



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: parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.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 A THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 19th November 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: NO PAIN, NO GAIN The third servant in today's parable was trying to bury a responsibility that he wished to avoid. The treasure he had been given was an opportunity for him to invest and please his master, but instead of putting himself out, he buried the treasure where he could forget about it and go about his own affairs. Buried deep, the treasure was no longer an uncomfortable reminder of his master's expectations. Meanwhile, the other two servants, realising that there is no gain without pain, risked everything on their master's account. They invested and multiplied their gifts, and their master was pleased by their efforts.

Like the three servants in this story we too have been given talents and gifts, and with those talents comes a responsibility to use those talents as an opportunity to make the world a better place. Our talents are varied, some great some small but we are all gifted in some way. Some have high profile and very obvious talents ... there are those who are great musicians, surgeons, sports people and scientists. The rest of us might have less obvious talents. We might have a talent for caring, listening, speaking, growing things or solving practical problems. Whatever our particular gift we are urged to step out with it ... stick our neck on the line and invest our gifts in God's cause. God will not be so impressed if we are too afraid, embarrassed or lazy to use our talents. Ever heard the expression 'Use it or lose it.' If we ignore our gifts long enough, there will come a time when we can no longer rely upon them. This is what happened to the third servant.



One of the excuses that the third servant made for not investing his gift was that he was fearful of losing it. But the message today is not to be fearful. God never asks us to do something we are not capable of doing, and he is not judging us by our levels of productivity. The master in the story did not judge the third servant for producing nothing from his gift, but rather for being lazy and for his bitter indifference to his master's generosity. The master would not have judged him harshly, if he had tried his best but failed.

Today we are invited to look again at what gifts we have been given and how we are using them for the benefit of all. We are asked to examine what gifts we might be ignoring because we are too embarrassed or afraid, and we are asked to live a little dangerously and invest more of ourselves in God's cause. *Chapel Bell.*

TODAY is the FIRST WORLD DAY of the POOR In his message for the first World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis issues an invitation to: "...the whole Church, and men and women of good will everywhere, to turn their gaze on this day to all those who stretch out their hands and plead for our help and solidarity. They are our brothers and sisters, created and loved by the one Heavenly Father. This Day is meant, above all, to encourage believers to react against a culture of discard and waste, and to embrace the culture of encounter. At the same time, everyone, independent of religious affiliation, is invited to openness and sharing with the poor through concrete signs of solidarity and fraternity. God created the heavens and the earth for all; yet sadly some have erected barriers, walls and fences, betraying the original gift meant for all humanity, with none excluded."

ELSIE HAMPSHIRE ✕ RIP Elsie's funeral is on Monday **27th November**, at 11am at Good Shepherd.

COMING UP • Benediction and parish meeting, **next Sunday, 3pm.** • *Christmas:* Details of the times of the Christmas services across all the churches in the Bearsted locality will **soon** be ready for distribution: *volunteers please.* † Bible Sunday is on the Second Sunday of Advent, **9th and 10th 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. • Family celebration in anticipation of Christmas; Thursday **21st December**, 7pm at St Peter's.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 19th NOVEMBER 2017
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY** ✕ **ORDINARY TIME (A)** ✕

Sun 19th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday <i>World Day for the Poor</i>	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Anthony & Kathleen McParland RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Mon 20th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Dec'd of Taylor & Langan families
Tues 21st	Presentation of BVM	10.00am	✕ Mass: Mary and David McCafferty RIP
Wed 22nd	St Cecilia	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Thu 23rd	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Angus, Mary and Valerie Smith RIP
Fri 24th	St Andrew Dung Lac & Companions	10.00am	✕ Mass: Geoffrey and Patricia Gibbens RIP
Sat 25th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING of the UNIVERSE (A) ✕			
Sun 26th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Winifred & Robert Dring RIP
	Sunday <i>National Youth Sunday</i>	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Ray Smith & Madeline Martin RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		3.00pm	Benediction and Litany of the Sacred Heart

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2018 Preparations will be on Friday afternoons, and will begin with a session for both parents and children at 4pm this **Friday, 24th November**.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE Meeting this **Wednesday, 22nd November**, usual time, usual place.

TRADCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS The Justice and Peace group are selling Christmas cards and other gifts. There will be a stall after weekend Masses at St Peter's and Good Shepherd.

PLEASE PRAY...

- *With the Holy Father for November – that Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.*
- *For all the victims of the earthquake in Iran; we ask that the bereaved find comfort and that help reaches the survivors; • on this first World Day of the Poor, for the volunteers all over the world who work for and support people in poverty; we ask that we all grow in our ability to love, not with words but with deeds; • for the people of Zimbabwe. May they find hope and peace at this time of political uncertainty.*
- *For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially young Hermione De Nocker who has had an accident, Joan Hardings and David Smith; for those who have died recently especially Augusta De Souza; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and for the intentions on the notice board.*
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Gordon Bruce Russell, George Scott, Hilda Britton, Mary Taylor and Grace Connolly. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£477.21** (Gift Aided, **£264.70**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£149.00**). ♦ The retiring collection for the **Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration**, realized **£135.01**. ♦ **Next Sunday**, Youth Sunday, there will be a retiring collection for the **Catholic Youth Services** to help support youth work in the diocese and beyond.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY (<http://www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk/>) takes place next week, **26th November**. The theme this year is 'Something to Say' which invites us to listen to our young people in preparation for the Synod next year.

Over this next year I would encourage all our parishes to make time to gather young people, to facilitate conversations, provide an opportunity to listen to young people and ask them to share their life experience, joys and struggles, their hopes and fears. Then we can reflect and pray along with the Church on how we respond. This may require us to explore different ways of engagement to share and pass on our faith and the message of the Gospel. – Archbishop Peter Smith

This Youth Sunday please keep our young people, leaders and parish communities in your prayers,

ADVENT APPEAL This year's Advent Appeal will be in aid of The Maidstone Churches' Winter Shelter. The Winter Shelter offers a warm welcome overnight for homeless people during the coldest months. Envelopes will be available from the First Sunday in Advent, w/e **3rd December**. Please return by the end of Advent. Thank you.