



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-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

11th October 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: GOOD EXCUSES Emma went to church and wanted to “follow Jesus” as he asked, but there were a few problems. Her boyfriend thought religious people were “nutters” so she played down her involvement with St John’s parish so as not to lose him. Her friends thought she was mad for going to church and none of her neighbours ever darkened the doors. So she decided to keep turning up on Sundays but to keep her head down and never volunteer for any parish activity. Simon was a university student brought up Christian but had lapsed from any practice of his faith. Talking to the chaplain Simon was adamant that his priorities had to be different at the moment. He had his exams to pass. And wasn’t university about fun, having a good time instead of spending hours at the local soup kitchen? He intended to be successful, make a packet and then he’d have time for more religious things. Barbara lent money. Some would call her a loan shark. She earned a nice living off the interest she took from local people. This money fuelled her drugs habit and paid for the large amount of alcohol she consumed each week. She had this nagging feeling that God was calling her to a different way of life, a deeper relationship with him. But it would mean giving up all of this, and could she do it? She decided not. Tom was actually quite active in his parish. He was a reader and played in the music group. He’d felt the call to become a priest but it would mean leaving the job he enjoyed so much at the bank. The thought of being uprooted for studies and possibly being sent to some other area (or country) to serve as a priest was not a prospect he relished. For Emma it was someone. For Simon it was a question of someday. For Barbara it was something she couldn’t give up. And for Tom it was somewhere he didn’t want to be.



Jesus says, “Sell all you own and come follow me.” What’s your excuse? *Author unknown.*

PRISONERS’ SUNDAY Today: envelopes are available if you wish to make a contribution to the Prison Advice and Care Trust (pact); the second of four national Mass counts is to be taken today; **collectors, please note.** (Last week there were **40** on Saturday evening; on Sunday morning there were **30** at Harrietsham and **98** at St Peter’s.)

DEANERY CONFIRMATIONS Confirmation Mass, which we always jointly celebrate with West Malling, St Francis and Holy Family parishes, is **this Sunday at 3pm at St Francis, Maidstone.** Please pray especially for **Joseph** and **Jennifer Abela** from our parish who are being confirmed.

NEXT 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.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 11th OCTOBER 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✕			
Sun 11th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
Prisoners' Sunday	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: In thanksgiving
		10.30am	✕ Mass: George Cropper RIP
Mon 12th	St Wilfrid	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 13th	St Edward the Confessor	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 14th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Betty Harris RIP
Thu 15th	St Teresa of Jesus (of Avila)	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 16th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 17th	St Ignatius of Antioch	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ✕ <i>World Mission Day</i>			
Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Betty Harris RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Frank Gibney RIP

You will be able to Gift Aid all donations by using envelopes provided by Missio. Thank you.

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

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 especially Marianna Goodsell; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **For Wyn and Dorothy** who are leaving us today to be nearer their family. May God bless them, and may our love go with them.
- **For members of the parish and deanery being confirmed** this Sunday at Maidstone.
- **That from the many called to holiness in Christ,** those chosen to follow him more closely in the priesthood and consecrated life will respond with humble readiness.
- **That those who are depressed** or lack joy in their lives may know peace and hope. For all prisoners and their dependants.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£615.40** (Gift Aided, **£445.50**). ♦ The retiring collection for **CAFOD** amounted to **£397.83**. Envelopes can still be handed in. ♦ Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for **Missio**, the Church's official charity for overseas mission (see above). Envelopes are available.

JPIC SOUTHWARK AUTUMN ASSEMBLY The Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Southwark Autumn Assembly will take place on **Saturday, 17th October** at The Pavilion, CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB, 10:30am to 4pm. (Registration, tea & coffee from 10am.) Theme for the Day: Can We Eradicate Poverty? (17th October is observed by UN as International Day for Eradication of Poverty.) **Guest Speakers:** Canon Giles Fraser ("The Loose Canon") Interviewed by Alison Gelder, Director of Housing Justice, Fr. Richard Finn (Dominican Priory of St Michael the Archangel) on Catholic Social Teaching and the Eradication of Poverty from a theological perspective, Heidi Chow (Global Justice Now) on Food Sovereignty - How corporate dominated food systems affect communities and small scale farmers, and a CAFOD Speaker on Poverty caused by Climate Change. For more information

or to book a place: email: office@southwarkjandp.co.uk or Phone: 020 7928 9742. All Welcome.
No charge to attend. Tea and Coffee provided. Please bring your own lunch.

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