



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: bearsted@rcaos.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 B

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME

18th November 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: HEDGING OUR BETS Is it human nature only to do our best when the chips are down? We work our hardest when there's an exam or an inspection on the horizon. We struggle to finish our accounts when the tax department deadline is looming. We rush round putting the house in order when visitors are announced, and sadly, many of us leave it until we are elderly or ill before we patch up relationships. In a way we live our lives like a game of roulette, not living the way we ought all of the time, but only when we get some kind of wakeup call and the chips are down.

Today's gospel warns us to be alert to the signs of the end of the world and the coming of judgment day, but not in a 'hedging our bets' kind of way! It would be immature discipleship to prepare for judgment day only when we suspected that we were close to the end of life. In any case we are warned that we do not know the hour nor the day of the world's end, and therefore we must live every day as though it were our last. We do not aim to live in a state of permanent readiness for fear of being caught out, but because we know that abiding by Jesus' teaching is the only way to live.

Everything in the heavens and earth will pass away. Everything that we consider important will end, but Christ's teaching will endure forever. Are we living our best in the here and now, or are we gambling on some 'comfortably far off date' on which to hedge our bets?
(Chapel Bell)

FÁTIMA REUNION We pilgrims spent an enjoyable evening last Wednesday reminiscing; our thanks to Terry and those who provided the eats. We hope to provide a link to the photos as soon as the technology permits!

✕ **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.*

NEW PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS bearsted@rcaos.org.uk. The parish website address remains the same, for now.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2019 Next meeting: Friday **23rd November** 4pm.

PARISH MEETING There will be a parish meeting **next Sunday, 25th November** (Christ the King) in the hall after the afternoon Benediction and Sacred Heart Devotions. The points being raised include a proposed change of Mass time on Sunday at St Peter's (because of the shortage of clergy and the age profile of serving clergy), and the possibility of hosting a monthly Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite (as other parishes have done for some years), to provide for parishioners who wish to attend Mass according to their own language and ancient rite.

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW Tickets are now on sale for our Christmas Draw, which will take place on **Sunday 23rd December** in St Peter's Hall after 10.30 Mass. The first prize is £100 cash, 2nd prize is a voucher for a turkey and vegetables (donated by Edmed Farms) and the 3rd prize is a luxury hamper. There are many other great prizes, too, but if you can help with donating a prize (no electrical goods, please) this would be greatly appreciated. Tickets are available in books of 5 for £5 after Masses or ring Ian on 736811. All proceeds will go towards parish funds. Please join us for the draw and for mulled wine and mince pies on 23rd December.

An APPEAL 'Dear Parishioners, you are always so generous with your donations, be it gifts of money or food and clothing for the homeless. Now I am asking if you could spare ¼ hour after Mass one Sunday a month at St Peter's to serve coffee, tea and biscuits to those parishioners who like to linger after Mass and socialize. Our helpers number only 4 and Valerie Ashdowne, who has given sterling service for many years, for which we thank her, is stepping down. Can you step in and take her place? Believe me, it is not onerous, but an enjoyable way to meet others and share in the life of the parish. Speak to me after Mass or contact me via the parish website as I am also the hall bookings secretary.' *Joyce.*

ADVENT APPEAL this year 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 the First Sunday in Advent, w/e **2nd December**. Please return by the end of Advent. Thank you.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th NOVEMBER 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕

Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Mary Roche RIP
	Sunday <i>World Day for the Poor</i>	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Anthony and Kathleen McParland RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Barbel Milautzki RIP
Mon 19th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Tue 20th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Wed 21st	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Thu 22nd	St Cecilia	7.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Fri 23rd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Sat 24th	Ss Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING of the UNIVERSE (B) ✕

Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday <i>National Youth Sunday</i>	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Bernard Smith RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP
		3.00pm	Benediction and Litany of the Sacred Heart

FINANCE COMMITTEE After 7pm Mass, on **Monday 3rd December**.

CAFOD Play your part to renew our Common Home. A new report from a group of international scientists has been released, urging us to ramp up our efforts to fight climate change. We know that things are urgent now. Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/> for more information.

COMING UP:

- **WORLD DAY of the POOR: today.** In his message for the second World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis asks all of us, whatever our means or background, to rediscover and celebrate in a spirit of joy our capacity for togetherness, for example by sharing a meal after Sunday Mass.
- **FEAST of CHRIST THE KING – Next Sunday, 25th November.** Please pray for Patricia Royle, who is being received into the Church at the 10.30am Mass. 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 in the hall and an informal meeting of the parish to discuss various forthcoming events.
- **YOUTH DAY – Sunday 25th November.**
- **St PETER'S CHOIR PRACTICE:** Tuesday 4th December, 8 to 9pm.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **For the victims of the wildfires in California, and for those tasked with the grim task of recovery.**
- **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. And for the poor, that we may share from our abundance with those in need.*
- **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.**
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ Denis Horgan, Gordon Bruce Russell, Hilda Britton, Mary Taylor, Grace Connolly. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£434.08** (Gift Aided, **£209.50**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). • Last week's collection for the Archbishop's Diocesan Administration Fund totalled **£156.23**. Thank you. • **Next week** there is a retiring collection for **Catholic Youth Services**, which supports youth work in the diocese and beyond.

FAITH CLUB For parents and children; meets twice a month on Sundays. 3.30 – 5pm at St Peter's: **18th November:** Mary visits Elizabeth (Luke 1: 39-45), John the Baptist sent to prepare for the Lord (John 1; 6-9), arts and crafts - making paper babies and clothes for paper babies, singing and choreography (practising "snowflakes" song for the Christmas carol), snacks and play. **2nd December:** God promises to send us a saviour (Jer. 33: 14-46), snacks and play, singing and choreography (practising "snowflakes" song for the Christmas carol), making a paper mosaic that reads "Jesus the Saviour". **16th December (tentative):** The shepherds and the angels (Luke 2: 8-20), singing and choreography (practising "snowflakes" song for the Christmas carol), making a Christmas tree crib ornament, making paper angels and trumpets, snacks and play. **5-minute spiritual reading for mothers:** current book, *Amoris Laetitia*, a book on love in the family by Pope Francis. Reading, chat, tea and coffee.