



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

ANNIVERSARY ✕ CONSECRATION of St PETER'S

5th November 2017

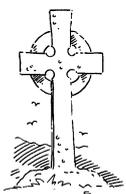
FAITH IN FOCUS: TU ES PETRUS Archbishop Michael Bowen dedicated and consecrated St Peter's on the afternoon of Sunday 4th November 1984. In his opening address on that day, he spoke of the mystery of the Church – but he was talking not of the building but of us, the living Church, centred on Christ. Archbishop Michael spoke of the saint of dedication (St Peter) and observed a link: the two stones set in the back wall are from St Peter's, the 13th century church in the town. And we in turn can link that with St Peter, the rock on which Christ founded his Church. His homily focused on that theme: the mystery of the church, a concept which is too rich in meaning to understand in one context; so, he spoke of the scriptural references to the Church: as the vine, as bride, as our mother, of ourselves as the body of Christ, indeed members of one body in Christ; of the apostles as the 12 foundation stones and of Christ as the cornerstone. And of the symbolism of the altar at the centre, of the Word of God (the sacred scriptures) often being carried from the altar to the ambo (lectern); of the 5 crosses on the altar, symbolising the 5 wounds of Christ, and how those crosses were anointed on that day in 1984 after Christ the anointed one. And he referred to the link with the very early Church in the relics of St Victor, one of the early martyrs, placed beneath the altar, recalling the early celebrations of the eucharist in the catacombs in Rome, often on the tombs of the martyrs – whose deaths were of course linked with Calvary, the supreme sacrifice of Christ himself. And finally, Archbishop Michael returned to the notion of us, the living stones, united in the Holy Spirit, a worshipping community, praying every day Christ's supreme prayer of the Mass, and of ourselves as the living priesthood, a loving community, inspired by the love of Christ to be concerned for all: not just our own community but having a mission to all in need, regardless. So, that day of dedication Archbishop Michael reminded those present was just a start: he spoke of the work ahead, which we, the living stones, with God's good grace are continuing. Comforted by words spoken by Christ the Good Shepherd, to Peter: the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.



God bless our Church, and God bless us, the Living Stones, which form that Church today!

APOLOGIES for the confusion over the time and location of Masses during last week. It's worth noting that Masses or events marked (**H**) take place at Good Shepherd Church, **Harrietsham**. ♦ Mass on Tuesday this week at St Peter's is a Requiem Mass and is at a later time than usual.

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 takes place this 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 5th NOVEMBER 2017
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

ANNIVERSARY ✕ CONSECRATION of St PETER'S

Sun 5th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Doreen Botelho RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Deceased Catenians
Mon 6th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Tues 7th	Dedication of the Cathedral	1.00pm	✕ Requiem Mass: Terence John Meaney
Wed 8th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Opoku RIP
Thu 9th	Dedication of Lateran Basilica	7.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Fri 10th	St Leo the Great	10.00am	✕ Mass: Mariusz Koras RIP
Sat 11th	St Martin of Tours	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
☼ THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME (A) ☼			
Sun 12th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Richard Love RIP
	Sunday <i>Remembrance ☼ Sunday</i>	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: The Dead of War

CHRISTMAS QUIZ *Sing-a-long and fish and chips supper. Saturday 2nd December* at 7pm in St Peter's Hall. Tickets: £8 each or £20 per family (2 adults plus 2 children), on sale after Masses or you can contact Ian on 736811. All profits from the quiz and the raffle will be donated to the Maidstone Churches' Christmas Appeal for the Homeless.

TRADCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS The Justice and Peace group are selling Christmas cards and other gifts. There will be a stall after weekend Masses at St Peter's during November and December. It is also possible to take orders from the Traidcraft catalogue. Traidcraft supports several charities including CAFOD. 10% from sales goes to the Justice and Peace group.

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.

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 have been killed or injured by the violence of terrorism this week and for their families, that they may receive God's love, comfort and consolation from those who care.**
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially Elsie Hampshire, Joan Hardings and David Smith; for those who have died recently especially Mary Opoku, Fr Joseph Aduse Puku's mother, and George Carroll; 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):** ✕ Nelson Weedon, Iris Stubbs, James Brennan, Peter Barratt, Lila Marriott and Margaret Tipper. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£385.27** (Gift Aided, **£229.07**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£149.00**). ♦ Next week 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.

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/>, or contact Adrian Radford, the Diocesan Financial Controller, email adrian.radford@finance-rcdsouthwark.org.

ROHINGYA CRISIS in BANGLADESH More than 600,000 people are now estimated to have fled to Bangladesh, escaping violence in Rakhine State in neighbouring Myanmar (Burma). *Who are the Rohingya people?* The Rohingya are a predominately Muslim ethnic group that have lived for centuries in Myanmar's Ra-

khine State. They make up roughly 2 per cent of the population. The Catholic Church in Myanmar and Bangladesh, are urging all parties to this crisis to come together to seek a peaceful solution. They are also urging the international community to do all that they can in getting humanitarian aid to where it is needed most. You can donate online at www.cafod.org.uk.