



Parish of St Peter, Bearsted
and
The Good Shepherd, Harrietsham
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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

20th September 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: THE MADNESS OF BEING A CHRISTIAN Billy, aged four, and his brother Tommy, aged six, were arguing about who was going to get the first pancake that their grandmother was making at the stove. She took the opportunity to teach them a lesson, telling them that Jesus would let his brother have the first pancake. Tommy turned to Billy and said, "Ok, Billy. Go on then, you be Jesus." Self-preservation seems to lead to selfishness, just as the instinct for survival tends to make us want to be the "alpha male". Even in the Garden of Eden it had already started when Adam and Eve were convinced that eating the fruit of the forbidden tree would make them just as good as God. No longer would they be in second place. Yet Jesus tells us that being first in the kingdom of heaven means being last on this earth.



It's the paradox at the heart of Christianity that says to get the most out of life you must give up your life, to rule people you must be their servant, and to be first you must make yourself last. There's no doubt that such an attitude goes against the grain. We seem to be programmed to want to be at the front of the queue. Adverts in magazines and on television pamper to the fact that we "deserve" this or that, that we should adopt a 'me-first' approach to getting what we want in our no-win no-fee society. Knowing your rights and getting everything you're entitled to has become the norm. It's a dog-eat-dog world and you're worth it. Nothing could point more clearly to the fact that Christianity is not a socially comfortable religious position to adopt. To follow Jesus means to stand out as a sign of contradiction to the views that our society takes as normal and normative. That's why Christianity is not merely a question of "being nice". It's a choice to forego many of the values and attitudes that are prized by most of our fellow citizens. It's an option to set aside a self-serving approach to what we can get out of life, and instead to live life in a way that puts others first. Is this madness? Billy and Tommy clearly think so. Most people would think so. But Christians wouldn't. *Author unknown.*

HOME MISSION SUNDAY is celebrated today and is themed: PROCLAIM God's Mercy. On this day we are encouraged to pray for the work of evangelisation in England and Wales, remembering in our prayers especially those who we know are distant from the life of faith. Please support the second collection which funds the bishops' national work of evangelisation and the development of this year's Proclaim '15: Building Missionary Parishes initiative. The collection also ensures that the Catholic Faith Centre is resourced to respond to those who have questions about the Catholic Faith. Commemorative prayer cards are available to take away. Please support the work of Home Mission through your prayers and generosity. God bless you and thank you.

EVANGELIZATION in KENT An important seminar is to be held at The Hermitage, West Malling next **Saturday, 26th September** from 10am to 1pm for all those interested in evangelizing. Please see the poster and try to go. Book at officece@cctfootingbec.org.uk (020 8672 7684).

SOCIAL JUSTICE People in Kent concerned about issues of social justice get together to discuss these matters from time to time at the area bishop's house ("The Hermitage", More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN). The next such gathering is scheduled to run from 2 till 4 pm next Sunday, **27th September**. All are welcome to join us then, or to contact Phil Kerton on 01474 873802 to get in-

formed about future events. [*Our Concerns: Prayer, Peace, Poverty, Prisoners, Persecution, Pollu-*

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 20th SEPTEMBER 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✧ TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✧ <i>Home Mission Sunday</i>			
Sun 20th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Betty Harris RIP
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Terry Connor RIP
Mon 21st	St Matthew	NO MASSES : Fr GEOFFREY on HOLIDAY	
Tues 22nd	Our Lady of Sorrows		
Wed 23rd	St Pius of Pietrelcina		
Thu 24th	Our Lady of Walsingham		
Fri 25th	Feria		
Sat 26th	Our Lady		
✧ TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✧			
Sun 27th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Palma & Giuseppe Nucilli RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Margaret Smith RIP
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Patrick Paice RIP

tion.”]

MICHAELMAS MASS Tuesday 29th September (Michaelmas Day), at 7pm. Mass will be celebrated at the mediaeval church of Saint Michael, near East Peckham, postcode TN12 5NG. Please share transport where possible; parking space is limited. Further inquiries to James on 01622 812368.

HARVEST FAST DAY Friday 2nd October. As we give thanks for the abundance that God provides for us all, please help CAFOD raise money for some of the world's poorest people. Envelopes are available for your savings. Don't forget to Gift Aid your donations.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for September:** that catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.
- **For all the sick** especially Barbara Casey and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **For all those who welcome the call of the Lord to serve him** as priests, deacons, brothers and sisters, that they will be strengthened in their vocations as servants of all with the simplicity of children of God.
- **On this Home Mission Sunday,** that we may be more effective ambassadors for Christ by showing our faith in action each day, thus helping to bring many others to the true joy of believing.
- **For all refugees and asylum seekers** who have left their country in order to find a refuge of safety and justice: may we open our hearts to recognise our need to care for others and do all in our power to respond to the needs of our fellow men and women.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£362.22** (Gift Aided, **£232.00**). ♦ The retiring collection for **Racial Justice**, which supports the work of the Church in promoting racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society, amounted to **£136.38**. ♦ This Sunday is **Home Mission Sunday**: there is a collection to fund the bishops' national work of evangelization (see above).

The CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE in RELIGIOUS STUDIES covers the central teachings of the Catholic Church. Introductory evenings this week at Tooting and Dartford. See notice.

TYBURN CONVENT Monastic afternoons **every first Sunday**: 8 Hyde Park Place, London. See poster.

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE Saturday **7th November** at St Teresa's, Ashford. See poster.