

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.**

Cf. Ps 24: 15-16

THE COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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 book of Exodus 17:3-7
Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R.v8

**R) O that today you would listen to his voice:
'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:1-2. 5-8
Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cf. Jn 4:42.15

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;
give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

GOSPEL Shorter form

John 4: 5-15

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering
and who it is that is saying to you:
Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered ' and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again;
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know;
for salvation comes from the Jews.
But the hour will come – in fact it is here already –
when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:
that is the kind of worshipper
the Father wants.
God is spirit,
and those who worship
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done,' so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,
may take care to forgive our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 4: 13-14

**For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in mystery
may come to true completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is remarkable in many ways. First of all, Jesus speaks to a woman, and a Samaritan woman at that.

Samaritans were usually disdained by the Jews and this woman was also someone who had a number of lovers. But Jesus cuts through all the normal conventions and sees right into the soul of this ordinary woman. She is so moved by her meeting with Jesus that she recognises her own sinfulness and her need for forgiveness. There are plenty of examples in the Gospels of Jesus spending time with 'disreputable' people for which he is severely judged by the 'law-abiding' members of the Jewish community.

If we wish sincerely to follow Jesus, we need to have a personal encounter with him. In doing so we too will recognise our sinfulness and our need for forgiveness. And once we have done that we will be in a position to love others, no matter how 'disreputable' they may be, or how they are viewed by the 'upright' members of society. Pope Francis never tires of reminding us that our prime duty as Christians is to go towards the suffering, those on the margins of society and those whom society judges harshly.

**HERE AND NOW****EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****Challenges from urban cultures**

73. New cultures are constantly being born in these vast new expanses where Christians are no longer the customary interpreters or generators of meaning. Instead, they themselves take from these cultures new languages, symbols, messages and paradigms which propose new approaches to life, approaches often in contrast with the Gospel of Jesus. A completely new culture has come to life and continues to grow in the cities. The Synod noted that today the changes taking place in these great spaces and the culture which they create are a privileged locus of the new evangelization.⁶¹ This challenges us to imagine innovative spaces and possibilities for prayer and communion which are more attractive and meaningful for city dwellers. Through the influence of the media, rural areas are being affected by the same cultural changes, which are significantly altering their way of life as well.

⁶¹Cf. *Propositio* 25.

The Gift of the Heart

We must want to give God our heart.
If we cannot manage that we must want to want it.
Good intentions can make up for weakness, for God does not ask of us extraordinary things.
Giving God our heart is to give God our freedom and our love. Anyone can do this. Surrender is the key to everything, a surrender lived out in daily life.
God doesn't ask the same things of each of us. God asks according to our nature and our gifts.
We must be content to be who we are and to find in our own life the traces of God's care and God's providence.
As soon as we are willing, love comes to take possession of our hearts.
Love always wins through. It is invincible.
Pray for a pure heart, a single-hearted heart that knows how to see God in all that transpires, a heart where God dwells and where love is paramount.
Run along the way of love, don't just Walk!
Love unlocks our true potential, it fosters holiness in everything, no matter how we feel. It gives hope of everlasting life. It teaches us lessons in and through all that we do.
A heart that is pure sees everything from the right angle – God's angle.
A real musician is so in tune with the music that, even without thinking about structure and composition, the musician's melodies have a touch of perfection about them.

**Life in God's Now* by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. Publisher: New City.
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PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

| THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Second Collection Next Weekend for Easter Flowers at St Wilfrid's) | | | |
|--|------|---------|--|
| Sat | 18th | 6.00pm | St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention |
| Sun | 19th | 9.00am | St George's - Michael Cronin RIP |
| | | 10.30am | St Wilfrid's - Jim Cleary 1st Anniversary RIP |
| | | 3.00pm | St George's - Stations of the Cross |
| Mon | 20th | 2.30pm | St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays |
| Tue | 21st | 10.00am | St George's - Jack Gearing RIP Followed by Burial of his ashes |
| Wed | 22nd | 10.00am | St Wilfrid's - Norman & Angela Wright RIP |
| Thur | 23rd | 11.30am | St George's - Mrs Vera Almeida RIP followed by Lenten Lunch |
| Fri | 24th | 10.00am | St Wilfrid's - Nuala Dyer RIP |
| Sat | 25th | 6.00pm | St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention |
| FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT "Laetare Sunday" (Second Collection Today for Easter Flowers at St Wilfrid's) | | | |
| Sun | 26th | 9.00am | St George's - Michael Cronin RIP |
| | | 10.30am | St Wilfrid's - Gordon Lawley RIP |
| 1st Thursday of the month: 9.30am St George's - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation | | | |

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) 504753
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, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne & Harry Holt, Elizabeth Osbourne, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford, Dorothy Hanlon, Margaret Westcar and Brian Winter.

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:

While I am away, something different to trumpet from the Network of Christian Peace Organisations:

In this World Peace Day message Pope Francis reminds us that all of us want peace and many people build it day by day through small gestures and acts. Our experience in Pax Christi is that this search for peace is best undertaken with others, combining energies, skills, expertise, in networks and coalitions. Organisations gather around issues and find distinctive ways to amplify the campaigning and action within their own membership or constituency, and also bring key values and teaching from their traditions to the common work.

This year begins with many opportunities: working for justice for Palestine during the commemoration of the Balfour Declaration; celebrating the peace witness of FWW Conscientious Objectors; campaigning for a Nuclear Weapon Ban; highlighting the scandal of global military spending; developing our work on nonviolent peace-making, and building on the World Peace Day message. Everyone can be an

Fr Rory

ST THOMAS A BECKET CATHOLIC NURSERY from September 17th will be one of the Eastbourne Nurseries meeting parental demand and offering 30 hours free childcare per week for 3 and 4 year olds, the term after their 3rd birthday. Please email elucani@stthomasbecket.e-sussex.sch.uk for an application form or further information or call 725977 to arrange a visit.

St George – The new Collection envelopes are available at the back of church. Please pick up your box as soon as possible. If you are an income tax payer and do not already Gift Aid your donation but would like too – please see Charles Piegrome after Mass.

St Richard's Catholic College is recruiting English and RE teachers for September 2017. Please see www.strichardscc.com for further details.

St Thomas a Becket School are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers in exchange for some valuable school resources. If you have any please leave them on a table in the porch.

Stations of the Cross will be held at St George's each Sunday during Lent at 3pm commencing Sunday 5th March, except on Mothering Sunday, 26th March. On Sunday 9th April, Palm Sunday, the Stations will be followed by Benediction and refreshments in the hall.

Soup Lunches at St George's will commence on Thursday 2nd March. All are welcome to join us after Mass /liturgy on Thursdays during Lent.

Friends of EDGH: are still collecting milk bottle tops to help raise money for hospital equipment. Please help them by bringing in your washed red, blue and green bottle tops and place in the container provided in both church porches. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 19th March Stations of the Cross, St George's Church, 3pm
Fri 31st March Lenten Prayers & Devotions, St Wilfrid's Church, 3pm
Thurs 6th April Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Sun 9th April Stations followed by Benediction/Refreshments in St George's Hall

Private Prayer: St Wilfrid's Church will be open in Lent for private prayer on Tuesday evenings from 7 - 8pm and Thursday afternoons from 3 - 4pm.

St Wilfrid's Easter Flowers: There will be a collection next Weekend for Easter Flowers, thank you.

Parish Day of Reflection on Saturday 1st April at Worth Abbey. Should you wish to attend please enter your details on the form at the back of the church, if you need to discuss the day please contact David on 849909 or Ann 843361.

You Are Invited to a Special Opportunity in our Lenten Preparation for Holy Week and Easter, in St Wilfrid's Church at 3pm on Friday 31st March. Lenten Prayers and Devotions, including the Celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Healing, and finishing with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Service will be followed by Refreshments in the Hall. You are all be warmly welcomed.

**Hailsham Spring into Fun
A Community Event for All**

Free Easter Holiday event full of activities, "have-a-go" workshops and community organisations to showcase what Hailsham has to offer!

Tuesday, 4th April, 2017, 10am—2pm
 Hailsham East Community Centre, Vega Close, Hailsham, BN27 2JZ

For more information and to book a table please contact Claire Reynolds or Lucy Brandt (01273) 473422 or events@ruralsussex.org.uk

Easter Retreat For Young Adults at Worth Abbey

Celebrating the passion & resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
 Maundy Thursday 13th April - Easter Sunday 16th April 2017
 Cross Walk: 9th - 13th April 2017

For more information or to book, contact: TOC@worthabbey.net or 01342 710318

COLLECTIONS: (11th/12th March)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| St George's | £160.00 |
| CAFOD | £246.56 |
| Weekly aver./Monthly D/D | £176.50 |
| St Wilfrid's | £310.71 |
| CAFOD | £167.05 |
| Weekly aver. of DD | £204.60 |
| Attendances: St W's 167 St G's 86 | |

Thank you for your continued generosity

If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.

Bonus Ball:

Sat 11th March
 No: TBC

Wed 8th March
 No: 48
 Margaret Forde