



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-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Remembrance  Sunday

10th NOVEMBER 2019

FAITH in FOCUS: GOD OF THE LIVING Those of you who have tuned into political debate lately will have noticed that whilst some questions demand a genuine answer, others are simply posed to trip up the opponent and cause maximum embarrassment. Can we really hope to get answers if we are asking questions loaded with ridicule and cynicism? Today, the Sadducees, who did not believe in resurrection, try to ridicule the belief in life after death by posing Jesus with an argument that verges on the ludicrous. Their only interest in quizzing Jesus was to confound him and to ridicule the whole notion of resurrection and of Heaven. The Sadducees flag a warning to us all. There is nothing wrong with having a lively theological debate, but when we start to raise questions, we have to be very honest about our motivation. Are we really seeking answers, or are we simply kicking an intellectual football? Are we, like the Sadducees, guilty of bringing our own convictions to an argument with an arrogant refusal to see a different point of view?



It is surprising that Jesus dignifies the Sadducees' question with an answer at all, but he does. The circumstances that surround us in our day-to-day living, Jesus explains, will not apply in Heaven, and therefore we need not trouble ourselves with worldly conventions. No longer able to die, let alone resume a marriage we forged in life, those who are deemed worthy will be like the angels - children of God. The Sadducees are thinking of an eternity as something linked to earthly life. How boring that would be!

All we can know about death and resurrection is that it is a journey that starts in the here and now. It is the 'now' that determines our eternity, and as Jesus said, 'God is not God of the dead, but of the living.' To God, we are all alive.

Chapel Bell

THANK YOU to Fr Joe O'Connor, who kindly came to say Mass while Fr Geoffrey was away in Rome. We thank him for stepping in to help. Thanks, too, to Deacon Cyril and Truda for their help with organizing communion services during the week.

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.* **Today** is Remembrance Sunday,

FIRST COMMUNIONS There are two sessions for the children before Christmas: **this Friday** 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 **this Tuesday, 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 an informal meeting of the parish to discuss various forthcoming events.

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW Tickets for our annual Christmas Draw are now available. 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 10th NOVEMBER 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✧ THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✧

Sun 10th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday <i>Remembrance</i> 🌸 <i>Sunday</i>	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Private Intention (CD)
		10.30am	✧ Mass: For the Dead of War
Mon 11th	St Martin of Tours	7.00pm	✧ Mass: November Holy Souls
Tue 12th	St Josaphat	10.00am	✧ Mass: Archbishop Michael Bowen RIP
Wed 13th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✧ Mass: November Holy Souls
Thu 14th	Feria	7.00am	✧ Mass
Fri 15th	Feria	10.00am	Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Sat 16th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✧ THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✧			
Sun 17th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: November Holy Souls
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: November Holy Souls
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo

PLEASE PRAY...

- **"At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.":** Every year the nation unites to make sure that no-one is forgotten and to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. Not just a focus of remembrance, but of a re-commitment to creating peace in as many practical ways we can think of. On this Remembrance Sunday, we pray for the dead of war. We pray, too, in particular that violence may be overcome by peace; that weapons of destruction be transformed into tools of justice, and hate give way to true charity.
- **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 all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for all those who have died recently; 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):** ✧ Peter Barratt, James Brennan, Iris Stubbs, Nora Horgan, Bernadette Boyle and Frederick Greenrod. ✧

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£497.50** (of which, **£243.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ **This weekend** there is a retiring collection for the **Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration**, which helps meet the cost of the central administration of the diocese.

INTER-FAITH WEEK begins today and runs until next Sunday. Its aims are to strengthen good inter faith relations, to highlight the contribution that faith communities make to society, and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. "Inter Faith Week is a great opportunity for people to come together, learn about people in their communities, and make common cause together. Such actions are a powerful antidote to language of division and to prejudice."

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/>.

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.

Today: Remembrance Day

Sunday 17th: World Day of the Poor

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

Sunday 1st December: First Sunday of Advent.

THE LAST WORD... "Whether we are remembering the saints, our loved ones or those who died in the service of the country, the way we remember is crucial. Our remembering can enslave us in the past – or liberate us into the future."

Brian Castle