



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-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

13th November 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: SOUNDS FAMILIAR It is the age between our Lord's first coming and his last. We live in the new world begun by his life, death, Resurrection and Ascension, by the sending of his Spirit upon the Church. But we await the day when he will come again in glory. "The day is coming now", Malachi warns in today's first reading. The prophets taught Israel to look for the Day of the Lord, when he would gather the nations for judgment. Jesus anticipates this day in today's gospel. He cautions us not to be deceived by those claiming "the time has come." Such deception is the background also for today's Epistle. The signs Jesus gives his Apostles seem to already have come to pass in the New Testament. In Acts, the Epistles and Apocalypse, we read of famines and earthquakes, the Temple's desolation. We read of persecutions – believers imprisoned and put to death, testifying to their faith with wisdom in the Spirit. These "signs" then, show us the pattern for the Church's life - both in the New Testament and today.



We too live in a world of nations and kingdoms at war. And we should take the Apostles as our "models," as today's second reading counsels. Like them we must persevere in the face of unbelieving relatives and friends, and forces and authorities hostile to God. As we do in today's psalm, we should sing his praises, joyfully proclaim his coming as Lord and King. The Day of the Lord is always a day that has already come and a day still yet to come. It is the "today" of our Liturgy. The Apostles prayed Maranatha - "O Lord come!". In the Eucharist he answers, coming again as the Lord of hosts and the Sun of Justice with its healing rays. It is a mighty sign - and a pledge of that Day to come.

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.*

WELCOME! This Sunday at St Peter's we welcome the Catenians for the annual Mass for their deceased brothers.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE There will be a meeting at the usual venue **this Tuesday** evening.

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.

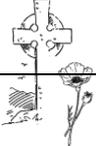
FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2017 Preparations begin in January. Application forms are now available and should be returned by **4th December**. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply. They must live in the parish. If they were not baptized here we need a copy of their baptismal certificate.

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.

GOOD SHEPHERD FLOWERS *Still no response*; if you feel you can spare the time *please let us know!* 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.

COMING UP • Choir practice, Tuesday **6th December**, 8pm at St Peter's. • Christmas greetings: Details of the times of the Christmas services across all the churches in the Bearsted locality will **soon** be ready for distribution:

|  DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 13th NOVEMBER 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham) | | | |  | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| ✕ 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 and all Victims of War | | | |
| | | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Deceased members of the Catenians | | | |
| Mon 14th | Feria | | 7.00pm | ✕ Mass: The Holy Souls | | | |
| Tues 15th | Feria | | 10.00am | ✕ Mass: The Holy Souls | | | |
| Wed 16th | Feria | | (H) 10.00am | ✕ Mass: The Holy Souls | | | |
| Thu 17th | Feria | No Mass | | | | | |
| Fri 18th | Feria | | 10.00am | ✕ Mass: The Holy Souls | | | |
| Sat 19th | Our Lady | | <i>5.00-5.30pm</i> | <i>Confessions</i> | | | |
| ✕ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING of the UNIVERSE (C) ✕ | | | | | | | |
| Sun 20th | Saturday | | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Ignatius Botelho RIP | | | |
| | Sunday | | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Kathleen and Anthony McParland RIP | | | |
| | | | 10.30am | ✕ Sung Mass: Pro Populo | | | |

volunteers please. • Family celebration in anticipation of Christmas; Sunday **18th December**, 6pm at St Peter's.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS! Canon Luke Smith, parish priest of St Francis, has been appointed Dean for a further 3 years.

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 the victims of the Croydon tram derailment:** *for those who died and for their bereaved families and friends.*
- **For the people of the United States** in the wake of the presidential election; *that any divisions or hurt from the campaign be healed and that those in authority and the citizens may work together for the good of all.*
- **During November**, when we especially remember our deceased family members, friends and acquaintances, we pray that they might know everlasting life, happiness and peace. On Remembrance Sunday, for those who died as a result of war.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£347.63** (gift aided, **£209.50**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ **This Sunday** there is a retiring collection for the **Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration**, which helps meet the cost of the central administration of the diocese. ♦ **Next Sunday**, Youth Sunday, there will be a retiring collection for the **Catholic Youth Services** to help support youth work in the diocese and beyond, especially the Southwark Catholic Youth Service.

St GEORGE CATHEDRAL HOLY DOOR The Jubilee Year of Mercy ends on the feast of Christ the King but the Holy Doors in cathedrals and shrines of the world close the week before this **Sunday 13th November**.

JUSTICE & PEACE People in Kent concerned about issues of social justice get together to discuss these matters from time to time at the Area Bishop's house (More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN). The next such gathering is scheduled to run from 2 till 4 pm on **Sunday 20th November**. All are welcome; contact Phil Kerton on 01474 873802 to get informed about future events. [*Our Concerns: Prayer, Peace, Poverty, Prisoners, Persecution, Pollution.*]

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND CAMPAIGN The Clergy Support Team like to say a sincere 'thank you' to all the parishes who have come on board with the Campaign this Autumn and also to those who have generously responded to the call to complete remaining phases: it is much appreciated and almost £200,000 of additional funds to support our sick and retired clergy have been generated since the middle of September. The current figure of funds raised and pledged stands at just under £2.5 million. With sustained effort and continued activity this side of Christmas it is hoped to be considerably nearer to the important milestone of £3 million in the new year.