



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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

Year B

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

27th September 2015

**FAITH IN FOCUS: JEALOUS OR ZEALOUS?** Moses and Jesus faced a similar problem. Moses picked seventy people who received the spirit of prophecy. But people complained that two other men had received the same gift even though they hadn't been picked by Moses. And in today's gospel John tries to stop a man from casting out devils because he wasn't one of the disciples. Both Moses and Jesus deal with the problem in the same way: if only everyone could prophesy; if only everyone could cast out devils; if only everyone were so zealous. Anyone not against us must be on our side. So leave them alone and just be happy that they're doing something good! You can't help thinking that there's a bit of jealousy and envy in these two scenes. Why else would you complain about someone doing good, unless you were jealous of them? But jealousy easily parades as righteousness. Jealousy is a strange emotion.



On a human level it involves us feeling that we should be in the same position as the other person. We should be as popular, as important, as rich or as valued as the other. But on a religious level it shows a lack of trust in God: if we are jealous of others then we are fearful that God hasn't given us enough. If we find we're envious of other people then it's a sure sign that we're not at ease with ourselves and with our relationship with God. For God loves each person as if they were the only one to exist. God doesn't have favourites and he gives to each of us according to our needs. Maybe if some people "have all the luck" then it's a sign that they need it? As for jealousy about other people having more money or possessions than us, St James puts it into perspective in today's reading. What's the point of flaunting your temporary wealth on this earth if you fail to prepare yourself for the life that will last for ever? Oddly enough, we sometimes talk about God being a jealous God. What this means is that God is zealous for his people. God will never let us down. He will never leave us wanting and he promises us all we need. So if we try to become like God then we need to be zealous about our faith, not jealous.

*Author unknown.*

**WELCOME AND THANKS** We are grateful to a member of the community at Aylesford who is celebrating our Masses this weekend. Please give him a warm welcome!

**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 on Sunday **27th September**. All are welcome to join us then, or to contact Phil Kerton on 01474 873802 to get informed about future events. [*"Our Concerns: Prayer, Peace, Poverty, Prisoners, Persecution, Pollution."*]

**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.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th SEPTEMBER 2015**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✧ TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✧

Sun 27th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✧ Vigil Mass: Palma & Giuseppe Nucilli RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✧ Mass: Margaret Smith RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✧ Mass: Patrick Paice RIP
Mon 28th	St Matthew	<b>NO MASSES : Fr GEOFFREY on HOLIDAY</b>	
Tues 29th	SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael		
Wed 30th	St Jerome		
Thu 1st	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus		
Fri 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels		
Sat 3rd	Our Lady		
✧ TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✧			
Sun 4th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✧ Mass: Alfred Noakes RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✧ Mass: Pauline Sexton RIP

**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.

**DEANERY CONFIRMATIONS** There is a deanery event **next Sunday** at 3pm at St Thomas More, West Malling in preparation for Confirmation. Please remember all the candidates from the deanery; there are none from our parish this year, but we hope to have some next year. Confirmation Mass, which we always jointly celebrate with West Malling, St Francis and Holy Family parishes, is **Sunday 11th October at 3pm at St Francis, Maidstone**.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for October:** *that with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the gospel to those who are still awaiting it.*
- **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 the grace of prayerful determination** on the part of all those discerning our Heavenly Father's will, especially those considering a vocation to the priesthood or the consecrated life.
- **For those affected by the Haj pilgrimage disaster;** the dead, the injured and all their relatives and friends.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £\_\_\_\_\_ (Gift Aided, £\_\_\_\_\_). ♦  
The retiring collection for **Home Mission Sunday**, to help fund the bishops' national work of evangelization, amounted to £\_\_\_\_\_.

**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.