



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Year C**

**SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**20th JANUARY 2019**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: If You Could Choose A Miracle** If you were in Jesus' shoes and you were about to grab the world's attention with your first miracle, what might that first miracle be? Might you reverse global warming or end poverty? Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at the Wedding of Cana. To many it seems a frivolous kind of miracle, something akin to a party trick, but John relates the miracle with good reason. John's gospel is quite different in character from the other three. It's written in a very symbolic style, and it doesn't follow the same order, or record the same stories as the others. St John is concerned in showing us signs, which gradually reveal the glory of God through Jesus. The author seems to be mainly interested in the significance of the deeds of Jesus. So what is the significance of this miracle? John writes, "This is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." Suddenly confronted with enough wine to swim in, the disciples had no choice but to begin to believe in who Jesus really was. Neither would the symbolism have been lost on the people of the time. It was the people's belief that at the time of salvation God would provide a table for feasting for his servants and a cup that would never run dry. In short, the substance of the sign was of no consequence at all; it was the message the sign conveyed that was all-important.



The symbolism we read in this first miracle speaks of an old religion bogged down with oppressive rules and laws liberated by a new faith governed by love, compassion, joy, generosity, and abundance. Being a Christian is a very serious business, and as Christians we are asked to address life and death issues, but that doesn't mean we should trudge around with long pious faces. Jesus frequently likens the Kingdom of God to a feast, so smile.... the changing of water to wine is a sign of better things to come. *(Chapel Bell)*

**PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** From **18th until 25th January** the Church observes eight days' prayer for Christian Unity. **This year** we are reminded that our prayer for unity is offered up amidst injustice, and that Christian disunity is in so many ways related to the divisions in our world. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland suggest that we 'Go and Do' ([www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo)). Resources are also available on their website (<https://ctbi.org.uk/>) along with prayers for each day of the octave. A votive Mass for Christian Unity will be celebrated during the octave. ✨ There will be a united service at Bearsted Methodists this **Sunday, 20th January** at 3pm. Parishioners are **urged to support** this event.



**WORLD DAY of PRAYER for PEACE** *Good politics is at the service of peace* On the Second Sunday of Ordinary time we mark the annual World Day of Peace with a message titled: "Good Politics is at the Service of Peace." Pope Francis compels everyone to be engaged in the work of advocating for and with those whose voices are marginalized, to ensure the protection and fulfilment of the 'youngest and smallest.' **To do: – Pray** for the grace to approach all political and social issues from a starting point of faith, love, and a spirit of generosity. **– Learn.** Faithful citizenship requires us to understand the political and social issues that impact our brothers and

sisters throughout the world. Read a good newspaper every day. **– Act.** Join tens of thousands of Catholics to advocate for policies that support justice and peace and those experiencing poverty or conflict around the world.

**MAIDSTONE DAY CARE CENTRE** Donations of good used or new clothing for homeless men and women are needed. Toiletries would also be useful. Please bring to St Peter's in **January** and we will deliver any donations. Thank you.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE** Meeting this Wednesday, usual place and time.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 20th JANUARY 2019**  
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✧ **SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✧  
*Peace Sunday*

Sun 20th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✧ Vigil Mass: Anne Leonard's intention
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✧ Mass: For Unity and Peace
		<b>12noon</b>	Baptism: Henry Michael Barrow
		<b>3.00pm</b>	Unity Service at <b>Bearsted Methodist Church</b>
Mon 21st	St Agnes	<b>7.00pm</b>	✧ Mass
Tue 22nd	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✧ Mass
Wed 23rd	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✧ Mass: Holy Souls
Thu 24th	St Francis de Sales	<b>7.00am</b>	✧ Mass: For Unity
Fri 25th	Conversion of St Paul	<b>10.00am</b>	✧ Mass: George and Mary Combes RIP
Sat 26th	SS Timothy and Titus	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✧ <b>THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)</b> ✧			
Sun 27th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✧ Vigil Mass: Seán Roche RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✧ Mass: Barbara Amos RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✧ Mass: Pro Populo

**BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER Lent Lunches:** see this year's programme on the notice board. ♦ **Urgent: representative needed to sit on the committee that meets 3 times a year.** Names, please, to Bob or Fr Geoff.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **For the Church:** *together may we witness to the Gospel of unity and peace, creating a community where all can find reconciliation, and strife may be replaced by understanding; for all who suffer in the name of Christ.*
- **With the Holy Father for January** – *May young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.*
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** *those who have died recently; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for Henry, being baptized this weekend, and for his parents and godparents; and for the intentions on the notice board, especially those undergoing surgery at this time.*
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✧ *William Smith, Norah Walker, Guy Robinson, John (Shaun) Dornan, Thomas Hickey, Thaddeus Loughlin and Patricia Glashan.* ✧

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£354.61** (Gift Aided, **£157.82**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**).

**CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC FORMATION** The diocese is looking for an Adviser for Catechesis and Resource Assistants. Applications to be in by **1st February**. ♦ Southwark Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal is also looking to fill a post. See the notice board for more information.

**PEACE ACTIONS for JANUARY**

- Make a visit to another Christian church in your area as part of your commitment to **Christian Unity Octave, (18th-25th January)**. The Christians of Indonesia prepared the resources for this year's celebration. They found this year's theme in the words of Deuteronomy, '**Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue...**' (see Deut. 16:18-20).
- Mark **Peace Sunday today**. The theme is "**Good politics serves peace**".
- Mark **Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January**. Resources are available from Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre ([www.bethshalom.com](http://www.bethshalom.com)).

**CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP) Debt Counselling.** Around 7.9 million of people say they are likely to fall behind with their finances in January after spending too much at Christmas. 'Christians Against Poverty' exist because nobody should be held hostage by debt and poverty. But the truth is that they are rife in the UK. In a society where people live behind closed doors, thousands are desperately poor. Unable to feed their children, incapable of paying to heat their homes in winter, the grip of poverty is relentless. The website is a good starting point for those looking for debt counselling. The charity is always looking for donations to set up more centres across the UK. Visit CAP at [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org). "**If money and material things become the centre of our lives, they seize us and make us slaves.**" Pope Francis.