



Parish of St Peter, Bearsted
and
The Good Shepherd, Harrietsham
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

Years A B C

ALL ✕ SAINTS

1st November 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: BLESSED EXISTENCE? It's not how we live that makes us saints. It's how Christ lived for us, how he died and rose again for us. So today's feast is not about our trying to become saints. It's about focussing on what Christ has done and the fact that we are already called saints by him due to our baptism. We are incorporated into the holy people that are his Church. We've already taken our place in the line of God's saints. You'd think, wouldn't you, that being a saint would be a blissful experience? Yet we seem to have all the same problems that non-believers have. We mourn, we suffer and we find it hard to make ends meet just like everyone else. Perhaps we shouldn't be so surprised at this. After all it's exactly what Jesus told us in the Beatitudes: saints are those who mourn, who hunger and thirst for justice, who are abused and persecuted. Do you recognise your life in this? You should certainly recognise there what happened to Christ in his earthly life. In a world that looks for instant gratification, whether it's fifty-nine minute dry cleaning or drive-through fast food restaurants, the feast of All Saints teaches us a lesson in perseverance. Through the Spirit, God is fashioning us slowly into the saints we are intended to be, as long as we let him. This means that we bear whatever crosses come our way, secure in the belief that we are promised the life that God has prepared for us from the beginning of time. But letting God mould us into saints takes a lifetime of maturing, a lot of patience and much starting over again. As we make this journey to our heavenly home we have the inspiration of those who have already completed their journey and now enjoy God's glory in God's holy city, what we call the heavenly Jerusalem. We hope that one day we will meet up with them there to share their joy and see God face to face. In the meantime we celebrate today's feast, thanking God for what Christ has done for us and asking that we may become more and more responsive to the Spirit who prompts us to grow in holiness. *Author unknown.*



✕ **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.* ✕ **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.*

MASS COUNT Last week there were **32** on Saturday evening; on Sunday morning there were **24** at Harrietsham and **67** at St Peter's. • Average Sunday Mass attendance: **144**

TRADCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS Please consider buying your Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards from our Traidcraft stall. There is a large selection of cards available and some particularly lovely religious ones! There is a catalogue and order form at the table near the door. Patrick Harrison will place orders with our Traidcraft suppliers and will be available most Sunday mornings if you want to discuss your requests.

IN ADVANCE The annual mission appeal will this year be given by Fr John Roche of the St Patrick's Missionary Society, over the weekend of **28th and 29th November**. † Bible Sunday is on Second Sunday of Advent, **5th and 6th December**. It highlights the importance of the sacred scriptures in Christian living; we will be asking our Ministers of the Word (Readers) to renew the commitment to their ministry that weekend. If you feel you would like to offer your service as a Minister of the Word please let Fr

Geoff or Deacon Cyril know. • **Year of Mercy:** *Walk with Me* and a *Pilgrimage Companion* available - £1

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 1st NOVEMBER 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ ALL SAINTS ✕			
Sun 1st	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Basil Newton Parsons RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Deceased Catenians
Mon 2nd	COMMEMORATION of ALL The FAITHFUL DEPARTED	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
		7.00pm	✕ Mass: Carmel McCarthy RIP
Tues 3rd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Wed 4th	St Charles Borromeo	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: A Special Intention
Thu 5th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Fri 6th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Sat 7th	Dedication of St George's	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY ✕ <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>			
Sun 8th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Colman McGrath RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Audrey McCreery RIP
		10.30am	✕ Requiem Mass: For the dead of all wars
		12noon	Baptisms: Finley and Oscar Poulton

each.

JUSTICE & PEACE A meeting of this ecumenical group will be held at St Peter's this **Tuesday** evening.

DEANERY MASS for DECEASED CLERGY St Thomas More, West Malling, **Tuesday 10th November**, 12noon.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2016 Preparations begin in **January** with an initial parents' meeting in **December**. Application forms will soon be available. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply. Parents: please keep checking the newsletter for further information.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for November:** *that pastors of the Church, with profound love, may accompany their flocks and enliven their hope.*
- **For all the sick** especially Barbara Casey and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Ignatius Botelho, for the victims of the nightclub fire in Romania; and for all our beloved dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **For the holiness of all those called to love Jesus** with undivided hearts by living the Beatitudes as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life.
- **For young people** that they may recognise the sacredness of human life and that love may replace violence in their lives. We pray especially for the young boy from Aberdeen who was stabbed to death, and for his family.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£423.37** (Gift Aided, **£234.05**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£134.00**). ♦ An additional **£107** came in for **Missio**. ♦ **Next Sunday** there will be a retiring collection for the **Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration**.

GIFT AID Parish Gift Aid envelopes have recently been used to make donations to the CAFOD Fast Day Appeal. Unfortunately these are unacceptable as CAFOD is unable to claim the tax back because there is no formal declaration of the address, and that the donor is a tax payer. This situation applies to any collection that is not specifically for Southwark Diocesan purposes. Collections made, for example, for Easter and Advent flowers or for Mass intentions can be Gift Aided by using spare envelopes in your pack and appropriately marked. *Ian Fraser. Parish Treasurer*

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE Saturday **7th November** at St Teresa's, Ashford. See poster.

PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust.) An invitation to come and see the opportunities to volunteer to help those in prison, prisoners' families, and ex-offenders. The Catholic prison charity Pact works in several prisons across London and relies heavily on volunteers to help those in need. **Saturday 14th November**, 10.00am – 2.30pm Westminster Cathedral Hall. For more information contact: prisonsweek2015@prisonadvice.org.uk, or call 020 3031 6953.