

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

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OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

24th NOVEMBER 2019

FAITH in FOCUS: King of Mercy Our lives are filled with such horrible instances of the abuse of power, that royal imagery, especially in the light of a recent news story, seems out of place when talking about Jesus. But the reign of Jesus from the cross is based on a different vision of power altogether. Jesus' authority is nothing about oppression and everything about mercy. His is a power that never seeks to rule or dominate, but rather seeks to serve, and lead by example. His is a power that never seeks to rule by causing conflict or division, but a power that seeks to unify the world by promoting understanding, tolerance, justice, sharing and peace. His is a kingdom in which we will all be valued and loved.

Three years ago saw the close of Pope Francis's 'Year of Mercy'. Mercy is never out of place, so it is always apt that we should close each year by considering Christ as a king not of power but of compassion and mercy. What did we learn from the year of mercy, and from the path Jesus chose? It's simple! We might see others as guilty or sinful. Jesus sees those same people as needy and vulnerable. If we learnt anything three years ago it should be that there is worth in everyone we meet.

The vision of God's kingdom is a vision we can start living here on earth. We can begin realizing it by challenging our own values, in how we treat others and how we respond to the world around us.

In today's gospel, we see a crown of thorns instead of a crown of jewels, and a cross instead of a throne. It might seem a bit of a mystery to the non-believers who are governed by self-interest, but to those who understand values such as self-sacrifice, love and forgiveness, this is where discipleship begins. *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 This Sunday afternoon there will be Benediction at St Peter's, 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). ✠ This 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 this weekend to help support youth work in the diocese and further afield.

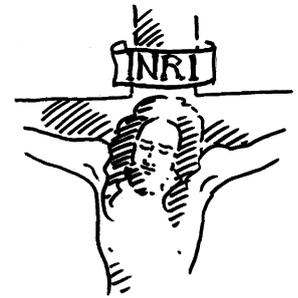
ADVENT REFLECTIONS From the Diocesan Stewardship Team: <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/>.

ADVENT APPEAL This year's Advent Appeal will be in aid of the Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter for the homeless. Envelopes for your donations will be available from next Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent. Thank you.

TRADCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS Please consider buying your Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards from our Traidcraft stall again this year (in conjunction with CAFOD). There is a large selection of cards available.

FINANCE COMMITTEE After 7pm Mass, on **Monday 9th December** (transferred solemnity of The Immaculate Conception).

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 anticipate 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 24th NOVEMBER 2019 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham) | | | |
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| ✕ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (C) ✕ | | | |
| Sun 24th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Mass: Fr Denis Lynch RIP |
| | Sunday <i>National Youth Sunday</i> | (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) |
| Mon 25th | Feria | 7.00pm | ✕ Mass: November Holy Souls |
| Tue 26th | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass: November Holy Souls <i>(followed by Adoration until 12noon)</i> |
| Wed 27th | Feria | (H) 10.00am | ✕ Mass: November Holy Souls |
| Thu 28th | Feria | 7.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Fri 29th | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass: Fr Tom Creagh-Fuller RIP |
| Sat 30th | St Andrew | <i>5-5.30pm</i> | <i>Confessions</i> |
| ✕ FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (A) ✕ | | | |
| Sun 1st December | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: November Holy Souls |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Fr Jim Kirby RIP |

FIRST COMMUNIONS The next session for the children will be on **Friday 10th January** 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. Please, no 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.
- **On this Youth Sunday:** for the young generation who will inherit the society that we have built and developed, that they may make sense of the errors we have made, and that they may care for us as we have tried to care for them.
- **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):** ✕ Gordan Bruce-Russell, George Scott, Jack Hooker, Joyce Bean, Sue Hepper, Irena Harrison, Nora Walton, Mary Taylor and Grace Connolly. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£323.89** (of which, **£144.50** 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 **Catholic Youth Work**, which supports youth work in the diocese and beyond.

SICK or in HOSPITAL? Do please let Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril know so that you get a visit. **They would rather know twice than not at all!**

MEMORIAL CARDS Pick up a memorial card for Archbishop Emeritus Michael Bowen, who died last month. ✕ Also, a card to mark the installation of Most Reverend John Wilson as Archbishop of Southwark.

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/>. ✕ **BIBLE SUNDAY** is on the Second Sunday of Advent, **7th and 8th December**. It highlights the importance of the sacred scriptures in Christian living. We will be asking our Ministers of the Word (Readers) to renew the commitment to their ministry that weekend. ★ If you feel you would like to offer your service as a Minister of the Word, please let Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril know.

COMING UP:

Wednesday 27th November: Social Committee.

Sunday 1st December: First Sunday of Advent. (*This year the commercial and liturgical Advent calendars agree.*)

Wednesday 4th December: final session for our flower arrangers, at St Peter's, 7-9pm: preparing for Christmas (note change of date).

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES: Details of the times of the Christmas services across all the Christian churches in the Bearsted locality will soon be available and will need to be distributed by the second Sunday of Advent. **Volunteers please!** **Bearsted Choral Society**, Saturday **14th December** at St Peter's, 7.30pm; see poster. Carols on the [Bearsted] Green, Wednesday **18th December**.