



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 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 25th November 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Making A Stand on Fake News We tune in to the news to elicit some kind of truth, but we suspect what we are viewing is 'fake news'. A television interviewer tries to elicit the truth from a politician. We recognise of old the politician's strategies for avoiding the interviewer's questions. We are called to do jury service and determine to get to the bottom of the case, but suddenly everyone's version of the same truth is slightly different. We pick up on a charged atmosphere at home, but when we quiz our children or spouse, we are met with evasion and equivocation. The opposite of truth is not always a lie. Truth can be avoided, twisted, disguised, or simply not recognised. One thing is for sure though; we all have some kind of sixth sense for knowing when we are not getting the truth. That's why it's so refreshing and so powerful when somebody gets up and speaks a simple truth from the heart. The truth makes us sit up and listen. Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when he told Pilate, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."



Standing in front of Pilate, Jesus doesn't back down or compromise the truth, because the truth is too important. The trouble with earthly kingdoms is that the truth is not always of paramount importance. In earthly kingdoms the truth gets in the way of our personal agendas. In our quest for territory, power, resources and a comfortable life style, the truth takes second place. We might think that we are truthful people and that we never tell lies, but it is all too easy to live a lie without admitting it even to ourselves.

Pilate was not able to understand the kingdom Jesus alluded to, and he was not able to see Jesus as King. Pilate failed to recognise the truth. Today's challenge is to recognise truth in all of life's circumstance, to stand up for the truth in all of life's difficulties, and to live by the truth to the best of our ability. (Chapel Bell)



BENEDICTION Please join us for Benediction this (Sunday) afternoon at St Peter's, followed by our parish meeting.

✠ **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.

PARISH MEETING There will be a parish meeting **this 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.

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 25th NOVEMBER 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ 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
Mon 26th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Tue 27th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Wed 28th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Ray Smith RIP
Thu 29th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Fri 30th	St Andrew	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Sat 1st Dec.	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (C) ✕

Sun 2nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Alan Flynn RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Brother Michael McMullen RIP
		1.30pm	Baptism: Jamie Stafford

ADVENT REFLECTIONS From the Diocesan Stewardship Team: <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/>.

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:

- **FEAST of CHRIST THE KING and YOUTH SUNDAY – This 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 this 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.
- **St PETER'S CHOIR PRACTICE:** Tuesday **4th December**, 8 to 9pm.
- **CHRISTMAS:** Details of the times of the Christmas services across all the churches in the Bearsted locality are now be ready for distribution: *volunteers please*. • Christmas Quiz: **1st December**. † Bible Sunday is on the Second Sunday of Advent, **8th and 9th December**. It highlights the importance of the sacred scriptures in Christian living. We will be asking our Ministers of the Word (Readers) to renew the commitment to their ministry that weekend. If you feel you would like to offer your service as a Minister of the Word, please let Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril know. • Carols on the [Bearsted] Green, **Wednesday 12th December:** Bearsted Choral Society, **Saturday 15th December** at St Peter's, 7.30pm. See posters. • Family celebration in anticipation of Christmas; Thursday **20th December**, 6pm at St Peter's.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **For the ongoing civil war in Yemen and all its civilian victims; may peace come soon, and the work of aid agencies not be impeded so that deaths from disease and malnutrition can be prevented**
- **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):** ✕ George Scott, Jack Hooker, Joyce Bean, Sue Hepper, Irena Harrison, Nora Walton, Patrick Morris, Barbara Huddy, Elizabeth Loughlin, Ellen Taylor, John Arbuthnot, Rose Brennan and Frank Reilly. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£345.96** (Gift Aided, **£179.60**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). • **This week** there is a retiring collection for **Catholic Youth Services**, which supports youth work in the diocese and beyond.

FAITH CLUB 3.30 – 5pm at St Peter's. Next meetings: **2nd and 16th December**. • 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.