



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-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

6th November 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: LORD OF THE LIVING With their riddle about seven brothers and a childless widow, the Sadducees in today's gospel mock the faith for which seven brothers and their mother die in the first reading. The Maccabean martyrs chose death - tortured limb by limb, burned alive - rather than betray God's Law. Their story is given to us in these last weeks of the Church year to strengthen us for endurance - that our feet not falter but remain steadfast on his paths.

The Maccabeans died hoping that the "King of the World" would raise them to live again forever. The Sadducees don't believe in the Resurrection because they can't find it literally taught in the Scriptures. To ridicule this belief they fix on a law that requires a woman to marry her husband's brother if he should die without leaving an heir. But God's Law wasn't given to ensure the raising up of descendants to earthly fathers. The Law was given, as Jesus explains, to make us worthy to be "children of God" - sons and daughters born of his resurrection.

"God our Father," today's epistle tells us, has given us "everlasting encouragement" in the Resurrection of Christ. Through his grace, we can now direct our hearts to the love of God. As the Maccabeans suffered for the Old Law, we will have to suffer for our faith in the New Covenant. Yet he will guard us in the shadow of his wing, keep us as the apple of His eye, as we sing in today's psalm. The Maccabeans' persecutors marvelled at their courage. We too can glorify the Lord in our sufferings and in the daily sacrifices we make. And we have even greater cause than they for hope. One who has risen from the dead has given us his word - that he is the God of the living, that when we awake from the sleep of death we will behold him face, be content in his presence.

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 applicable.*

DEANERY MASS for DECEASED CLERGY At St Theodore's, Cranbrook, this **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. • **Friday 18th November**, 12noon: George Henry Cooper. Meet on Ware Street opposite row of white weather boarded cottages.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2017 Preparations begin in January. Application forms will soon be available. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply. They must live in the parish. If they were not baptized here we need a copy of their baptismal certificate.



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 6th NOVEMBER 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ 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	Baptism: Lucy and Kimberly Friend
Mon 7th	Dedication of St George's	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 8th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Wed 9th	Dedication of Lateran Basilica	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Dorothy Eason RIP
Thu 10th	St Leo the Great	7.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Fri 11th	St Martin of Tours	10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Sat 12th	St Josaphat	5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕ <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>			
Sun 13th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Dead of War
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Deceased members of the Catenians

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

TRADCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS Please consider buying your Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards from our Traidcraft stall again this year. There is a large selection of cards available. There is a catalogue and order form at the table near the door at St Peter's. Patrick Harrison will place orders with our Traidcraft suppliers and will be available most Sunday mornings if you want to discuss your requests.

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. ★ Please see the notice about donations of **clothes** to the **Maidstone Day Care Centre**. Marie Quarman will collect throughout this month.

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.

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, for Lucy and Kimberly, being baptized this Sunday; and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For families that have been torn apart** by violence and insecurity in Mosul, Aleppo and other towns and cities where war and violence threaten their very existence, that there might be peace, security and an end to hostilities.
- **During November**, when we especially remember our deceased family members, friends and acquaintances, we pray that they might know everlasting life, happiness and peace.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£424.65** (gift aided, **£237.60**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ We have so far banked **£85.93** from the red mission boxes. ♦ **Next Sunday** there will be a retiring collection for the **Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration**, which helps meet the cost of the central administration of the diocese.

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.

PACT *Prison and Advice Care Trust* send their thanks for the **£153.15** raised from the parish collection on Prisoners' Sunday. The funds raised will enable Pact to reach many more people who turn to them for help – prisoners' children visiting a parent in prison, family members struggling with their relative's imprisonment, prisoners and ex-offenders looking to make a fresh start. Let us keep those affected by prison in our prayers.

THE ART of DYING WELL If you think about death as a journey, not just as a specific moment, it may help you understand what it means to die well. But as with any journey, you need to prepare for it. The Art of Dying Well website was devised and commissioned by the Catholic Church of England and Wales. Launched on All Saints' Day, it features real-life stories about the highs and lows of dealing with the final journey. Pick up a prayer card and take a look at www.artofdyingwell.org.