



# 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

SIXTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME

17th FEBRUARY 2019

**FAITH IN FOCUS: The 'I'm All Right Jack' Mentality** "Woe to those who are rich."

"Woe to those with plenty to eat." "Woe to those who laugh." "Woe to those who are honoured." Does Jesus mean that heaven is denied us if we pick up a well-earned pay packet at the end of the month, stock the freezer and put on a cheerful face?

Few of us consider ourselves really well off, but there is a danger that when we are finally making ends meet we can become seriously complacent. There is a real danger that when we are sitting down to our Spaghetti Bolognese and bottle of Italian red, that the images of world disasters flashing across our TV screens do not really touch us for more than fleeting moments. We have struggled through a hard day at work, paid the bills, fed the family and got the children to bed. The last thing we want is breaking news of famine or earthquakes to make us feel uncomfortable.

"Blessed are those who are poor. Blessed are those who are hungry. Blessed are those who weep." Jesus is always on the side of those who are poor and badly done

to, but is that a prescription for being poor and hungry in a bid to win Jesus' favour? Jesus is clearly not about keeping people in poverty, so what exactly does he mean?

In God's kingdom our earthly values are turned upside down. We count wealth, good health and success as blessings, which of course they are, but they stop being blessings and become hindrances instead when we bury our heads in the sand and fail to see or do anything about a world that suffers widespread starvation and war. The blessings in our lives can only bring true happiness once we are able to shed our "I'm all right Jack" mentality and do something about the "woes" in other people's lives. (Chapel Bell)



**RACIAL JUSTICE DAY** Today is Racial Justice Sunday, where the church recognizes the problems faced by people due to racism and ethnic discrimination in the workplace. In a world steeped in violence, conflict, and discrimination, the Gospel demands that we acknowledge the dignity of the human person, the necessity of building peace, prosperity and justice for all. We are called to ensure people are not exploited while they work, and to open our hearts to those who face this hatred. Our responsibility is to make sure people are treated with dignity at work and are not exploited. Migrant communities and those suffering from racial abuse are particularly vulnerable to being drawn into unjust working conditions and labour exploitation. **There will be a retiring collection this weekend to promote racial justice in England and Wales.** ✕ Pick up a prayer card.

**OUR LADY of WALSINGHAM STATUE:** visit to St George's Cathedral. The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham from the Slipper Chapel will soon visit St George's Cathedral in Southwark as part of her ongoing Dowry Tour of visitations to the Catholic Cathedrals of England. The visit will take place between **21st and 23rd February**. There is an extensive programme (see notice board) and Archbishop Peter will be presiding at the closing Mass on Saturday **23rd February** at 12.30 pm. All are welcome.

**SPECIAL MESSAGE** While Fr Geoffrey is away on his pre-Lent break to focus on preparing the 2020 diocesan calendar, there will be no weekday Masses. However there will be some days when the Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion will be celebrated; please check the diary. • We are grateful to Fr Joseph O'Connor who will be celebrating the Masses this weekend and next.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 17th FEBRUARY 2019  
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕  
*Racial Justice Day*

Sun 17th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Charles Ryan RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Patrick Dempsey RIP
Mon 18th	Feria	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Tue 19th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Wed 20th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 21st	Feria	<b>Sorry, no parish Mass</b>	
Fri 22nd	The Chair of St Peter	<b>10.00am</b>	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Sat 23rd	St Polycarp	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ <b>SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)</b> ✕			
Sun 24th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Clare Montague RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP

**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.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **On Racial Justice Day** we remember those who are treated as a means of profit. We pray for all who experience exploitation, racism or discrimination in the workplace and in society as a whole. May we be given the courage to promote the justice and acceptance that ensures lasting peace and racial harmony.
- **With the Holy Father for February** – For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence (see: <http://santamartagroup.com/>).
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes**; for those who have died recently especially Canon John Bailey; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for the intentions on the notice board, especially those undergoing and recovering from surgery at this time; and for our children preparing for First Communion in May.
- **Anniversaries** (St Peter's Chapel memorial): ✕ Mary Sanders, Elizabeth Mahon, Patrick Dempsey, Thomas Lawson, Geoffrey Dring, George Morris, Rosalie Holland, Seamus Good, Mornington Hale, Ivy Wood, David McCafferty, Barry Boyden, Finbar Hudson, Enid Greenrod and Rita Kimber. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£553.38** (Gift Aided, **£193.38**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). □ **Today** is Racial Justice Day, focusing this year on 'Dignity for all workers'; a collection will be taken to support the work of the Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society.

**PEACE ACTIONS** Support Fairtrade Fortnight **25th February - 10th March**. This year's focus is on ensuring that cocoa farmers are paid fairly for their work and are able to live a dignified life. Make an effort to buy Fairtrade Chocolate. □ Our parish Advent Appeal in aid of the Winter Shelter raised a further **£61.30**, bringing the total raised to **£647.40**. We have also had a generous response to our January appeal for clothes etc. for the Maidstone Day Centre. A big thank you to everyone who donated and to Janet and Paul for conveying the items to the centre! □ CAFOD The Lent Family Fast Day is Friday 15th March. Envelopes will be available in due course. Please feel free to include any donations you plan to give in Lent in the Family Fast Day envelope. Your generosity will give vital support to the communities we work with around the world. Thank you.

**ART EXHIBITION** Our very own Shelagh Oates has an exhibition of her art throughout March at Allington Library in support of Parkinson's Disease. See the poster.