



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 C

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

3rd NOVEMBER 2019

FAITH in FOCUS: SALVATION FOR ALL We are invited to church to worship God but there are huge numbers of people who have never set foot in a church and have no intention of finding God. These are the people that Jesus is determined to seek out and save. Jesus doesn't wait for people to seek him out, he seeks them out first. To Jesus it doesn't matter to what depths someone has sunk, salvation is still an option.

Zacchaeus is an example of the most despised of crooks. He is a chief tax collector who has made great wealth on the back of his oppressed fellow Jews. In Jesus' day, tax collectors were put in the same category as thieves and murderers. Because they were in the employment of the Romans, Jewish tax collectors were regarded as traitors by their own people. Although hugely wealthy, Zacchaeus must have felt lonely and isolated. He certainly makes a good subject for a parable that tells us how Jesus reaches out to the lowliest and most despicable.

On this particular day, Zacchaeus, curious to catch a glimpse of Jesus runs ahead, and being of small stature climbs up into a tree. But although it is Zacchaeus who wants to see Jesus, it is actually Jesus who spots Zacchaeus and tells him that he will be dining at his house that day.

It is disappointing that we don't get to hear what went on between Jesus and Zacchaeus at that meal, but we do know that Zacchaeus was suddenly a changed man. We don't know what was said, but we do know Jesus' intention. Jesus had come to save those who were lost. To be lost means to become disassociated with the person God wants us to be. Jesus has a talent for looking beyond sin to the people we can become. Somehow Jesus was about to show Zacchaeus who he could really be.

The parable of Zacchaeus is a great comfort to us, however low we have sunk, Jesus is determined to seek us out and show us a better way.



Chapel Bell

✠ **ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL BOWEN RIP** ✠ Archbishop Michael's funeral Mass will be at St George's Cathedral tomorrow at 12.30pm. Please pray for the repose of his soul, and for his family.

WELCOME This weekend we welcome Fr Joe O'Connor, who has kindly offered to say Mass while Fr Geoffrey is away in Rome. We thank him for stepping in to help. Fr Geoffrey will return this week.

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

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.* **Next Sunday** is Remembrance Sunday,

FIRST COMMUNIONS There are two sessions for the children before Christmas on **15th** and **22nd November** at St Peter's. Parents will be contacted. Our First Communion group is now full and no further applications are being accepted.

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DEANERY this year is on Tuesday **12th November**, 12noon at St Thomas More Church, West Malling. Please join with us in commemorating past members of deanery clergy, many of whom will be known to us.

FEAST of CHRIST THE KING This is on Sunday **24th November**. 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 with a cup of tea in the hall and an informal meeting of the parish to discuss various forthcoming events.

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW Tickets for our annual Christmas Draw will be available from this weekend. The Christmas Draw is the major fund-raising event for parish funds, so please support it as much as you can by taking books of tickets to sell to your friends and family and/or by donating a prize. Sorry, but we cannot accept bric-a-brac, second-hand or electrical items. Please return your counterfoils, with the correct money by Sunday 8th December.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 3rd NOVEMBER 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

Sun 3rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Deceased Members of Maidstone Catenians
		<i>3.00pm</i>	<i>Blessing of Graves at Sutton Road Cemetery</i>
Mon 4th	Anniversary of the Consecration of St Peter's	No Mass	
Tue 5th	Feria	10.00am	<i>Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion (followed by Adoration until 12noon)</i>
Wed 6th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	<i>Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 7th	The Dedication of St George's Cathedral	No Mass	
Fri 8th	Feria	10.00am	<i>Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Sat 9th	The Dedication of The Lateran Basilica	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

Sun 10th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday <i>Remembrance ☸ Sunday</i>	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Private Intention (CD)
		10.30am	✕ Mass: For the Dead of War

THE YEAR OF THE WORD In partnership with Bible Society, the Year of the Word focuses on celebrating, living and sharing God's word throughout the Catholic Church in England and Wales until the end of December 2020. Pick up a booklet 'The God who Speaks' for more information, or visit: <http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for November:** for the Near East, that a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.
- **For those who lost their lives in the lorry found in Essex;** that the Essex police be successful in their investigation, and that the families of the victims find comfort in their grief, and peace when justice comes.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for all those who have died recently, especially Archbishop Michael Bowen; for Frank, being baptized today and for his parents and godparents; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and those who have asked for prayers.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish. 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.

PAX CHRISTI ADVENT PEACE SERVICE This year on Monday 9th December at St Aloysius' Church, London NW1 1TA from 7pm. All are welcome.

SAMARA'S AID APPEAL EVENT See the notice about this.

COMING UP:

November: Month of the Holy Souls – envelopes are available to include a list of your deceased loved ones.

Monday: 35th anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's.

Sunday 10th November: Remembrance Day

Sunday 24th November (Christ the King): Sacred Heart Devotions and Benediction, followed by Parish meeting.