

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

THE COLLECT

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 12:2-6.R.v6

R) Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **(R)**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **(R)**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord



OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Did even John the Baptist realize just how powerful was that "someone" who was coming? Just how truly John was "not fit to undo the strap

of his sandals"? The strap of the sandals of his Creator and Redeemer! The sandals of the One who, by baptizing "with the Holy Spirit" will open the way to eternal life for all those who accept him! Our Lord has inspired John with something of his own urgency. Later on, Jesus will cry out, "I have come to bring fire to the earth and how I wish it were blazing already!" and now John speaks of the furious energy of the Christ in his desire to "gather the wheat into his barn". It is the furious energy of Divine Love; a Love that desires that all should be "wheat" to be made into one Eucharistic Bread, one Body of Christ, one people of the Heavenly "barn"; the urgency that nobody should so resist that, like "chaff", they would be burned up in its heat.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)

II. PASTORAL ACTIVITY AND CONVERSION

An ecclesial renewal which cannot be deferred

28. The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters".²⁶ This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few.

26 JOHN PAUL II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici* (30 September 1988), 26: AAS 81 (1989), 438.

Monsignor Bruce Harbert –
Thoughts on today's Mass

At Mass yesterday the Church prayed that 'we may be shown to be children of light' and tomorrow she will asked God to 'cast light on the darkness of our hearts'. Light is important in the liturgy of Advent. We pray that we may 'shine like bright torches' and hasten, 'alert, and with lighted lamps' to greet Our Lord when he comes. Thus we remember Our Lord's parable about the wise virgins whose lamps were ready for the coming of the Bridegroom. Nearer to Christmas, we shall recall how Mary was 'filled with the light of the Holy Spirit' as she 'became the dwelling-place of divinity'. All this prepares us for the Christmas liturgy, which speaks of Christ as 'the light that enlightens everyone who comes into the world'. The true light of Christmas will shine, not on our Christmas trees, but in our hearts. During Advent we get ready for that.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	12th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Sun	13th	9.00am	St George's - Mrs Elsie Brown RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - James Lesley Westcar RIP (8th Anniversary)
Mon	14th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Mon	14th	7.00pm	St George's - Lights of Love Service
Tue	15th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Betty Archard's Intention
Tue	15th	7.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wed	16th	10.00am	St George's - Kitty Baker RIP
Thur	17th	10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Cathy Smith's Intention - In Thanksgiving
Fri	18th	10.00am	St George's - Michael & Angela Archer's Intention
Fri	18th	7.00pm	St George's - Catenian Carol Service
Sat	19th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Philomena McAuliffe RIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
(Friday is a Holy Day of Obligation: Nativity of the Lord)			
Sun	20th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Christie O'Rourke RIP
		<i>1st Friday of the month: 9.30am</i>	<i>St George's - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation</i>

IMPORTANT: Going into hospital? Would like a visit from the Catholic Chaplaincy? Ring 417400, ext 4145 and leave a message for the Catholic Chaplain. Please also let Fr Rory know. Catholic Mass in the hospital Chapel every Friday at 3pm.

St. Thomas a Becket Infant School: Tel 01323 726004 **St. Thomas a Becket Junior School:** Tel 01323 737221
St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill: Tel 01424 731070

New to the Parish or would like to get back in touch but not sure how? Please complete the welcome form available in the porch and/or make yourself known to Fr. Rory. *It would be great to get to know you and offer any help.*

USEFUL PARISH INFORMATION

St Wilfrid's Planned Giving Contact (01323) 847014
St George's Planned Giving Contact (01323) 870990
St George's & St. Wilfrid's Finance Committee Treasurers Charles Piegrome & Brian Winter
Chairperson of the Finance Committee Peter Dromgoole
ALL CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE ABOVE VIA THE PRIEST'S HOUSE PLEASE
Polegate Hall Hire.....Tel: (01323) 509047
Prayer LineJean Barham Tel: (01323) 842824

CROSSLINK CHURCHES TOGETHER, HAILSHAM
Contact: Ann Fielder 01323 843361

POLEGATE CHURCHES TOGETHER
Contact: Margaret Piegrome 01323 870990

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS those who are unwell: Lily May, Maureen Barnard, Jennifer Duder-Rumsey, Edna Andrews, Juliette Lusted, Jennifer Piskac, Agnes Galt, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Betty O'Hora, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne & Harry Holt, David Thomas, Michael Bradley, Josephine Coleman, Elizabeth Osbourne, John Dodson, Irene Boulstridge, Mary Scales, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford and Vera Almeida.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THOSE NAMED IN THE BOOKS IN OUR CHURCHES

Newsletter items: Please send to Jackie at ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com, tel.841504 or by hand marked **NEWSLETTER**, to Fr. Rory's House by **9am Wednesday.**

Fr Rory Writes:

This is the Third Sunday of Advent, well known as "Gaudete Sunday". Rejoice indeed, be glad. Wherever our Catholic families gather to celebrate the Mass, whether in Japan or China, Australia or East Africa, that should be, indeed "is" the focus of our celebration. When I re-read some of the things I write I see the word "sad" and sometimes the sentiment "deeply sad", then I know I must be missing a big part of the picture. We received a lovely card of congratulations from our friends at Living Word Community, and in fellowship with them, our need as we journey into the future is to have a greater openness to the working of the holy spirit. This Sunday in the Park there will be a special carol service at 4.30pm for the town to act as witness, and if possible we should support this. The Foodbank will be in need of a new home, and in May time representatives from the Christian churches have been invited to a celebration hosted by Gournay-En-Bray.

A Very important part of our preparation for Christmas is the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and we will have our parish celebration at St Wilfrid's on Tuesday 15th December at 7pm.

Fr Rory

Christmas Mass Times:**Christmas Eve:**

Vigil Mass (Family Mass), St Wilfrid's Church, 6pm

Christmas Morning Mass:

St George's Church, 9.15am St Wilfrid's Church, 10.30am

A **Lights of Love** Service for St Wilfrid's Hospice will be held at **St George's Church**, Polegate, on **Monday December 14th** at 7pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Hall. Do come and remember your loved ones who have died and support your friends who have lost loved ones. Everyone is welcome. We hope that you will take comfort in the sharing of thoughts and emotions with others who have also experienced the pain and grief of loss. The last service in the series will be on Thursday 17th December at 7pm at All Saints Church, Waldron.

Thank You: Many thanks for all the goods donated for St Anne's Centre for the Homeless. We have had even more boxes and bags to send this year. The BI Mother Teresa Group, who arrange this collection, are amazed at the quality of the donations and want to say thank you for your great generosity. We are sure that the staff at St Anne's will be extremely grateful too. The BI Mother Teresa Group has also collected money to donate to them as well as 2 other charities, and their representatives will each receive a cheque for £150.00. The centre is always grateful for whatever is donated and we shall have a letter of thanks in due course. Tessa Truman

St George's Choir Practice: Saturday 19th December at St George's Church, 10am.

St George's Christmas Flower Collection: There will be a collection after the 9am Mass on Sunday 13th December for the flowers to decorate the Church at Christmas. Thank you.

The Eastbourne Catenian Association are holding their annual Carol Service on Friday 18th December at St George's at 7pm, led by Deacon John. The service is followed by mulled wine and festive food in the hall. Both communities are invited to join. There will be an opportunity for people to donate towards the retiring collection for the President's charity, "Mary's Meals" during the evening.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Mon 14th Dec Knights of St Columba, Christ the King, 3.30pm

Mon 14th Dec Lights of Love Service, St George's Church, 7pm

Wed 16th Dec St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm

Fri 18th Dec Eastbourne Catenian Carol Service, St G's Church, 7pm

Sat 19th Dec St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am

Sat 19th Dec Rehearsal Christmas Mime, St Wilfrid's Church, 10.30am

Sun 20th Dec Special Carol Concert, St Wilfrid's Church, 3pm

Tue 22nd Dec Rehearsal Xmas Nativity Mime, St W's Church, 10.30am

Thanks to St Wilfrid's new church Project Committee: Since Mid 2012 this project committee has been involved in the planning and execution of the building of St Wilfrid's new church, which was agreed by the diocese at the end of November as complete and paid for. Without their continuing efforts over the years the project would never have succeeded. Sincere thanks from St Wilfrid's community go to the members of the committee, Bill O'Rourke, Ann Fielder, Gareth Jones, Jean Barham, David Hoad, Pip Jenkins, Brian Dowsett, Laurence Caitar, Brian Winter, Peter Dromgoole, and past members Peter Robinson, Mary van Breda, Stephen Murray, Annette Wake all of whom contributed to the success of the project. Fr Rory

Rehearsal for Christmas Mimes: There will be a short rehearsal on Saturday 19th December at 10.30am for the mime at the carol service on Sunday 20th, all children are asked to come and take part in this happy and welcoming event.

There will also be a rehearsal on Tue 22nd Dec at 10.30am for all the children who would like to take part in the Christmas nativity mime performed on Christmas Eve at the Mass at 6pm. All ages are welcome to join in celebrating the wonderful birth of Jesus.

Diocesan Directories: for 2016 have arrived. They provide details of all churches and organisations within our Diocese, as well as a full calendar of the Church Year. They cost £4.50, if you would like to purchase one.

Volunteers Required: Volunteers are required to host guests formally invited to the Carol Service scheduled for the 20th December. If you can help please contact David Hoad or Anne Fielder after mass. Thank you.

Special Carol Concert - St Wilfrid's: Come and join us for our special concert on 20th Dec at 3pm in St Wilfrid's New Church. All welcome, especially children. Mince pies, mulled wine, refreshments in the Hall (Old Church) after the Concert.

Silent Prayer Time: at St Wilfrid's Church, from 5pm to 7pm every Wednesday in Advent. Quiet reflection, just pop in for 5 minutes or as long as you are able. All welcome.

COLLECTIONS: (5th/6th Dec)

St George's £174.08

Bingo £110.40

Weekly ave./Monthly D/D £176.50

St Wilfrid's £220.24

Christmas Flowers £71.75

Weekly aver. of DD £204.60

Attendances: St W's 151 St G's 93

Thank you for your continued generosity

If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.

Bonus Ball:

Sat 5th December

No 23

Karl Jung

Wed 2nd December

No: 12

Susan Oates