



# 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](mailto: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 C      OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE      20th November 2016**

**FAITH IN FOCUS:** Week by week the liturgy has been preparing us for the revelation to be made on this, the last Sunday of the Church year. Jesus, we have been shown, is truly the Chosen One, the Messiah of God, the King of Jews. Ironically, in today's Gospel we hear these names on the lips of those who don't believe in him - Israel's rulers, the soldiers, a criminal dying alongside him. They can only see the scandal of a bloodied figure nailed to a cross. They scorn him in words and gestures foretold in Israel's Scriptures. If he is truly King, God will rescue him, they taunt. But he did not come to save himself, but to save them - and us. The good thief shows us how we are to accept the salvation he offers us. He confesses his sins, acknowledges he deserves to die for them. And he calls on the name of Jesus, seeks his mercy and forgiveness. By his faith he is saved. Jesus "remembers" him - as God has always remembered his people, visiting them with his saving deeds, numbering them among his chosen heirs. By the blood of his cross, Jesus reveals his Kingship - not in saving his life, but in offering it as a ransom for ours. He transfers us to "the kingdom of the Son that he loves," as today's epistle tells us. His Kingdom is the Church, the new Jerusalem and House of David that we sing of in today's psalm. By their covenant with David in today's first reading, Israel's tribes are made one "flesh and blood" with their king. By the new covenant made in his blood, Christ becomes one flesh with the people of his Kingdom - the head of his body, the Church. We celebrate and renew this covenant in every Eucharist, giving thanks for our redemption, hoping for the day when we too will be with him in Paradise. *Author unknown*



**NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY** Pope Francis famously said "Dear young people, please, don't be observers of life, but get involved. Jesus did not remain an observer, but he immersed himself. Don't be observers, but immerse yourself in the reality of life, as Jesus did." What our youth lack in experience, they make up for in imagination, energy, initiative and confidence. It is up to older parishioners to invite, facilitate and encourage the contributions of our youth.

✠ **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.*

**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 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.

**TRADCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS** Please consider buying your Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards from our Tradcraft 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 Tradcraft suppliers and will be available most Sunday mornings if you want to discuss your requests.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 20th NOVEMBER 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING of the UNIVERSE (C) ✕			
Sun 20th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Ignatius Botelhlo RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Kathleen and Anthony McParland RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 21st	The Presentation of BVM	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues 22nd	St Cecilia	<b>No Mass</b>	
Wed 23rd	Feria	<b>No Mass</b>	
Thu 24th	St Andrew Dung Lac	<b>No Mass</b>	
Fri 25th	Feria	<b>No Mass</b>	
Sat 26th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (A) ✕			
Sun 27th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Holy Souls
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Jeanne Wilkins RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

**SAMARA AID APPEAL UPDATE** See the notice from Jacqui Elliott.

**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 next weekend, **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 especially June Millar, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends, and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For the Church as we close this Jubilee Year of Mercy;** *may the prayers and actions we have engaged in make us stronger in faith and more committed to be agents of God's mercy and grace in a broken and hurting world; for young people everywhere, that they may grow up in peace and freedom, and that they will come to recognize Jesus as their loving King.*
- **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: **£418.20** (gift aided, **£236.00**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ The retiring collection for the **Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration**, amounted to **£170.13**. ♦ **This Sunday** there is a retiring collection for the **Catholic Youth Services** to help support youth work in the diocese and beyond.

**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](http://www.artofdyingwell.org).

**CAROLS** Christmas Carols and more: Bearsted Choral Society, **Saturday 17th December** at St Peter's, 7.30pm. See posters.

**THIS WEEK** Sorry, no weekday Masses: all being well, Fr Geoffrey will be in Rome.