



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

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 C

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

30th October 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: SALVATION FOR ALL We are invited to church to worship God but there are huge numbers of people who have never set foot in a church and have no intention of finding God. These are the people that Jesus is determined to seek out and save. Jesus doesn't wait for people to seek him out, he seeks them out first. To Jesus it doesn't matter to what depths someone has sunk, salvation is still an option. Zacchaeus is an example of the most despised of crooks. He is a chief tax collector who has made great wealth on the back of his oppressed fellow Jews. In Jesus' day, tax collectors were put in the same category as thieves and murderers. Because they were in the employment of the Romans, Jewish tax collectors were regarded as traitors by their own people. Although hugely wealthy, Zacchaeus must have felt lonely and isolated. He certainly makes a good subject for a parable that tells us how Jesus reaches out to the lowliest and most despicable. On this particular day, Zacchaeus, curious to catch a glimpse of Jesus runs ahead, and being of small stature climbs up into a tree. But although it is Zacchaeus who wants to see Jesus, it is actually Jesus who spots Zacchaeus and tells him that he will be dining at his house that day. It is disappointing that we don't get to hear what went on between Jesus and Zacchaeus at that meal, but we do know that Zacchaeus was suddenly a changed man. We don't know what was said, but we do know Jesus' intention. Jesus had come to save those who were lost. To be lost means to become disassociated with the person God wants us to be. Jesus has a talent for looking beyond sin to the people we can become. Somehow Jesus was about to show Zacchaeus who he could really be. The parable of Zacchaeus is a great comfort to us, however low we have sunk, Jesus is determined to seek us out and show us a better way.



Chapel Bell

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY (a message from Missio) Thank you very much for your contribution to last week's World Mission Sunday collection. Your prayers and donations will help missionaries across the world share the Gospel and help heal the broken-hearted. Please pray for the work of Missio and all those working to offer the love of Jesus, that we may remain strong in our witness to Christ's love for all peoples. To continue supporting mission throughout the year please go to missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755.

MASS COUNT Last week, for this year's final count, there were **42** on Saturday evening, and on Sunday morning **21** at Harrietsham and **76** at St Peter's. • Average Sunday Mass attendance: **136** (down from 144).

CONSECRATION of St PETER'S in 1984 The anniversary fall on the Friday of this week, **4th November**. Mass of the anniversary of consecration will be celebrated that day; coffee will be served after Mass.

DEANERY MASS for DECEASED CLERGY At St Theodore's, Cranbrook, on **Tuesday 8th November** at 12noon.

CHOIR PRACTICE Second Tuesday of each month, 8 - 9pm at St Peter's. All are welcome. Next practice **8th November** when we will be looking at Advent and Christmas music. Enquiries: Mary Hannant 01622 737915.

WE WILL REMEMBER In Bearsted and Thurnham we are marking the centenaries of those from our villages who died in World War One. Wherever possible we meet outside their home on the anniversary of their death and hold a short act of remembrance and lay a wreath. All are invited to join us. • **Sunday 30th October**, 12noon: Alfred Cotterell. Meet at Thurnham Church; no address known. • **Sunday 13th November**, 12noon: Horrace Chapman. Meet at Roundwell, near old village pump. • **Friday 18th November**, 12noon: George Henry Cooper. Meet on Ware Street opposite row of white weather boarded cottages.

GOOD SHEPHERD FLOWERS We all love to see flowers in church and we have been well served over the years. However, we need more volunteers to join the rota at Harrietsham. If you feel you can spare the time

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 30th OCTOBER 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 30th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Basil Newson Parsons RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Mon 31st	✕ ALL SAINTS ✕ <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>	(H) 7.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass (<i>Monday</i>)
Tues 1st		10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
November		8.00pm	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Wed 2nd	✕ ALL SOULS ✕	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
		7.00pm	✕ Mass: Deacon Bill Eason RIP
Thu 3rd	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 4th	Anniversary of the Consecration of St Peter's	10.00am	✕ Mass: Parish Benefactors
Sat 5th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 6th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Michael McNamara RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Thomas Lawson RIP
		11.30am	Baptisms: Lucy Marie and Kimberley Rose Friend

please have a word with Truda Fraser, or Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. Thank you.

✕ **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.* ✕ **CEMETERY VISIT** At Sutton Road, **Saturday 6th November** at 2.30pm.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for November:** that priests and laypeople may work together in parishes at the service of the community without giving way to discouragement.
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For all those leaving 'The Jungle' in Calais** that God will guide them to a safer place to live. We especially pray for the children and young people who find themselves alone, and pray that God's loving hands will protect them from danger.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£424.65** (gift aided, **£274.00**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ The World Mission Sunday collection amounted to **£221.30**.

CENTRE for CATHOLIC FORMATION Four CCF Year of Mercy talks take place at St Teresa's, Maidstone Rd, Ashford TN24 8TX; see poster. Each of the talks will start at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). All are welcome. Entry is free; however, donations will be welcomed. Refreshments provided. Register your interest at 020 8672 7684; office@ccftootingbec.org.uk or <http://www.ccftootingbec.org.uk/>.

CAFOD RETREAT Southwark/Westminster diocese, **Saturday 12th November**, Amigo Hall, St. George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, London SE1 7HY. Please bring food to share for lunch. Visit cafod.org.uk/retreat or call 0303 303 3030.

ADVENT APPEAL 2016 This year's 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 available from w/e **27th November**. Please return by the end of Advent. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ Sing-a-long and fish and chips supper in St Peter's Hall on **Saturday 3rd December** at 7.00pm. See poster. Tickets £8 each or £20 per family. All profits will be donated to the Maidstone Churches' Christmas Appeal for the Homeless.

BIBLE SUNDAY is on the Second Sunday of Advent, **3rd** and **4th 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.