

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Mt 3:16-17

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may also be well pleasing to you. 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 Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 103:1-2,3-4,24-25,27-30.R.v1

**R) Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.**

Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **(R)**

Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. **(R)**

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. **(R)**

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. **(R)**

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus 2:11-14. 3:4-7

God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Cf. Lk 3:13

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

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

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.’
Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you’.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 1:32,34

**Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**

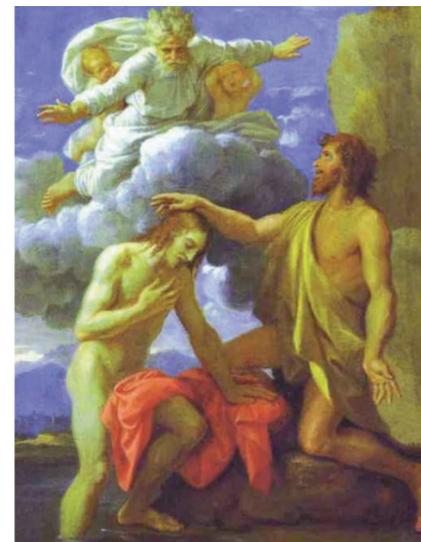
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.



OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The spirit (with a small ‘s’) plays a large part in the history, prayers and stories of the Old

Testament. In the Book of Wisdom the writer tells us, “*I entreated, and the spirit of wisdom came to me*”. Similarly, the other Members of the Holy Trinity are hinted at. The prophet Ezekiel speaks of the “*hand of God*” coming upon him; Jeremiah, of receiving “*the word of Yahweh*”; these men of God are touching on the mystery of God, they have no clear knowledge. Even in the light of the New Testament revelation of the Most Holy Trinity, it is only long after Jesus’ return to Heaven and

after Pentecost, that St John writes of Jesus, “*In the beginning was the Word...through him all things came to be...and the Word was made flesh, he lived among us.*” The Holy Trinity of Three Persons, revealed first to Our lady and then to John the Baptist, and since to us, will always be a mystery of God’s being; a mystery of love. Our knowledge of it, our acceptance of its truth, depends entirely on our acceptance of the word of the Word of God.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****Monsignor Bruce Harbert –
Thoughts on today’s Mass****II. PASTORAL ACTIVITY AND CONVERSION***An ecclesial renewal which cannot be deferred*

31. The bishop must always foster this missionary communion in his diocesan Church, following the ideal of the first Christian communities, in which the believers were of one heart and one soul (cf. Acts 4:32). To do so, he will sometimes go before his people, pointing the way and keeping their hope vibrant. At other times, he will simply be in their midst with his unassuming and merciful presence. At yet other times, he will have to walk after them, helping those who lag behind and – above all – allowing the flock to strike out on new paths.

Tomorrow we shall begin the Ordinary Time of the Church’s year, hearing from the Gospels the stories of Our Lord’s public ministry. Today’s feast is a preparation for this. We see our Lord not only being baptised in the River Jordan, but also being anointed as prophets were anointed in the Old Testament. No oil is poured, but oil is the sign of the Spirit, and in Jesus’ case the Spirit himself appears in the form of a dove. This gives Jesus power and authority to speak and act in the name of God. The Father’s voice is heard, making the baptism of Jesus a revelation of the entire Divine Trinity. Thus we are given a sign that what Jesus will say and do comes not merely from a prophet, however special, but from God himself. When Ordinary Time resumes after Easter and Pentecost, we shall be presented with the same truth on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

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ST WILFRID

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

WEEKLY SERVICES

| | | | |
|------|------|--------------------------|---|
| Sat | 9th | 6.00pm | St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Special Collection Next Sunday for Pax Christ) |
| Sun | 10th | 9.00am 10.30am | St George's - Deirdre Mary Beale RIP St Wilfrid's - Hugh Reilly RIP |
| Mon | 11th | 2.30pm | St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays |
| Tue | 12th | 1.00pm | St Wilfrid's - Requiem Mass for Brian Copeland RIP |
| Wed | 13th | 10.00am | St George's - Primal Fernando RIP |
| Thur | 14th | 10.00am | St Wilfrid's - Mrs Anne Flynne |
| Fri | 15th | 10.00am | St George's - Holy Souls' Intention |
| Sat | 16th | 6.00pm | St Wilfrid's - Irene Wyatt RIP SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Special Collection Today for Pax Christi) (Special Collection Next Sunday for Catholic Association for Racial Justice) |
| Sun | 17th | 9.00am 10.30am | St George's - John Bree RIP St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention |

1st Friday 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) 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, 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: Once again the Christmas story has been told for us, and well celebrated. But for many to say “thanks be to God for Christmas”, is far from how they feel. It is one of the greatest seasons for marriage break-ups, family disputes; and for many living on their own, a particular time of loneliness, isolation, feeling neglected and unhappy.

This is why it is so important to hold on to what is at the heart of this event, fully expressed in the message of the Archangel Gabriel, sent by God to announce the good news of salvation. The Kingdom of darkness and the powers of evil are very real and unavoidable, so there is a constant war to be waged.

Importantly, there is a Kingdom of love and many people make this the focus of their lives. This is at the heart of the life of Jesus and it is His message “love one another, as I have loved you”. This is often far from the example presented by religions and people are understandably becoming more and more aware of the dark side, which is currently highlighted by events such as crusades, which originated in the Christian world trying to reclaim the Holy Land.

For us, the message Jesus gives is “good trees bear good fruit”, and events like the forthcoming week of prayer for Christian Unity, Confirmation Preparation, working for Pax Christi present us with opportunities to provide good food. *Fr Rory*

Peace Sunday 17th January 2016

The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice.

St George's Parish Groups - important meeting. If you run any sort of parish group in the hall or hire the hall for charity events, you are invited to a meeting on Friday 15th January at 10.30am in the hall. It is very important that either the leader or a deputy attend. The purpose of the meeting is to explain your responsibilities in regard to health and safety and to answer any questions you may have. Brian Sutcliffe who leads our Health and Safety for St George's will be present. Please do not be worried about the requirements - it is all common sense and will ensure everyone is up to speed on what the Diocese expects of each parish. The meeting will be informal and tea and biscuits will be served. If you cannot attend, please let Margaret Piegrome or Shirley McCann know.

St George's Choir Practice: Saturday 23rd January in St George's Church at 10.00am. All welcome.

Saturday January 30th: HCPT Quiz night at OLR. Come and enjoy the fun and raise money to take disabled children to Lourdes this Easter. You can make teams of 6 if you wish. For tickets £5 please phone 07976748141.

Healing & Forgiveness: Friday 26th February - Sunday 28th February 2016, Led by Dr Stephanie Thornton C.Psychol, AFBPsS At St Cuthman's Retreat & Meeting Centre, Cowfold Road, Coolham, RH13 8QL. For more information e-mail enquiries@stcuthmans.org or telephone 01403 741220.

Knights of St Columba: The next meeting will be held at Christ the King at 3.30pm on Monday 11th January. Please come if you can.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 10th Jan St Wilfrid's Christmas Party, St Wilfrid's Hall, 3pm-7pm
Mon 11th Jan St Wilfrid's Fundraising Mtg, St Wilfrid's Hall, 7.30pm
Tue 12th Jan St Wilfrid's Leaven Group Mtg, St Wilfrid's Hall, 7.15pm
Wed 13th Jan St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St G's Church, 6.15pm
Wed 13th Jan St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Fri 15th Jan St George's Group Leaders' Mtg, St G's Hall, 10.30am
Wed 20th Jan St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Sat 23rd Jan St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am
Sat 30th Jan St George's Social Committee Mtg, St G's Hall, 10am

Join us for St Wilfrid's Christmas/New Year Party

On Sunday 10th January, 3pm to 7pm in St Wilfrid's Church Hall. Adults and children of all age are welcome. Look forward to seeing you there.

Hailsham Foodbank: are holding a foodbank social morning at Christchurch (Ropemaker Centre, Ropemaker Park) on Saturday 30th January, 10am-12noon. It would be lovely if you could join us for tea/coffee and cakes for us to say “Thank You” for all your hard work and commitment to the foodbank over the last year. It is an opportunity for all the volunteers to come together, have a chat, see what's been happening and what our plans for the future are. RSVP Julie Coates at info@hailsham.foodbank.org.uk so we know how many cakes to get!

Volunteers: St Wilfrid's needs more volunteers to join our groups of Minister of the Eucharist, Readers, Welcomers, Stewards and Singers. Where necessary training will be provided. Please give your names/tel. No's. to Fr Rory, David H, Laurence or Ann. Thank you.

Malayalam Mass: We are all invited to attend the Malayalam Mass to be celebrated for our Indian friends in St Wilfrid's Church on Saturday 30th January at 10am. This is a wonderful expression of our faith. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Confirmation Introductory Lesson on Thursday 14th January, 7.15pm - 9.15pm in the church hall for all confirmation candidates.

St Wilfrid's Fundraising Committee have arranged a meeting for 11th January at 7.30pm in the Church Hall, to discuss preparations for the Quiz Night towards the end of February, and also to plan future fundraising events for the refurbishment of our church hall. We would welcome anyone who has new ideas for this purpose.

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| St George's (2nd/3rd Jan) | £195.90 |
| 2nd Collection for SPUC | £45.30 |
| Weekly ave./Monthly D/D | £176.50 |
| St Wilfrid's (26th/27th Dec) | £325.25 |
| St Wilfrid's (2nd/3rd Jan) | £307.59 |
| 2nd Collection for SPUC | £82.12 |
| Crib | £77.20 |
| Weekly aver. of DD | £204.60 |
| Attendances: St W's 182 St G's 83 | |

Bonus Ball:
Sat 26th December
 No 20 - Doris Jung
Sat 2nd January
 No 52 - No Winner
Wed 23rd December
 No 32 - Ephraim Crowe
Wed 30th December
 No 23 - Gareth Jones