



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

**Year B OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 22nd November 2015**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: The Truth the Whole Truth and Nothing But the Truth**

A television interviewer tries to elicit the truth from a politician. We recognise of old the politician's strategies for avoiding the interviewer's questions. We are called to do jury service and determine to get to the bottom of the case, but suddenly everyone's version of events is slightly different. We pick up on a charged atmosphere at home, but when we quiz our children or spouse, we are met with evasion and equivocation. The opposite of truth is not always a lie. Truth can be avoided, twisted, disguised, or simply not recognised. One thing is for sure though: we all have some kind of sixth sense for knowing when we are not getting the truth. That's why it's so refreshing and so powerful when somebody gets up and speaks a simple truth from the heart. The truth makes us sit up and listen. Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when he told Pilate, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."



Standing in front of Pilate, Jesus doesn't back down or compromise the truth, because the truth is too important. The trouble with earthly kingdoms is that the truth is not always of paramount importance. In earthly kingdoms the truth gets in the way of our personal agendas. In our quest for territory, power, resources and a comfortable lifestyle, the truth takes second place. We might think that we are truthful people and that we never tell lies, but it is all too easy to live a lie without admitting it, even to ourselves. Pilate was not able to understand the kingdom Jesus alluded to, and he was not able to see Jesus as king. Pilate failed to recognise the truth.

Today's challenge is to recognise truth in all of life's circumstance, to stand up for the truth in all of life's difficulties, and to live by the truth to the best of our ability.

*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.*

**BENEDICTION and LITANY of THE SACRED HEART** on the feast of Christ the King, **today (Sunday), 22nd November, 3.30pm** at St Peter's.

**THE ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL** next weekend, **28th and 29th November**, given by Fr John Roche of the St Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers [<http://www.kilteganfathers.org/>]). Fr John worked in Malawi for many years, as well as Nigeria and Kenya. He will be promoting their magazine AFRICA.

**IN ADVANCE** We begin to webcast our Sunday Masses from St Peter's (technology permitting) **next weekend**. † 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.

**PARISH PASTORAL TEAM** If you would like to join this group, which meets occasionally to discuss parish events, please have a word with Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. This includes those who attend Mass at both Good Shepherd and St Peter's. Thank you to those who have already come forward.

**TRAIDCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS** Last chance to place an order for cards or other Christmas items. If you have placed an order it should be waiting for you.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 22nd NOVEMBER 2015**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

Sun 22nd	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Kathleen and Anthony McParland RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP
		3.30pm	Benediction and Litany of the Sacred Heart
Mon 23rd	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: Delost, Turner, Schumann & others
Tues 24th	St Andrew Dung Lac & Companions	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Wed 25th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Betty Harris RIP
Thu 26th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 27th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Sat 28th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (C)** ✕

Sun 29th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Ann Dower RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Carmel McCarthy RIP

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2016** Preparations will be on Friday afternoons, and will begin with a session for both parents and children at 3.45pm on **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 the people of Paris,** as they pick up the pieces of their lives after the recent attacks on their families and friends; may God's comfort sustain them in their grief; and for all victims of terrorism, throughout the world; may governments and those with authority or influence work together to bring a lasting worldwide peace.
- **For all the sick** especially Terry Kinsman, Stephen Hannant and Barbara Casey and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; 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 Christ the King** will draw all men and women to the truth of their vocations by listening to his voice in prayer and then actively following his call to the praise of his glory.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£450.48** (Gift Aided, **£293.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£134.00**). ♦ **This Sunday** there is a retiring collection for the **Catholic Youth Services** to help support youth work in the diocese and beyond. ♦ **Next Sunday** the retiring collection will be for the Kiltegan Fathers (see above).

**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.**

**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 next weekend **29th November**. Please return by the end of Advent. Thank you.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY** The dioceses is looking for a new Financial Secretary to replace Monsignor Canon Martin Lee who will be retiring in the spring of 2016. To get more information and to apply please visit the diocesan website [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk).

**PREPARING FOR GOD'S COMING** 5 minute daily thoughts for Advent. Our diocese has developed a series of daily reflections featuring the scripture of the day and a related thought and prayer drawn from the spirituality of *Stewardship*. If you would like to receive these daily emails and encounter Advent in this way please subscribe via <http://eepurl.com/bF0b6P>.