

# 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 B**

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME**

**4th November 2018**

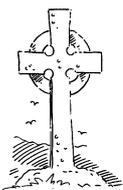
**FAITH IN FOCUS: LOVE RULES** We all think we know what love is, until we have to put it into words. We all think we know what love is and then realise we've mistaken it for romantic obsession, or dependence, or some kind of selfish need. So when Jesus tells us "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart..." and "You shall love your neighbour as yourself...." we can be at a bit of a loss as to how we should best respond.

Beginning to understand what love is all about is probably best understood in the context of a close human relationship ...the love of a partner, child, sibling or parent. Love in this context is about respect, joy, tenderness, kindness, wanting to do things for another person and appreciating the things that person gives back. Between husband and wife, love is a bit like an unspoken contract... "You treat me well and I'll treat you well." Between a parent and a child, love is unconditional. We do all we can to make our children happy without expecting very much back. We look at our human relationships and it becomes clear that love isn't just a fuzzy feeling we find in Valentine's cards. Love is about aiming to look after other people. Love is about appreciating what people do for us. Love is about not expecting anything in return. Love is about putting ourselves in someone else's shoes. Establishing a couple of 'love rules' makes it easier to love people we have never met. Have we ever been grateful for a visit when we were sick? Can we translate the gratitude into caring for others when they are sick? Have we ever been unburdened by forgiveness? What can we do for those whose lives have gone wrong and who are crippled by guilt and regret. Have we ever felt lonely or out of our depth? How can we translate those feelings into doing something positive for someone living alone? What does it feel like to be loved? How do we pass those feelings on?



Finally, what does it mean to love God? The glib answer is to have God at the centre of our existence, but what does that actually mean? How do we love God when we cannot see, hear or even imagine him very well! Jesus gives us the answer. We must love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Loving God with all our heart means generating feelings that give rise to how we speak and how we act. Loving with all our soul means keeping up a constant dialogue with God. Loving with all our mind means using intellectual processes to decide how best we can impact the world. Loving with all our strength means developing the stamina and resolve to constantly renew our endeavour.

Learning to love is the most valuable lesson we can master. Once we know how to love, every other law worth its salt is automatically upheld. *(Chapel Bell)*



✕ **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.*

**MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DEANERY** this year is on Tuesday 13th November, 12noon at St Theodore's Church, Cranbrook. Please join with us in commemorating past members of deanery clergy, many of whom will have been known to us.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2019** There are two sessions before Christmas, the first of which will be at 4pm on **16th November** at St Peter's.

**BLESSING of GRAVES** This will take place at Sutton Road Cemetery **today at 3pm**

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 4th NOVEMBER 2018**  
**(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

**ANNIVERSARY ✕ CONSECRATION of St PETER'S**

Sun 4th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: June Kay RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Dec'd Members of Maidstone Catenians
		12noon	<i>Baptism: Isabelle Kershaw</i>
		3.00pm	Blessing of the Graves (Sutton Road Cemetery)
Mon 5th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tue 6th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 7th	Dedication of the Cathedral	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 8th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 9th	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 10th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
<b>✕ THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕</b>			
Sun 11th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass
		<b>Remembrance ☪ Sunday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST** Countering Consumerism a CAFOD retreat: CAFOD Southwark Volunteer Centre, Bishop Challoner School, 228 Bromley Road, Shortlands, BR2 0AB on Saturday **24th November** from 10am to 4pm. Book at [cafod.org.uk/retreat](http://cafod.org.uk/retreat) or call 0303 303 3030.

**COMING UP:**

- **Catholic Legacy Week – 1st – 7th November** (see notice or <https://www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk/>).

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **For the repose of the soul** of Brother Michael McMullen, of the Aylesford community, who died on 25th October.
- **With the Holy Father for November – In Service of Peace:** *That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.*
- **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 (see below); for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board. Please also keep in your prayers Patricia (Trish) Royle, who will be received into the Church at the 10.30am Mass on the feast of Christ the King.*
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's 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: **£305.80** (Gift Aided, **£172.00** in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ 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.

**RED BOXES** Thank you to those who have brought their Missio Red Boxes in to church to be emptied. (Please remember to fill in your name on the label so we know whom to return them to.)

**CCF EVENTS** This term, the Centre for Catholic Formation is offering courses aimed at catechists, those involved in faith formation, members of pastoral councils and evangelization teams and the clergy. For full details including dates and locations, see the *On Offer* guide, or visit [www.ccfootingbec.org.uk](http://www.ccfootingbec.org.uk).

**A DATE for YOUR DIARIES** Christmas Quiz and Sing-along: Saturday **1st December** at 7pm in St Peter's Hall. We will be providing a fish/sausage and chips supper, so everything is catered for, just bring your own drinks. Tickets will be priced at £10 adults, £22 per family (2 adults + 2 children) and additional children £5. All profits will be donated to parish funds. Teams will consist of up to 8 people, so if you can't bring your own team, just come along anyway and we will find a team for you to join. Tickets are now on sale, so consult your diaries, bring along your ticket money and reserve your table for a good evening