



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

**Year A**

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME**

**29th October 2017**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: Love Love Love** In that inimitable pop song the Beatles tell us, "All you need is love...", but is that just a sentimental ideal? Don't we need other things as well like food, homes, jobs, clothes, education and laws to make a happy and safe society?

In today's gospel a lawyer employed by the Pharisees asks Jesus a question.

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" It's another 'loaded' question.

The religious leaders had devised six hundred and thirteen commandments. If Jesus were to pick on one commandment as being more important than another then

it would be to negate one of the other six hundred and twelve. But Jesus manages not to invalidate any one of the commandments. Rather, he chooses the commandment that underpins all the others. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

It is difficult to think of a human situation that can't be remedied by a mutual love. Love in this context is not the warm fuzzy feelings that come in a Valentines card, but a deep empathy and compassion for fellow human beings. "It's easy..." sing the Beatles. Well not a first perhaps... It's sometimes difficult to even like the people we meet let alone love them. Love takes practice. Love is seeing the similarities between ourselves and not the differences. Love sees that everyone wants the same things and needs the same things. Love starts by the little things we do for each other and gradually turns into a permanent state of being. Only then can we really claim to love God. We cannot claim to love God if we dislike or have a deep disdain for those around us. Love starts in the mind, so start thinking today and every day how best to love and serve our neighbours. *(Chapel Bell)*



**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** 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 of peace with those in greatest need. 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 Missio throughout the year please go to <http://www.missio.org.uk> or call 020 7821 9755.

**MASS COUNT** Last Sunday's Mass count: 6pm, **36**; 8.45am, **21**; 10.30, **64**.

**ALL SAINTS and ALL SOULS** Please note the celebrations this week. Also note that next weekend, at all Masses, we will mark the anniversary of the consecration, on 4th November 1984, of St Peter's.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2018** Preparations will be on Friday afternoons, and will begin with a session for both parents and children at 4pm on **Friday 24th November**. Application forms are now available from Fr Geoffrey and must be returned by 15th November. 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.



✕ **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.* ✕ **Blessing of Graves.** This will take place next Sunday, **4th November**, at 3pm in the Sutton Road cemetery. ✕ The **Deanery Mass** for Deceased Clergy will be at St Thomas More, West Malling, on **Tuesday, 14th November** at 12noon.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 29th OCTOBER 2017 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
THIRTIETH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A)			
Sun 29th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Mgr Augustine Hoey RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP
Mon 30th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Desi McEvoy, wellbeing
Tues 31st	✕ ALL SAINTS ✕ <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>	(H) 7.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: The Holy Souls
Wed 1st November		10.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		8.00pm	✕ Mass
Thu 2nd	✕ ALL SOULS ✕	10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
		(H) 7.00pm	✕ Mass: Niel, the Master of Forbes RIP
Fri 3rd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Sat 4th	St Charles Borromeo	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
<b>ANNIVERSARY ✕ CONSECRATION of St PETER'S</b>			
Sun 5th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Doreen Botelho RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Deceased Catenians

**CHRISTMAS QUIZ** *Sing-a-long and fish and chips supper.* It's not too early to start putting important dates in your Christmas Diary! One of the parish's favourite social events is our annual family Christmas Quiz with fish/sausage and chips supper, followed by a sing-a-long, led by Bob Piggott, of all those Christmas songs we know so well. The date this year will be Saturday **2nd December** at 7pm in St Peter's Hall. We have been able, once again, to hold the cost of tickets at £8 each or £20 per family (2 adults plus 2 children), and tickets are on sale after Masses or you can contact Ian on 736811. We are expecting this event to be a sell-out, as in past years, so please let Ian know as soon as possible if you would like tickets. All profits from the quiz and the raffle will be donated to the Maidstone Churches' Christmas Appeal for the Homeless.

**EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2018** This will take place in Liverpool from **7th – 9th September** next year. Each parish is invited to send 2 delegates. If you would like to go to one or more of the events, please pick up an information pack and speak to Fr Geoff or Deacon Cyril. We need to know by the middle of November, if possible.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for November – that Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.**
- **For all those who are imprisoned for their beliefs, or suffer human rights abuse: may God's healing be on the perpetrators and their victims.**
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially Elsie Hampshire and David Smith; for those who have died recently; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and for the intentions on the notice board.**
- **Anniversaries this week (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial):** ✕ Emily Paris, Reginald Waller, Clifton Hurst, Evelyn Jones, Monica McIntyre, Mary Axton, Mary Cram, Barry Dix, Robert Alton and Emma Scott. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£334.23** (Gift Aided, **£180.50**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£149.00**). ♦ The World Mission Sunday collection for **Missio** amounted to **£252.73**.

**CATHOLIC LEGACY WEEK, 5th – 11th NOVEMBER** Gifts in your Will are a wonderful way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission, and help meet the needs of future generations. Do please consider gifts to the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your Will. For more information pick up a leaflet, contact Your Catholic Legacy on 020 7095 5370, see <http://www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk/>

**FEAST of CHRIST THE KING** This is on Sunday **26th November**. There will be Benediction at St Peter's in the afternoon, with Consecration to the Sacred Heart and Litany of the Sacred Heart. We will follow this with a cup of tea in the hall and an informal meeting of the parish to discuss various forthcoming events.