for their first Holy Communion; May they learn always to put their trust in God who will never abandon them or let them down.

**Thank you:** the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£363.84** (£217.10 was Gift Aided). ♦ **This Sunday** there is a collection for the **Archbishop's Diocesan Administration Fund** which helps meet the cost of the central administration of the diocese. ♦ Prisons week is from **16th to 22nd November**. If you would like to make a donation to the Prison Advice and Care Trust ('pact'), which is supported by the Archbishop, please pick up an envelope. ♦ We recently sent **£278.60** to CAFOD, the result of our Harvest Fast Day. See the thank you letter.

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

**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.

**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.

**DAY for READERS** St Andrew's, Tenterden, 10.30-1.30, Sat. **29th November**, led by Fr David Gibbons.

**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**. ★ We are taking bookings for our 'It's almost Christmas' Social on **29th November**. Raffle tickets for our draw are also now available.

**The PILGRIM** November's issue of the diocesan newspaper is now available: in it you will find a *brief* report on our recent flower festival – disappointingly, no pictures...