



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

Parish Website: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

**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)

Year B

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

13th September 2015

**FAITH IN FOCUS: GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT** Today's scripture readings have caused much trouble in the past. Martin Luther had no time for St James and his letter, and in fact referred to it as "a work of straw". The hub of the dispute is about faith and good works. Are we saved simply by faith or do we also need good works to accompany it before we can be saved?

Some people's faith is almost exclusively intellectual. It's all in the mind. They can dissect complicated questions of doctrine, hold forth on the divinity and humanity of Christ as well as the complex relationship between the members of the Trinity. There is nothing about the Creed that they don't know. But it doesn't make them love God. In fact, some of the most intellectually gifted people remain on a very dry level of faith. Other people learn all these teachings of faith and understand them but their response is only emotional or cultural. They go into raptures at the sight of a beautiful stained-glass window, a magnificently carved statue of Virgin and Child, or the sonority of a cathedral organ. Their emotions are stirred by "Abide with Me" on Cup Final Day and their sense of cultural propriety is bolstered by the flags and colours of the regiments that hang from the ceilings of some of our churches. But it doesn't make them love God. In fact, some of them even equate Christianity with their own political leanings.

St James speaks out forthrightly today about the type of faith required if we are to be saved. It must be an active, dynamic faith. It's true that we're saved not by our own merits but solely by the grace of God made visible in Jesus Christ. But if faith is the root of the tree of salvation then good works are its fruit. It makes no sense to profess a faith whose primary tenet is love of God and neighbour without showing any evidence that we care at all for our neighbour. Having an active faith shows that we do indeed love God. It shows that our faith is not all talk but is also walk; we get up and do something about it. It's a very delicate balance between faith and good works. But, of course, before you can have a balance you need to have two things to weigh.

*Author unknown.*



**St PETER'S ROOF** The men were working to install a new window over the sanctuary during the week. Hopefully we won't have to sing that song anymore... (Points if you can guess the song and the film; and what do points mean?)

**ORGANIST NEEDED** We are looking for an organist/keyboard player to support the music on Sundays at the 10:30am Mass at St Peter's. Hopefully we *will* be able to sing (with *live* accompaniment)... *Thank you* to Mary and the choir, and this week to Bob, for leading us.

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

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 13th SEPTEMBER 2015**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME** ✕  
*Racial Justice Sunday*

Sun 13th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: For Racial Justice
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Jim and Mary Murphy, in thanksgiving
		12noon	Baptism: Amy Bunting
Mon 14th	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	<b>NO MASSES : Fr GEOFFREY on RETREAT</b>	
Tues 15th	Our Lady of Sorrows		
Wed 16th	Saints Cornelius and Cyprian		
Thu 17th	Feria		
Fri 18th	Feria		
Sat 19th	Our Lady		

✕ **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME** ✕  
*Home Mission Sunday*

Sun 20th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Betty Harris RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Terry Connor 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.

**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 especially Betty Harris and George Cropper, Marie Quarman's brother; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now especially Jeanne Adam; for all our relatives and friends especially Amy, being baptized this Sunday; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **That those called to give their lives** for the sake of the Gospel as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, will glory in the cross of Jesus Christ.
- **For Elizabeth our Queen**, that she may be strengthened in her heart to continue to serve her people and that we, after her example, may serve each other and the common good.
- **On this Racial Justice Sunday**, as we remember the Gospel call to welcome the stranger: especially for those newly arrived in our local community who are far from home; may we welcome them and learn to value the gifts they bring.
- **In thanksgiving that parliament has rejected the 'assisted dying' bill;** may the protection of the law be once again extended to the unborn.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£506.63** (Gift Aided, **£173.48**). ♦ This week there is a retiring collection for **Racial Justice**, which supports the work of the Church in promoting racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society. ♦ Next Sunday is **Home Mission Sunday**: a collection will be taken to fund the bishops' national work of evangelization.

**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.