



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

Year B

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

8th November 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: GIVING At Sunday lunch the family were moaning about what had happened at church. The priest's sermon was rubbish, the choir out of tune and the church cold. Then the youngest child silenced everyone by saying, "Still, it wasn't bad for only £1."

The episode about the widow's mite teaches us a lot about giving. First of all there's the question of what we give. Obviously the amount is not the most important aspect of giving because it's relative. The widow put two coins worth a penny into the collection whereas the richer people dwarfed her contribution by the size of their donations. But presumably we should expect richer people to provide more revenue. Clearly, the amount given may bear no relationship to the wealth of the person. And Jesus pointed out to his disciples that in fact the widow had given much more than all the others. Secondly, there's the business of how we give. When we see some sort of appeal for helping children or providing food and drink to people struck by famine, how do we react? Do we begrudgingly put our hands in our pockets and cough up as little as we can without seeming miserly? When envelopes drop through our doors asking for money for charity, what do we feel like? God loves a cheerful giver, according to St Paul, but sometimes we give begrudgingly. The widow could have kept one of her two coins but she gave willingly. And she gave everything she had. Thirdly, there's the issue of why we give. Some people give things to churches and then have a plaque made to let everyone know that they are the donor. Such recognition has already been rewarded. But there's another sort of recognition: reverse recognition. We can give out of recognition of what we ourselves have been given. We give because we are conscious of being blessed by God in so many ways and our giving back is just a token of our gratitude. God gave his only Son and his only Son gave his life for us. So giving implies a what, a how and a why. And by willingly giving her all, the widow got all three of them right.

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.*

IN ADVANCE Benediction and Litany of the Sacred Heart on the feast of Christ the King, **22nd November**. 3pm at St Peter's. • 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 the 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 Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril know. • **Year of Mercy**: Mass at St Francis for the opening of the Holy Year, 7.30pm, Tuesday **8th December**. *Walk with Me* and a *Pilgrimage Companion* available - £1 each.

TALKING IT OVER A parishioner was recently bemoaning the fact that there seems to be rather a lot of *chatter* before Sunday Mass begins at St Peter's, leaving those who wish to *pray* before Mass thinking they've come to the wrong place. On holiday recently I was taken by the approach of the new parish

priest who was experiencing something similar: 'Before Mass,' he suggested, 'we talk to God; after Mass

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 8th NOVEMBER 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY ✕ ☼ Remembrance Sunday ☼			
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
Mon 9th	Dedication of Lateran Basilica	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Charles Walsh RIP
Tues 10th	St Leo the Great	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Wed 11th	St Martin of Tours	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Thu 12th	St Josaphat	7.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Fri 13th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Sat 14th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY ✕			
Sun 15th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: John Donnelly RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Gienek Parecki RIP

we talk to *one another*'. A point for us all to ponder? *Fr Geoffrey*.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2016 Preparations will be on Friday afternoons, begin **8th January** with an initial parents' meeting **4th December**. Application forms are now available from Fr Geoffrey and must be returned by **29th November**. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply.

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 Stephen Hannant and Barbara Casey and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for Finley and Oscar, being baptized this Sunday; for those recently dead, for all those whose anniversaries occur about now and for all our beloved dead; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **That those called to serve the Lord and his people** as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life will be blessed with holy zeal in their prayers and apostolates.
- **On this Remembrance Sunday**, for all those who have died in war; for those known to us and for the countless numbers who are unknown: may they rest in peace, and may their memory inspire us to work for peace in our day.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£591.42** (Gift Aided, **£341.50**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£134.00**). ♦ **This Sunday** there is a retiring collection for the **Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration**. This collection helps meet the cost of the central administration of the diocese.

COFFEE AFTER MASS We customarily serve coffee after Mass every Sunday at St Peter's, but our ability to continue to offer this service is dependent on volunteers. **If you can help please let us know.**

GIFT AID Parish gift aid envelopes can only be used for diocesan collections. Any collection that is not specifically for Southwark Diocesan purposes will have its own charitable status and will request details from the donor accordingly. 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.

A REQUEST On **Tuesday 17th November**, Vigil of the Dedication of the Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting see www.goodcounselnetwork.com.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ Saturday **28th November**, 7pm in the hall at St Peter's. Tickets, along with raffle tickets for our Christmas Draw, are available after Mass (or ring 736811).

ADVENT APPEAL 2015 This year's Advent Appeal will be in aid of The Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter. The Winter Shelter offers a warm welcome overnight for homeless people during the coldest months. Envelopes will be attached to newsletters w/e **29th November**. Please return by the end of Advent. Thank you.