



# 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)

**Year A OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 23rd November 2014**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: ALPHA AND OMEGA** We give Jesus many names: Son of Man, Son of God, Messiah, Rabbi, Lord, King, Alpha and Omega. None of them are middle of the road titles. They all proclaim our belief that Jesus holds sway over the whole of creation, that he is the be-all and end-all of what matters in life. They announce that Jesus is God in our midst, the Universal King.

And so the feast of Christ the King concludes the 52 weeks of the Church's year and today sums up Christ's teaching with the parable of the sheep and goats. What is it saying? It is telling us that we cannot claim to love God if we do not love each other. It lets us know that each other includes more than the people we like; it encompasses the least "important" people around us. And it is about basic and practical action.

People who are hungry, thirsty, strangers and refugees, homeless, those without adequate provision to live, those who are sick and those who are imprisoned. These are the all-inclusive categories that Jesus uses to let us know that no one falls outside the claim of our charity. We are to love until it hurts.

But the second aspect of today's gospel is one which strikes either joy or terror. The type of kingdom we each create here on earth is the one we will live in for eternity. It can be the kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace. Or it can be full of goats. *Author unknown*

**YOUTH GROUP** Monday 24th November 7 - 8.30pm: **Art and Craft for Christmas; 1st December: bowling; please book and pay.** We welcome young people aged 10 – 15; older teenagers welcome to join in as young leaders. ✨ Today, **National Youth Sunday**, we are asked to make a point of welcoming, encouraging and celebrating the young people around us. The theme for this year poses the question 'How happy are you?' It is intended to enable a reflection on how we can find true and lasting happiness. The postcards to be given to young people respond to this question with 'Be Attitudes', inspired by the Beatitudes in Matthew's gospel. How can you take part in making the most of this opportunity to reach out and bless our young people? Your prayers for young people are really important and you are welcome to take postcards to give to young people you know. Please visit [www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk](http://www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk).

**CHOIR NEWS** Sung Mass **today**, Christ the King. Next rehearsal, **this Sunday** after 10.30 Mass; **Tuesday 25th November**, 8pm. All are welcome. Thank you. ✨ **MULLED WINE** and **CAROLS: Tuesday 9th December**, 8pm at St Peter's; *all are welcome!*

**PASTORAL TEAM** meeting this Wednesday, 7.30pm.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2015** Preparations begin in January. Application forms are **now available**. Parents who live in the parish with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply. A meeting will be called once we have received back the applications.

**BENEDICTION** There will be Rosary and Benediction at St Peter's next Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, at 3pm. Please try to join us as a way of beginning this short but prayerful *period of devout and expectant delight* (Roman Missal, p 135) in the run up to Christmas. ✨ **'Walk with Me'**, a journey of prayer for Advent and Christmas is available. It is prefaced by Archbishop Peter and costs £1.

**DAY for READERS** St Andrew's, Tenterden, 10.30-1.30, next Saturday **29th November**, led by Fr David Gibbons from the Centre for Catholic Formation.



**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 23rd NOVEMBER 2014  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

**✕ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (A) ✕  
National Youth Sunday**

Sun 23rd	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Barry Smith RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Deceased members, Catenians
		<b>2.30pm</b>	Baptism: Jessica Stafford
Mon 24th	St Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: Deceased members: Murtagh and Brennan family and friends
Tues 25th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
Wed 26th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Holy Souls (November lists)
Thu 27th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Kathleen Byrne RIP
Fri 28th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Holy Souls (November lists)
Sat 29th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

**FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (B)**

Sun 30th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret and Valerie Tipper RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Thomas Byrne RIP
		<b>3.00pm</b>	Rosary and Benediction

**CHRISTMAS** \* We are taking bookings for our 'It's almost Christmas' Social next Saturday, **29th November**. \* Raffle tickets for our draw are also now available. \* Our pre-Christmas Carol Service will be on **Sunday 21st December at 6pm**. \* **Christmas Mass During the Night** ('Midnight Mass') will be at **10.30pm** this year on 24th December.

**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 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 the young adults of our diocese;** *that they will make space for God in their lives and that their hearts may be open to his will.*
- **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.*

**Thank you:** the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£391.51** (£235.99 was Gift Aided). ♦ This week there is a retiring collection for the **Catholic Youth Service**, an agency of the Bishops' Conference promoting and coordinating youth work. ♦ **Next week** there will be a retiring collection for the **Maintenance of St George's Cathedral**. St George's is the mother church of the diocese; this collection helps to meet the cost of the upkeep of the cathedral.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS at St PETER'S** There will be a large Christmas Card/Poster at St Peter's again this year. Parishioners are invited to sign the card for the festive season to fellow parishioners instead of sending individual Christmas cards. All donations will go the Maidstone Homeless Night Shelter Appeal. Please make your donation using the secure collection box provided this year.

**ADVENT HOPE SERVICE** Tuesday 2nd December at Holy Cross Bearsted at 7.30pm: Christian Aid will be holding their Kent Advent Hope service. The service will feature the guest speaker Stephen Ngugi, who will be speaking about the organisation's work with expectant mothers in Kenya, the subject of this year's Christmas appeal. Those who plan to come are asked to get a (free) ticket in advance available from the southeast team at Christian Aid [southeast@christian-aid.org](mailto:southeast@christian-aid.org), or [Hjudges@christian-aid.org](mailto:Hjudges@christian-aid.org).

**ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER** St Simon Stock Catholic School are seeking to appoint a person to develop the Catholic life of the School. See poster.