



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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

25th October 2015

**FAITH IN FOCUS: RISING TO THE OCCASION** The blind man in today's gospel, Bartimaeus, was no shrinking violet. He was a beggar at the entrance to the bustling town of Jericho, and if he didn't make his presence felt then he would go home at the end of the day with nothing to show for his hours in the baking sun. And this affected what he did on the day Jesus passed by. Bartimaeus didn't complain about his lot in life; he accepted responsibility for it, not sitting back and expecting someone else to stand in for him because of his disability. And he was strong-minded enough to know what he really needed and wanted: to be able to see. Never giving up hope, he believed that things could be different and that he could change. And when other people told him to be content with his lot he took no notice. He wasn't bothered about what others would think of him and he resisted their attempts to silence him. This coloured his approach to Jesus since he knew that this might be the only occasion he would ever get to attract Jesus' attention. Throwing off his official beggar's coat, jumping up and shouting was a dramatic way of catching Jesus' eye. But Bartimaeus rose to the occasion and took his chance. And when Jesus cured him, Bartimaeus followed him along the road. In this short episode we can see our own lives reflected very clearly.



In our relationship with God we carry so much baggage that prevents us from seeing things clearly. We can be spiritually blind in so many ways. We can fumble our way through life always several paces away from God. For a while we sit back and moan but eventually we have to face up to the fact that in many areas we are the architects of our own problems. God did not make us spiritually disabled yet we choose to remain so. What do I really need to happen in my life in order to come closer to God, and do I believe that with God's help I can change? What holds me back from asking for God's help? Is it because I'm afraid of what others will say and think? Is it because I don't think now is quite the right time to do it? Am I prepared to make a definite move in God's direction, to rise to the occasion with some bold and decisive step to reply to God's invitation? Do I really want to see? Do I really want to follow? Do I really want a Bartimaeus moment? *Author unknown.*

**A MESSAGE FROM MISSIO** Thank you very much for your contribution to last week's World Mission Sunday collection. Your prayers and donations will help missionaries across the world share the Gospel and continue their work at the service of the poor and vulnerable. Please pray for the work of Missio and all those working to offer the love of Jesus, that we may remain strong in our witness to Christ's love for all peoples. To continue supporting mission throughout the year please go to [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) or call 020 7821 9755.

**RED BOXES** Missio red boxes are once again due to be counted. **Please let us have yours.**

**TRADCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS** Please consider buying your Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards from our Traidcraft stall. There is a large selection of cards available and some particularly lovely religious ones! There is a catalogue and order form at the table near the door. Patrick Harrison will place orders with our Traidcraft suppliers and will be available most Sunday mornings if you want to discuss your requests.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 25th OCTOBER 2015**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **THIRTIETH SUNDAY** in ORDINARY TIME ✕

Sun 25th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Mary Kehoe RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Arthur Hogben's wellbeing
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 26th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 27th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 28th	SS Simon and Jude	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Thu 29th	St John Paul II	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 30th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 31st	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ <b>ALL SAINTS</b> ✕			
Sun 1st November	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Basil Newton Parsons RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Deceased Catenians

**MASS COUNT Today:** the fourth and final national Mass count; **collectors, please note.** (Last week there were **42** on Saturday evening; on Sunday morning there were **17** at Harrietsham and **79** 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 are 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.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2016** Preparations begin in **January** with an initial parents' meeting in **December**. Application forms will soon be available. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply. Parents: please keep checking the newsletter for further information.

**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 the victim of the coach crash in France; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **That men and women will be encouraged to love God and their neighbour** with the love of the Heart of Christ and follow him generously when chosen to serve others as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated religious life.
- **For China and for all those who encounter cultural or racial difficulties there:** *may they receive fair treatment and justice. We pray for all Christians who worship in China and in countries where their religion is not welcome: may they be met with tolerance and understanding.*

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£396.89** (Gift Aided, **£249.40**). ♦ The collection for **Missio**, has so far netted **£158.86**. Envelopes can be placed in the collection.

**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:  
[prisonweek2015@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:prisonweek2015@prisonadvice.org.uk) or call 020 3031 6953.