

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 26:8-9

**Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.**

THE COLLECT

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. 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 Genesis

12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 32:4-5.18-20.22. R.v22

**R) May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R)**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R)**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Timothy.

1:8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!'
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse us of our faults
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 17:5

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries,
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,
for allowing us while still on earth
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel describes the scene of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain top. This is probably one of the most 'mystical' passages of the New Testament, where Jesus

reveals himself in his glory to Peter, James and John, in the presence also of Moses and Elijah. If there was any doubt about who Jesus really was, then the words coming from the cloud: "This is my Son the Beloved; he enjoys my favour." confirmed for them who Jesus really was. Jesus also reveals to the Apostles that the Son of Man is to rise from the dead, something which he told them on various occasions, but which they either didn't understand, or perhaps didn't want to understand.

What significance does this Gospel

have for us today? For most Christians there are moments of light and joy. These moments are certainly a gift from God which can help us in darker times. But we must be careful not to try to hang on to them at all costs, because Jesus also wants us to come down from the mountain top, as it were, and to live our lives in the midst of the world, taking on the crosses that the world brings us, above all in the sufferings of our brothers and sisters. By doing so we will also experience the joy of the resurrection.

**HERE AND NOW****The Example of Mary**

When the angel addressed Mary she replied 'Let it be done to me as you have said.' (Luke 1:38)

This reply summed up all the teaching of Mary's ancestors, which was contained in a simple and direct commitment to doing God's will, however that will was manifested in daily life.

Such simple words: 'Let it be done,' and how they show Mary's simplicity of soul!

What better words could anyone have on their lips and in their hearts than 'Thy will be done.'

Of course, Mary was being asked for something quite tremendous, but that would have been immaterial if she had not already been attuned to the will of God.

Whatever she was doing she was disposed to worship God and recognize God at work.

She knew that all she was asked to do or suffer at each moment was God's gift, something concrete and not mere dreams and wishes.

And so she was ready when the angel came to her with a special request. Just as she had been ready to do God's will in her whole life up to this moment.

The grace of God overshadowed Mary. And that shadow was nothing other than acceptance of the demands, duties and sufferings of each moment.

Just as a shadow can hide things from clear view, so God's will is not always clearly visible. We have, like Mary, to know God present in faith, and accept the Divine Will as it comes to us, often in shadow and darkness.

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

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

72. In cities, as opposed to the countryside, the religious dimension of life is expressed by different lifestyles, daily rhythms linked to places and people. In their daily lives people must often struggle for survival and this struggle contains within it a profound understanding of life which often includes a deep religious sense. We must examine this more closely in order to enter into a dialogue like that of our Lord and the Samaritan woman at the well where she sought to quench her thirst (cf. Jn 4:1-15).



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

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ST WILFRID

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WEEKLY SERVICES

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

(Special Collection Today for CAFOD Lenten Fast day)

Sat	11th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
Sun	12th	9.00am	St George's - Delia McCann's Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Michael Bradley RIP
		3.00pm	St George's - Stations of the Cross
Mon	13th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	14th	10.00am	St George's - Liturgy of Word with Holy Communion
Wed	15th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Grace Verrall RIP
Thur	16th	11.30am	St George's - Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion followed by Lenten Lunch
Fri	17th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Creta O'Neill RIP
Sat	18th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
			THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
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

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, Irene Boulstridge, 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:

CAFOD Fast Day

Florence is a hard-working mother who is devoted to her family. A few years ago, she was only just making enough to feed her family. However, CAFOD's partner, the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, recognised how determined Florence was to stand on her own two feet and so they gave her 500 tiny fish, tools and training to build a pond and farm fish. By selling some of the fish at market, Florence was able to give her children a future - she was able to send them to school.

Please support this Lent Fast Day, to ensure more people like Florence can turn tiny fish into something amazing. Whatever you are able to give today really will make a difference.

Without your generosity and prayers, the work that CAFOD does to change the lives of thousands of people worldwide, would not be possible. For that I would like to say thank you on behalf of the communities and partners we work with and to ask you to continue to pray for this work.

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.strichardsc.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.

St George's Choir Practice will take place on Saturday 18th March at 10.00am

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.

Change of Day for the Mother Teresa Group Meeting: This will now be taking place on Thursday 16th March in St George's Hall at 2.30pm instead of Thursday 9th March.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 12th March Stations of the Cross, St George's Church, 3pm
Thurs 16th March Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Fri 17th March St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's, 3pm
Sat 18th March St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am
Sun 19th March Stations of the Cross, St George's Church, 3pm
Sun 9th April Stations followed by Benediction/Refreshments in St George's Hall
Thurs 6th April Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm

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.

Dementia Prayer Week 12-19 March 2017: Please follow the link below for prayers and other resources that you might find helpful <http://www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk/dementia--prayer-week.html>

If you require additional resources or advice about ways to support people with dementia, including dementia awareness training, please contact Margaret Fraher, Inclusion Adviser, on 01293 651196 or Margaret.Fraher@dabnet.org

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.

Children's Liturgy Family Stations of the Cross

On Saturday 18 March at 11am at St George's church a special children's version of the Stations of the Cross will be held for children from both St George's and St Wilfrid's and their families. This will be followed by a Lenten Lunch of soup and bread in the hall.

It would be helpful for catering purposes if you could please confirm your attendance to Sandra King either by email at sandra@kingcabinetmakers.co.uk or by telephone on 01323 738984 as soon as possible. Thank you.

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! Tue 4th April, 10am - 2pm, Hailsham East Community Centre, Vega Close, Hailsham, BN27 2JZ.

For more information contact Claire Reynolds or Lucy Brandt (01273) 473422 or events@ruralsussex.org.uk

COLLECTIONS: (4th/5th March)

St George's	£198.88
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£438.96
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 149 St G's 86	
Thank you for your continued generosity	
If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.	

Bonus Ball:

Sat 4th March
No: 21
Dorothy Blake

Wed 1st March
No: 42
Margaret Forde