



# 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**

**THIRD SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME**

**27th JANUARY 2019**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: Passion and Purpose** What makes a great orator? What makes them more persuasive? How do they influence people to take action? Great orators have something in common. A great speaker is driven by his or her passion. Passion is infectious. Great speakers keep it simple. They use short sentences. They use everyday language to make complicated topics clear and understandable. A great speech is more than just a clever argument, a great speech comes from a person that throws their weight and their personality behind their beliefs.

When Jesus is invited to stand up and preach back at his own hometown synagogue he chooses his reading with care. What Jesus chooses to read is to be a statement about his own mission priorities. He chooses to speak of social injustice. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me," he reads, "... because he has anointed me to proclaim glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed." Then Jesus points to himself as the fulfilment of the ancient prophecy before handing back the scroll and sitting down. Jesus has obeyed all the rules of public speaking, he has considered the purpose of his reading, chosen words that will best convey his purpose, and delivered them powerfully and succinctly.

How will Jesus' listeners respond to his claim? What would our own response have been? Would we have been inspired and motivated to hear Jesus speak these words? Would we suddenly see the ancient prophecy as just that, an ancient prophecy, or as mission to be fulfilled under Jesus' leadership? Could we begin to imagine the poetry of these words resonating two thousand years later? Only very few of us have the charisma to communicate in the way Jesus obviously did, but there are other ways to communicate and other ways to evangelise. If we want to influence those around us, we need to take a leaf from Jesus's book and put some passion into our purpose. (*Chapel Bell*)



**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.

**BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER** Lent Lunches: see this year's programme on the notice board. ♦ Thank you to those who turned up for our unity service last Sunday at the Methodist Church. The offertory came to **£130** which was donated to Christian Aid.

**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.

**DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL** Meeting this **Tuesday** evening at West Malling.

**BEREAVEMENT TRAINING DAY** on **9th March** at Aylesford Priory. Any parishioners who are currently active in the ministry to the bereaved, or would like to take on this ministry should speak to Fr Geoff or Deacon Cyril after Mass to be booked on the course. This course is not suitable for those who are recently bereaved.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th JANUARY 2019**  
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕

Sun 27th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Seán Roche RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Mass: Barbara Amos RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 28th	St Thomas Aquinas	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tue 29th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 30th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 31st	St John Bosco	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 1st February	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Brian Smith RIP
Sat 2nd	The Presentation of the Lord	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ <b>FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)</b> ✕			
Sun 3rd	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Len Richardson RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Noel Millbrook RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

**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...**

- **For the Church:** *May we always be attentive to the Word of God, living out our Baptism as active members of the Body of Christ*
- **With the Holy Father for February** – *For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.*
- **On Holocaust Memorial Day:** *for all those who experienced the Holocaust, and all people who lost loved ones. We ask that we learn lessons from this atrocity and do all that we can to stop anything like it happening again.*
- **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; for the intentions on the notice board, especially those undergoing surgery at this time; and for our children preparing for First Communion in May who will be celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time next Saturday.*
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ *Eileen Clinton, Arthur Wood, Barbara Amos, James Holland, Murray Fraser and Theresa Hamilton.* ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£466.03** (Gift Aided, **£183.36**; 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 **Friday 1st February**. ♦ Southwark Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal is also looking to fill a post. See the notice board for more information.

**PEACE ACTIONS for JANUARY**

- **Mark Holocaust Memorial Day today.** Resources are available from Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre ([www.bethshalom.com](http://www.bethshalom.com)).

**CATHOLIC SINGLES** is an organization which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit [www.catholicssingles.org.uk](http://www.catholicssingles.org.uk) or tel. 0161 941 3498.