



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 B

THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

21st January 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Change of Heart

"Wanted:- Anyone willing to leave behind their old way of life and become fishers of men (of people)." Can you see job applicants queuing round the block? Would we respond to Jesus' call with the same immediacy as those first disciples? Probably not! Chances are we'd hesitate long and hard. A hundred and one questions would hold us back. What would being a disciple involve? Would we be up to the job? What would we have to leave behind? What would we have to give up? Would part time discipleship be okay ... after all we've got lots else to do! Would candidates be permitted to serve two masters, giving up one's own agenda is surely too much to ask!

There would be lots of questions we would ask, but sadly no easy answers. There is no one answer that is right for everybody. But the one important message for us today is that discipleship usually means a major shift in direction; a change that involves leaving behind things that get in the way of our relationship with God. It is left to each of us to decide what our particular mode of discipleship might be, and what stands in the path of our new direction. Our new direction has to start with some good hard soul searching, and a change of heart. *Chapel Bell.*

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY From **18th until 25th January** the Church observes eight days' prayer for Christian Unity. The theme this year, developed by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, is *That All May be Free* (<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2018/>). There is to be a service for Christian Unity at St Peter's at 3pm this **Sunday, 21st January** followed by refreshments in the hall. Parishioners are **urged to support** this event.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION The diocese is setting up a Diocesan Adoration Lay Committee to develop the practice of Eucharistic Adoration throughout the diocese. You are welcome to attend an Information Meeting at St Thomas More Church, West Malling on **Saturday 3rd February** at 3pm (finishing at 4.15). Refreshments will be served. See the poster; contact Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril if interested.

CAFOD How you are making double the difference: Since 2012, your generous donations have been doubled three times with match funding from the UK government. Together, we have improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people across the world. Match funding has helped to...bring drinking water to 400,000 people, support 11,000 families to grow a new crop, provide toilets for 166,000 people, teach 174,000 people good hygiene such as hand washing, bring weather forecasts to 99,000 families to keep themselves safe from extreme weather, train 35,000 farmers to change their farming techniques in response to weather forecasts. Thank you for your donations and prayers. For more news go to <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Latest-news>.

SPECIAL MESSAGE While Fr Geoffrey is away on his pre-Lent break to focus on preparing the 2019 diocesan calendar (yes, it's that time again), there will be no weekday Masses. However there will be some days when the Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion will be celebrated; please check the diary. Also, we are grateful to priests from Aylesford Priory who will be celebrating the next weekends' Masses.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 21st JANUARY 2018
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

Sun 21st	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Noel Millbrook RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Lilian Eneh RIP
		12noon	Baptism: Jax Dyuri Abraham
		3.00pm	Service for Unity
Mon 22nd	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Anne Hillen RIP
Tues 23rd	Feria	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Wed 24th	St Francis de Sales	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 25th	The Conversion of St Paul	Sorry, no parish Masses	
Fri 26th	SS Timothy and Titus		
Sat 27th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕ <i>Racial Justice Day</i>			
Sun 28th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: George and Mary Combes RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Hilary Ashdowne RIP

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Applications have now closed. Preparations for those parents who have enrolled their children continue on **Fridays** at 4pm. Parents will be updated by email. ♦ First Reconciliation will be on Saturday **24th February** at 10.00am at St Peter's.

PEACE ACTIONS for JANUARY The theme for this year's **Holocaust Memorial Day** commemorated on **27th January** (<http://hmd.org.uk/>) is 'The Power of Words'. Consider this theme in the conversations you have and the blogs you write. Words can make a difference, both for good and evil. ♦ **Family Fast Day** this Lent is on Friday **23rd February**. *Match Funding* means that the government will double any donations to CAFOD, so please be sure to donate online or by using the envelopes provided between **13th February** and **12th May**.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for January** – that Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes**, especially John Welchman and Joan Lawson; for Jax, being baptized this Sunday and for his parents and godparents; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); and for all our relatives and friends and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **During this Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity**, that Christians may celebrate our increasing closeness and understanding as the Churches work together to spread the Gospel message of love in a world that is so often torn apart by suffering, isolation and misunderstanding.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ William Smith, Norah Walker, Guy Robinson, John (Shaun) Dornan, Thomas Hickey, Thaddeus Loughlin and Patricia Glashan. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£390.79** (Gift Aided, **£226.50**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Next Sunday is **Racial Justice Day**, focusing this year on 'Belonging: All are Welcome'; **a collection will be taken** to support the work of the Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society.

WORLD MEETING of FAMILIES: £1,000 to TAKE YOUR FAMILY to DUBLIN On 21st – 26th August the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) will take place in Dublin. Its highlight is a visit by Pope Francis. During the WMOF, there will be a wide-ranging programme of talks and workshops for adults, events for young people and various activities for children. That's in addition to exhibitions, cultural events and musical performances plus daily Mass. All are welcome at this important and joyful international gathering. Why not plan a visit now, perhaps as your annual holiday? A £1,000 bursary is being offered to enable a

family to do so. A **condition** is that **after the event you would share the fruits of your experiences in Dublin with your local parish or school and other people.** The deadline is **31st January**, so time is of the essence. To find out more, contact Carole (MFL Coordinator for Kent) now on 07983 524727 or email carolemflkent@gmail.com.