



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 A THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 12th November 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: THE HYPOCRISY TRAP It's easy to be religious, but it's not easy to be Christian. It's easy to go to church, carry a bible and look prayerful, but it's not always easy to put faith into action. Even when we do put our faith into action it's hard not to want people to notice how good we are being.

Yet again the Pharisees are in Jesus' bad books. "... Do whatever they teach," Jesus advises, "but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they preach." Jesus accuses the religious leaders of hypocrisy. "They tie up heavy burdens hard to bear and lay them on the shoulders of others." "They do all their deeds to be seen by others." Jesus is telling us that if we start placing more emphasis on outer conduct rather than on inner character we are hypocrites. We are hypocrites if we do good deeds not for the love of others but for love of the spotlight.

None of us set out to be hypocrites, so perhaps we shouldn't be quite so harsh on the Pharisees. Hypocrisy is a very easy trap to fall into. We are constantly dishing out advice as parents, as teachers, as counsellors and as best friends advice we are often guilty of not following ourselves. Hypocrisy is a very human failing. We want to be one thing but end up being another. Then instead of owning up to our weaknesses we pretend to be something that we're not and then want praise and admiration into the bargain!

Today Jesus gives us an all-important strategy for avoiding the hypocrisy trap. Stay humble! If we can develop a genuine motivation to look to the interests of others we are less likely to crave personal glory. *Chapel Bell.*



ELSIE HAMPSHIRE Please pray for Elsie who died last week. Elsie was a longstanding and faithful member of our parish. Her funeral is on Monday **27th November**, at 11am at Good Shepherd, the church Elsie attended and supported for many years. Our prayers too for the family. May she rest ✕ in peace.

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 **this weekend**, or **15th November** at the latest. 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.* ✕ The **Deanery Mass** for Deceased Clergy will be at St Thomas More, West Malling, this **Tuesday, 14th November** at 12noon.

COMING UP • Choir practice, Tuesday **14th November**, 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: *volunteers please.* • Family celebration in anticipation of Christmas; Thursday **21st December**, 7pm at St Peter's.

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.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 12th NOVEMBER 2017
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

☼ **THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY** ✕ **ORDINARY TIME (A)** ☼

Sun 12th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Richard Love RIP
	Sunday <i>Remembrance</i> ☼ Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: The Dead of War
Mon 13th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Mary Roche RIP
Tues 14th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Jim Hyland RIP
Wed 15th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Thu 16th	Feria	SORRY – NO MASS	
Fri 17th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Gladys Marie Grogan RIP
Sat 18th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY** ✕ **ORDINARY TIME (A)** ✕

Sun 19th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday <i>World Day for the Poor</i>	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Anthony & Kathleen McParland RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls

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.

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 and Good Shepherd during for as long as needed. 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.

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 **this week**, 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.
- **During Interfaith Week:** for Pope Francis and all religious leaders, that they might lead the world in the cause of peace and reconciliation, that there might be an end to armed conflict, violence, bloodshed and injustice. For all those who died as a result of armed conflict, that the sacrifice of their lives might bring an end to war, and inspire courageous peacemakers to redouble their efforts in our troubled world.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes** especially Joan Hardings and David Smith; for those who have died recently especially Elsie Hampshire and Fr Jim Hyland; 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): ✕ Nora Horgan, Denis Horgan, Bernadette Boyle and Frederick Greenrod. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£423.39** (Gift Aided, **£229.07**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£149.00**). ♦ This week 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.

INTER FAITH WEEK 12th to 19th November. Building good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faiths and beliefs is part of the year-round work of many people and organizations across the UK. We are encouraged this week to be aware of those of other faiths, especially where this involves our own families with interfaith connections. Visit <https://www.interfaithweek.org/> or our own Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales: <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Departments/Dialogue-and-Unity>.

FIRST WORLD DAY of the POOR Next Sunday, **19th November**. In his message for the first World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis issues an invitation to: "...the whole Church, and men and women of good will everywhere, to turn their gaze on this day to all those who stretch out their hands and plead for our help and solidarity. They are our brothers and sisters, created and loved by the one Heavenly Father. This Day is meant, above all, to encourage believers to react against a culture of discard and waste, and to embrace the culture

of encounter. At the same time, everyone, independent of religious affiliation, is invited to openness and sharing with the poor through concrete signs of solidarity and fraternity. God created the heavens and the earth for all; yet sadly some have erected barriers, walls and fences, betraying the original gift meant for all humanity, with none excluded.”