



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

FOURTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME

3rd FEBRUARY 2019

FAITH IN FOCUS: Pitfalls of a Prophet There's an insightful saying, "An expert is someone who carries a briefcase and works two hundred miles from home." The saying finds resonance in Jesus' own words, "No prophet is accepted in his own native place." In today's reading Jesus is invited to preach back in his hometown synagogue. At first, Jesus' audience are impressed, but then they start to mutter to each other. Surely this is just the son of Joseph the carpenter! When this truth dawns on them they are enraged and drive him out of town. It doesn't matter how successful or famous or distinguished one has become, once you return home you will always be that little runny nosed seven-year-old who refused to wash behind his ears.



The readings over the Epiphany season are all about mankind coming to understand who Jesus is and what he is about. In particular, the readings tell us how this understanding is communicated. Jesus was an excellent communicator, but not even he was free of prejudice. The business of communicating with others on the subject of God is not without problems and pitfalls.

There is nothing elite about being a prophet. A prophet is anyone who stands up and speaks an insightful truth. As Christians we are all required to stand up for the truth. There is plenty of injustice in the world to speak out against, but before speaking out, we are warned of the pitfalls. Today's gospel warns us of the pitfall of familiarity breeding contempt. What other pitfalls might we encounter in speaking out? It is easy for instance to imagine that everyone's faith should be the same as one's own. Might we misjudge the mood, readiness or interest of our audience? Might we be tempted to patronize, or worse, bore our listeners? For two thousand years inspirational communicators have stood up in Jesus' wake and amplified his words. Today we are invited to choose our own words, weigh up our audience, examine the pitfalls and add our voice.

(Chapel Bell)

BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER Lent Lunches: see this year's programme on the notice board.

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.

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 Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril after Mass to be booked on the course. This course is not suitable for those who are recently bereaved.

St SCHOLASTICA'S RETREAT OPEN DAY Saturday, **16th February**. The Retreat offers sheltered housing to practising Catholics aged 60 or over in 36 self-contained flats at £491pcm – more information on the poster and from The Warden: Deacon Seán Duffy – Princes Risborough (01844) 344437. Email: info@stscholasticas.co.uk. www.stscholasticas.co.uk.

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

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

Sun 3rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Len Richardson RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Noel Millbrook RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 4th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Leon Moodley RIP
Tue 5th	St Agatha	10.00am	✕ Mass: Denis Pointer RIP
Wed 6th	St Paul Miki and Companions	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Truda Ryans RIP
Thu 7th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Canon Francis Moran RIP
Fri 8th	St Josephine Bakhita	10.00am	✕ Mass: For Victims of Human Trafficking
Sat 9th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

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

Sun 10th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Wellbeing of Frances Betts
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		10.30am	✕ 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. "If money and material things become the centre of our lives, they seize us and make us slaves." Pope Francis.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **For the people of Brazil as they mourn the tragic loss of life in the recent mudslides.** May the dead receive eternal life; the bereaved, comfort and support; rescuers and emergency services, the courage and strength that they need for their heart-breaking task.
- **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 Leon Moodley and Canon Francis Moran (Mortlake); and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends especially Hazel Crowley; 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 celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time yesterday (Saturday).
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ Edna Macklin, Truda Ryans, Peter Ahearne, Leonard Richardson and Barbara Casey. ✕

<p>Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £386.60 (Gift Aided, £204.00; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to £158.00).</p>
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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.catholicsingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498.

PEACE ACTIONS for FEBRUARY • **17th February** is Racial Justice Sunday. Use this event to address racial justice in some way, however small. • 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.