



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-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

17th NOVEMBER 2019

FAITH in FOCUS: WEEDING LIFE'S GARDEN St Francis of Assisi was asked one day as he was weeding in the garden, "What would you do if you knew the world was about to end?" St Francis replied, "Continue weeding my garden of course." The implication was that Francis didn't have to rush around like a headless chicken putting his house in order. Francis was already living his life in a state of readiness, and he had no need to worry himself about the end of the world.

Today we are told what it might be like at the end of time. There might be wars, earthquakes famines plagues and Christian persecution. In fact it doesn't sound too dissimilar to the state of affairs on our daily news programmes. Should we be concerned?

Jesus points to the end of history and declares that the future holds a time of reckoning. Like the disciples in today's reading, we are tempted to ask when that time might be, only to be told that it's something that shouldn't concern us. We mustn't listen to those who claim, "The end is nigh..."; instead we must always focus on what there is left to do. The basic premise is that we should keep on doing right, regardless of the circumstances.

Like the people in today's gospel who were so pleased with their temple, we are often pleased with what we build up here on earth. Jesus takes the opportunity to point out that everything man made will come to an end. We would be much better off focusing not on a material agenda but in developing a faith that will endure great adversity.

If we are ready for God's final judgment, then we shouldn't be afraid of anything that is ahead of us. Global disaster, wars and earthquakes should hold no terror if we trust completely in God. Our lives are like a garden filled with good things we must nurture, and bad things we must weed out. When the end of time comes, we must face our mortality as Francis suggests, weeding life's garden and living in readiness.

Chapel Bell

✠ **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.*

FEAST of CHRIST THE KING **Next Sunday** 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 (minutes of last meeting are available). ✠ Next Sunday is also **Youth Sunday**, an opportunity to recognize young people as a gift in the Church, enable the parish community to celebrate young people and affirm the contributions of young people and those who work with them. This year, the theme is **significance** – inspired by flame and the incredible apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit*. There will be a retiring collection next weekend to help support youth work in the diocese and further afield.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES are STARTING in THE PARISH! You know it's getting near Christmastime when the posters go up for our Christmas Quiz and the sing-along of all our favourite Christmas songs! This is one of our most popular events of the year, and for your ticket money you get an evening's festive entertainment, plus a fish or sausage and chip supper, ice-cream and a raffle. What more do you need to start the Christmas Season? The quiz questions are at 'family' level as we would like to encourage children to bring their parents! A family ticket will only cost £22 for 2 adults and 2 children. It's sensational value for a good family evening out. Teams will be of 6 to 8 people and if you wish to come on your own, we will find a team for you to join. Please bring your own drinks. Tickets go on sale this weekend and all proceeds will go to the Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter for the homeless.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 17th NOVEMBER 2019

(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✧ THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✧			
Sun 17th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Mass: November Holy Souls
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: November Holy Souls
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 18th	Feria	7.00pm	✧ Mass: November Holy Souls
Tue 19th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass (followed by Adoration until 12noon)
Wed 20th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✧ Mass: November Holy Souls
Thu 21st	The Presentation of the B.V.M.	7.00am	✧ Mass
Fri 22nd	St Cecilia	10.00am	✧ Mass: Fiona Rice RIP
Sat 23rd	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✧ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (C) ✧			
Sun 24th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Fr Denis Lynch RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Kathleen and Anthony McParland RIP
		10.30am	✧ Sung Mass: Pro Populo
		3.00pm	Sacred Heart Devotions and Benediction (followed by Parish Meeting)

FIRST COMMUNIONS The final session for the children before Christmas is **this Friday, 22nd November** at St Peter's.

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW Tickets for our annual Christmas Draw are now available. The Christmas Draw is the major fundraising 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**.

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.
- **As we celebrate the Third World Day of the Poor,** for the Church, that we will put our concern for people in need into action by giving time, attention and practical help to our vulnerable brothers and sisters.
- **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):** ✧ Nora Horgan, Denis Horgan and Hilda Britton. ✧

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£349.09** (of which, **£165.27** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ Last week's retiring collection for the Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration raised **£151.91**. Thank you. ♦ **Next weekend** there is a retiring collection for **Catholic Youth Work**, which supports youth work in the diocese and beyond.

The HELPERS of GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS reach out in love and compassion to mothers who are in crisis pregnancies and to those who have suffered the effects of abortion. We invite you to join us for our next peaceful, prayerful vigil which will be held on Friday **22nd November** at St Francis' Church, 126 Week Street, Maidstone ME14 1RH. We begin with 10.30am Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We begin our Rosary Procession at 11am following an Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to Marie Stopes abortion centre, Brewer Street, where we pray 20 decades of the Rosary and the Divine Marcy Chaplet, returning at approx.1pm for refreshments nearby. Full details on poster or contact tel. 01727 763832 or 07747 746411, or e-mail marg@helpersuk.org.

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 (see poster). All are welcome.

COMING UP:

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

Today: 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. (*This year the commercial and liturgical Advent calendars agree.*)