

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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 Isaiah

35:1-6. 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 145:6-10. R.cf.Is 35:4

R) Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R)**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **(R)**

Phil 4:4-5

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Matthew 11:2-11

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

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

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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



"John (the Baptist) in his prison had heard what Christ was doing..." This is Christ 'the Anointed One', the Messiah, the One whom all Israel awaited; the One for whom John is

the 'forerunner'. John's heart must have leapt, recognising in what he heard the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecies: "the deaf that day will hear the words of a book the eyes of the blind will see." So he sends his disciples to Jesus. Perhaps he realised that his work was near its end; that these disciples, like Andrew and John before them, should move on, recognising that their teacher's work was done. Jesus, responding to the disciples' question and to John's unspoken request, refers them to those

Messianic prophecies of Isaiah: see! they are being fulfilled! I am indeed the Christ, he is saying, the Messiah, the One promised; the One indeed for whom John was preparing you! When they have gone – back to John, not yet perhaps willing to desert him in his suffering, – Jesus speaks his marvellous praise of John; for John is the culmination and crown of all the prophets who through all the centuries of his peoples' history have prepared the way for Christ.



What is Grace?

Grace is God's will at work in us, we don't need to learn a lot of theology to live out this truth. Doing God's will in the day to day of life means being like patients who take a prescribed medicine without knowing how it works. All that is known is that they get better.

If you are thirsty – drink! It's no use reading books about drinking – that won't quench your thirst! When we long for holiness, thinking about holiness and reading about holiness isn't the answer. To be holy we must accept all that God sends us and all God requires of us moment by moment.

When we follow the divine will we are in tune with grace; thus our souls will grow and flourish whether we can account for what is happening or not. Doing God's will in life's NOW brings Jesus into our hearts. If reading is the duty of the moment then read; if praying is the duty of the moment then pray; if working then work: and so on... Don't spend hours trying to decide what God is asking.

Just do it! Doing the Divine will makes the Divine present to us and within us. Doing God's will unites us to God; there is no other way to union.

Let us respect God's leading and realize that not all of us are led along the same path. There is no place for rivalry, only respect for the uniqueness of each one.

***Life in God's Now** by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. Publisher: New City. ISBN-13: 9781905039111

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



Some cultural challenges

63. The Catholic faith of many peoples is nowadays being challenged by the proliferation of new religious movements, some of which tend to fundamentalism while others seem to propose a spirituality without God. This is, on the one hand, a human reaction to a materialistic, consumerist and individualistic society, but it is also a means of exploiting the weaknesses of people living in poverty and on the fringes of society, people who make ends meet amid great human suffering and are looking for immediate solutions to their needs.



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Sat	10th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Elsie Brown RIP
Sun	11th	9.00am	St George's - Con & Kathleen O'Donnell RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	12th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	13th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Norman & Angela Wright RIP
Wed	14th	10.00am	St George's - Alvia Alex (1st Birthday Thanksgiving)
Wed	14th	6.30pm	St Wilfrid's - Devotions
Thur	15th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Michael Bradley RIP
Fri	16th	10.00am	St George's - In Honour of Our Lord's Agony in the Garden
Sat	17th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Kitty Baker RIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
			(Next Sunday is The Nativity of the Lord)
Sun	18th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Mr Janusz Zylewicz
		3.00pm	St George's - Carol Service
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) 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, Irene Boulstridge, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford, Dorothy Hanlon 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.**

Deacon John Writes:**Leader:** The fruit of Silence is Prayer. **All:** Lord, teach us to Pray**Leader:** The fruit of Prayer is Faith. **All:** Lord, give us the gift of Faith**Leader:** The fruit of Faith is Love. **All:** Lord, help us to choose Love**Leader:** The fruit of Love is Service. **All:** Lord, grant us a heart for Service**Leader:** The fruit of Service is Peace. **All:** Lord, may our souls be at Peace.**St Teresa on Service**

"It is very possible that you will find human beings, surely very near you, needing affection and love. Do not deny them these. Show them, above all, that you sincerely recognise that they are human beings, that they are important to you. Who is that someone? That person is Jesus himself: Jesus who is hidden under the guise of suffering!"

"To those who say they admire my courage I have to tell them that I would not have any if I were not convinced that each time I touch the body of a leper, a body that reeks with a foul stench, I touch Christ's body, the same Christ I receive in the Eucharist."

(From "Mother Teresa in her own Words", by Gramercy Books, 1997)


Preparation for Christmas

There will be an opportunity for all to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 7.00pm after the 6.30pm Devotions in St Wilfrid's Church on December 14th.

Carol Service at 3pm, Sunday 18th December at St George's Church.

Advent Taize Service on Wednesday 21st December at 7pm at St Gregory's Church, Victoria Drive, Eastbourne.

Epiphany Party: There will be an Epiphany Party on Sunday 8th January from 2 - 4pm in St George's Church Hall to which all children from St George's and St Wilfrid's Children Liturgy are invited.

The **Knights of St Columba** invite all Catholic men to their next meeting on Monday 12th December at 3pm at Christ the King Parish Rooms. Further details from David 423323 or Bob 847014.

St George's Choir Practice: will be on Saturday 17th December at 10.00am.

National Catholic Youth Event, Flame 2017: Flame is the national bi-annual gathering for Catholic young people at Wembley Arena, being held on March 11th. We are expecting 10,000 people to show up, which will make it the largest Catholic youth event ever in the UK outside of papal visits! Matt Redman (Grammy award winning Christian artist) will be leading the music, and speakers include Cardinal Bo of Burma, Fr Augusto Zampini-Davis (theological adviser to Pope Francis, and one of the key people behind Laudato Si), and Sarah Teather (former Minister of State for Children, and now director of the Jesuit Refugee Service). For booking information, check out the website: <http://cymfed.org.uk/flame2017/>

St George's Church: The winter sun is very low on Sundays, it is a problem. At Mass it shines on everyone and sometimes does upset them! But this free gift from God above, shines on us as we pray. So please enjoy it while you can, it will not be here to STAY.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Mon 12th Dec Knights of St Columba, Christ the King Parish Rm, 3pm
Mon 12th Dec St Wilfrid's Fundraising Meeting, Parish Centre, 7.30pm
Sat 17th Dec St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am
Sun 18th Dec Carol Service, St George's Church, 3pm
Sat 31st Dec Indian Mass, St Wilfrid's Church, 10am
Sun 8th Jan Epiphany Party, St George's Hall, 2-4pm
Thurs 12th Jan Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm

Christmas Flowers at St Wilfrid's: A big thank you to all who contributed towards the flowers to decorate the Church for the Christmas period. A total of £110.77 was collected.

St Wilfrid's Fundraising Meeting: The next Fundraising Meeting will take place on Monday 12th December in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. All welcome.

"Reverse Advent Calendar". Some commercial Advent Calendars provide a little gift each day for the person who opens the window in the Calendar. The **Knights of St Columba** invite everyone to reverse this process - Give to the needy this Advent! Just provide a small gift every day of Advent for the **Food Bank**. Tins, packet food, toiletries, laundry goods etc. will be welcome.

Inclusion Course - Learning to become an interpreter for people who are deaf: To help communicate with deaf people in our churches and parishes. The course will start at a basic level and then progress through the levels as appropriate. If you are interested in finding out more about the course please contact: Margaret Fraher, Inclusion Adviser, 01293 651196 or email margaret.fraher@dabnet.org

WANTED: Looking for an automatic car, needs to be pre-millennium, 1.4, in reasonable condition, much needed. Any help will be appreciated by Fr Rory, as the car is needed by a parishioner. Contact Fr Rory if you can help. Thank you.

COLLECTIONS: (3rd/4th Dec)

St George's	£172.05
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£272.07
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 179 St G's 84	

Thank you for your continued generosity
 If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.

Bonus Ball:**Sat 26th November**

No: 17
 Margaret Barnes

Sat 3rd December

No: 31
 Fr Rory

Wed 30th November

No: 22
 Anne Holt