



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-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

18th October 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: REDEFINING SUCCESS At the back of an old cupboard in the rectory a vicar found a bowl with five eggs and £1,000 in it. He asked his wife what it was and she replied that every time he preached a bad sermon she put an egg in the bowl. Feeling flushed with success the vicar said, "Only five eggs over 25 years; that's not bad!" But his wife replied, "Well, dear, every time I collected a dozen I sold them for 50 pence!"

Sometimes we have to redefine what success really is. And it becomes clear that what the world considers to be success is usually not what Christians are striving for. Even James and John were guilty in today's gospel of seeking preferment. The "favour" they asked of Jesus was to exercise authority and power in the kingdom that they believed Jesus was still going to establish here on earth. They wanted to be able to control, to have the power to command people, to restrict or grant access. Does this ring any bells? Listen carefully if you are a politician, a priest's house-keeper or a doctor's receptionist!

Another sign of so-called success that many seek is wealth. Money is the ultimate goal of lots of people and they measure their place on the social ladder by how much they have in the bank and how much they can splash out on what passes for success in our society. A luxury home, a yacht, the best car, designer clothes, gold jewellery, etc. Yet such people remain inconsolable at funerals: The success of power and money is joined by another false idol: fame. Some people would do anything to be famous, to have their fifteen minutes in the spotlight, to be known and recognised on the street. The thousands of "wannabes" who turn up for TV talent show auditions bear witness to this concept of success, as does the cult of personality which raises the status of people who contribute to making the world a better place is usually quite small indeed. So what is success? You'll know you're successful, says Jesus, when you find yourself slaving for the good of others, when you've learned to put yourself in second place and when you feel you are at other people's service so much that your life is being drained on their behalf. Perhaps you'd like to reconsider whether you really want to be a Christian! *Author unknown.*



DEANERY EVENT There will be a Half-Day of Recollection for all **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharistic and Readers** here at St Peter's next **Saturday, 24th October** from 9.30am to 1pm. It is important that all ministers and readers attend. See poster.

THIS SUNDAY is WORLD MISSION SUNDAY The Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his official charity for overseas mission. World Mission Sunday is a special day that unites Catholics all over the world in prayer, celebration and care for the mission of the Church. Thanks to your support, the Catholic Church is growing and many parishes can now take care of themselves. However, 40% of the Universal Church is still too new, young or poor to survive without our help, just like the church in Mongolia. By supporting World Mission Sunday you are directly helping missionaries in over 1,000 dioceses bring hope and new life to people who do not yet know that they are precious in the eyes and heart of God. You will be able to Gift Aid all donations by using envelopes provided by Missio. Thank you. ♦ Missio red boxes are once again due to be counted. **Please let us have yours.**

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th OCTOBER 2015
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME** ✕
World Mission Day

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|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sun 18th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Betty Harris RIP |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Frank Gibney RIP |
| Mon 19th | Feria | 10.30am | Funeral Service: Marianna Goodsell |
| | | 7.00pm | ✕ Mass |
| Tues 20th | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Wed 21st | Feria | (H) 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Thu 22nd | St John Paul II | 7.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Fri 23rd | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Sat 24th | Our Lady | 5.00-5.30pm | Confessions |

✕ **THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME** ✕

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| Sun 25th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Mary Kehoe RIP |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Arthur Hogben's wellbeing |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo |

MASS COUNT Today: the third of four national Mass; **collectors, please note.** (Last week there were **38** on Saturday evening; on Sunday morning there were **24** at Harrietsham and **85** at St Peter's.)

DEANERY MASS for DECEASED CLERGY At St Thomas More, West Malling, on **Tuesday 10th November** at 12noon.

✕ **NOVEMBER** ✕ is the month of the Holy Souls when we commemorate and pray for our beloved dead. Envelopes will be 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.* ✕ **All Saints' Day** is on **Sunday 1st**; **All Souls' Day** is on **Monday 2nd**. There will be an additional Mass that day at **10am at Good Shepherd** as well as the usual **7pm** Mass at St Peter's.

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 a growth in reverence** for the gift and mystery of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, and a readiness to give to God what is God's in response to his call.
- **On World Mission Sunday**, for missionaries everywhere, working in places where the Church is young and in need of support, that they might be filled with the courage, energy and enthusiasm that will make them effective and inspirational messengers of the Gospel.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£371.30** (Gift Aided, **£252.50**). ♦ The optional collection for **pact** amounted to **£213.13**. ♦ This week there is a retiring collection for **Mis-sio**, the Church's official charity for overseas mission (see above). Envelopes are available.

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

PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) A request: can you help prisoners and their families? You are invited to come and see the opportunities for you to volunteer to help those in prison, prisoners' families, and ex-offenders. The Catholic prison charity Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust) works in several prisons across London and relies heavily on volunteers to help those in need. **Saturday**

14th November, 10.00am – 2.30pm Westminster Cathedral Hall. For more information contact: prisonsweek2015@prisonadvice.org.uk or call 020 3031 6953.