

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.**

Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

**THE COLLECT**

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,  
may we walk eagerly in that same charity  
with which, out of love for the world,  
your Son handed himself over to death.  
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

43:16-21

Thus says the Lord,  
who made a way through the sea,  
a path in the great waters;  
who put chariots and horse in the field  
and a powerful army,  
which lay there never to rise again,  
snuffed out, put out like a wick:  
No need to recall the past,  
no need to think about  
what was done before.  
See, I am doing a new deed,  
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?  
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,  
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,  
jackals and ostriches,  
because I am putting water in the wilderness  
(rivers in the wild)  
to give my chosen people drink.  
The people I have formed for myself  
will sing my praises.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps. 125.R.v3

**R) What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. **(R)**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!' **(R)**  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. **(R)**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. **(R)**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 3:8-14

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme  
advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have  
accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so  
much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in  
him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the  
perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection  
that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on

faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection  
and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death.  
That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of  
the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won,  
but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ  
Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from  
thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the  
past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for  
the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive  
in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Cf. Amos 5:14

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
Seek good and not evil so that you may live,  
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

**GOSPEL**

John 8:1-11

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

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

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared  
in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat  
down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had  
been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there  
in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this  
woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and  
Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this  
to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him  
this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But  
Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his  
finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and  
said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned let him be the  
first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on  
the ground again. When they heard this they went away one  
by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone  
with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up  
and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned  
you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said  
Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Hear us, almighty God,  
and, having instilled in your servants  
the teachings of the Christian faith,  
graciously purify them  
by the working of this sacrifice.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Jn 8: 10-11

**Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.  
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We pray, almighty God,  
that we may always be counted among the  
members of Christ,  
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.



Holy  
Year  
of  
Mercy

# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



*"God does not create sinners,"*  
writes Fr.F.X.Durrwell in his  
book 'Mary'. He is making the  
point that human nature is  
originally and basically  
GOOD. *"God saw all he had  
made and indeed it was very*

*good."* Sin is failure to fulfil  
the potential of that  
goodness. God greatly loves  
his good creation. As he has  
shown us in the passion and  
death of his Only Begotten  
Son, he sorrows for failures  
and has gone to all lengths to  
restore goodness. He loves  
each one, his Son tells us,  
individually and personally,  
inviting each to friendship.  
No-one is beyond  
redemption; and so, in today's  
Gospel story, the woman  
caught in adultery is not

condemned; she is loved,  
loved into conversion. On the  
other hand, all those present -  
so ready to condemn a  
neighbour - are reminded of  
their own vulnerable state  
before their Maker. Our Lord's  
writing in the sand is very  
mysterious; some have  
imagined that he wrote words;  
others that he was allowing  
time and silence to work their  
effect. Either way, the  
woman's mortal life was saved  
and she was set once more on  
the way to immortal life.

### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



#### III. FROM THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

37 (cont'd) Thomas [Aquinas] thus explains  
that, as far as external works are  
concerned, mercy is the greatest of all the  
virtues: "In itself mercy is the greatest of  
the virtues, since all the others revolve  
around it and, more than this, it makes up  
for their deficiencies. This is particular to  
the superior virtue, and as such it is proper  
to God to have mercy, through which his  
omnipotence is manifested to the greatest  
degree".<sup>41</sup>

<sup>41</sup> S. Th., II-II, q. 30, a. 4: "We do not worship God  
with sacrifices and exterior gifts for him, but rather for  
us and for our neighbour. He has no need of our  
sacrifices, but he does ask that these be offered by us  
as devotion and for the benefit of our neighbour. For  
him, mercy, which overcomes the defects of our  
devotion and sacrifice, is the sacrifice which is most  
pleasing, because it is mercy which above all seeks the  
good of one's neighbour"  
(S. Th., II-II, q. 30, a. 4, ad 1).

### GLIMPSES OF GOSPEL LIFE

These brief experiences from all over the world show how, when we try to put the words  
of the Gospel into practice, things happen. God is never outdone in generosity, and  
these personal stories show in many different ways how true that is.

#### The Silk Scarf

Having decided to answer God's call and give him  
everything, I felt it was right to give away what I didn't  
need, including my clothing.  
Tidying up what I had left, I realised that I no longer had  
a silk scarf, which would have been useful to me. What's  
more, I couldn't find a pair of winter socks which I used  
to wear inside my boots. But what did it matter? I was  
happy and felt free having kept only what I needed!  
That evening my sister, who knew nothing about this,  
said to me, "Do you know, at work for my birthday, I was  
given a beautiful silk scarf and now I have two. Perhaps  
you would like it?"  
I was amazed, that scarf seemed to have rained down  
from heaven.  
The next day, my brother said, laughing, "I don't know  
how I did it. The other day I bought some socks but I  
can't get into them because they are too small. I'll buy  
some new ones. By any chance do you need them?"  
I felt a lump in my throat, I was so moved. They were  
little things, but they seemed beautiful. I discovered that  
the words of the Gospel were true.



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

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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 - John Dobson RIP
			<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
Sun	13th	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - B Knight RIP
Mon	14th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	15th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Vera Almeida RIP
Wed	16th	<b>10.30am</b>	St George's - Requiem Mass for Phyllis Hendrie
Wed	16th	6.30pm	St Wilfrid's - Lenten Devotions
Thur	17th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Gaynor & Dobson Families Intention
Fri	18th	<b>11.30am</b>	St George's - Holy Souls' Intention
Fri	18th	7.00pm	St George's - Lenten Devotions
Sat	19th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
			<b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b>
			<b>(Special Collection on Friday for The Holy Places)</b>
			<b>(Fasting and abstinence on Friday)</b>
Sun	20th	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - Elsie Burbage RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Margaret Westcar & Families Intention
			<i>1st Friday of the month: 9.30am 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) 504753  
Prayer Line .....Jean 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 Brian Winter.

**PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THOSE NAMED IN THE BOOKS IN OUR CHURCHES**

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

## Fr Rory Writes

Another statement or "saying" from the time when I was growing up is "when all fruits fail, welcome haws". So thank God for Jesus because this Sunday's reading gives us a good clear focus of God's mercy, it reflects upon how God views our failures. In the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, God provides and watches over His people as witnessed by bringing them out of slavery in Egypt. In last week's reading revealed God "providing them with manna from heaven, while they are in the desert". But when they reached the promised land, God expects them to use their own efforts to provide from the resources which He provides. Often the results were very disappointing, but God did not disown the, or indeed us, for not providing fruits.

In the Gospel reading Jesus reveals in the most human terms the way God, in His goodness, works. This woman, caught in the very act of adultery becomes a sharp focus of attention - just a great piece of gossip, so beloved by our human state. As Jesus goes on to ensure a very good outcome, it is intended as a message for us. When we sin, which means we fall short of the mark, (hoping to always be worthy of God's goodness) then we must not lose heart but persevere in trusting Our Lord more strongly. This is obviously an invitation to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please make a good effort to avail yourselves of this. Special opportunities are provided at St Wilfrid's on Sunday during Devotions from 3pm and on Friday at 6pm at St George's.

Welcome says the Lord.

*Fr Rory*

### Churches Together, Polegate: Three Easter Events:

Monday, March 14th – 7.30 p.m. Stainer's Crucifixion", Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Willingdon.

Sunday 20th March, Palm Sunday "The Cross of Christ" – 6.30 p.m. St. Mary the Virgin, Willingdon.

Holy Thursday, The Downland Singers are performing "The Crucifixion", at 3.00 p.m. Trinity Church, Coppice Avenue.

**St George's Church** Service of Reconciliation including Children's First Confessions. 6.00 pm. Prayer and music chosen by Children's Liturgy. All are welcome.

**Lenten Lunches, St George's** are taking place each Friday during Lent. Remember to put your names on the list in the porch if you wish to come and share soup and bread with friends.

**Stations of the Cross:** at St George's on Passion Sunday, March 20th, at 3pm will be followed by Benediction and conclude with tea and cake in the Hall. All welcome.

### Churches Together, Polegate:

**The Walk of Witness – Good Friday**, 25th March, from Polegate Precinct, 10.30 a.m.

**Hymns for Easter**, Saturday, 26th March, 10.30 - 11.00a.m. Polegate Precinct.

**Sonrise, the celebration of Christ's rising from the dead –** Easter Sunday, at Butts Brow, 6.30 a.m. Breakfast will be served afterwards at St John's Church. Numbers to Margaret Piegrome by 11th March at the latest, please.

**Easter Cards** will be on sale at the back of St George's Church on the 13th March.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Children's First Confession** will be held on Friday 18th March at St George's Church at 6pm.

**Friends of EDGH:** At the end of February a shopping trolley full of **bottle tops** was taken to the Friends of EDGH at the hospital. They were pleased to receive them and ask that their thanks be conveyed to the Parish. Please keep them coming. Leave in the porch at either church please.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Sun 13th March** Children's Party, St Wilfrid's Church Hall, 2pm-4pm

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

**Fri 18th March** Friday Group Coffee Morning, Parish Centre, 10.30am

**Fri 18th March** Sacrament of Rec./1st Confession, St G's Church, 6pm

**Wed 23rd March** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm

**A Big Thank You:** from Agata O'Brien to all who donated money towards the Lourdes Pilgrimage.

**HAILSHAM CHORAL** together with **HAILSHAM SYMPHONIA** will be performing MOZART's REQUIEM & HAYDN's St. NICHOLAS MASS on Sat 19th March at 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Grange Rd. Eastbourne. Adults £12.00, children £6.00.

**The Knights of St Columba** meet on Monday 14th March at 3.30pm in the Parish Rooms at Christ the King. All Catholic men are welcome to come. Further details from David on 423323.

**The next Friday Group Coffee Morning** has been brought forward to 18th March at 10.30am in the Parish Centre, to avoid the Holy Week services. We look forward to meeting those who have been bereaved or have just moved into the parish or those who live alone and would like to meet others. You will be made very welcome.

**Way of the Cross up Beachy Head** to pray for all who despair of life. Sunday March 13th at 3pm. Starting from Bede's School Car Park.

**Divine Mercy Sunday in this The Year of Mercy:** The annual Holy Hour of Adoration will be held at St Mary Magdalene's, Bexhill-on-Sea at 2.30pm on Sunday 3rd April. The Order of Service and details may be viewed on the displayed poster. The devotions will be followed by complimentary afternoon tea in the hall.

**Alpha: Christianity, Boring? Irrelevant? Untrue?** A Chance to Question, Discuss and think about Your Beliefs and The Questions of Life. Anecy Junior School Hall, Sutton Avenue, Seaford. Beginning Friday 15th April, 12 Sessions, Supper 7pm End 9pm. For further information, ring 07594 456441. You will be most welcome.

**1st Communion Mass** at St Wilfrid's will be at the 10:30am Mass on 22nd May.

### COLLECTIONS: (5th/6th March)

**St George's** £240.74

Weekly ave./Monthly D/D £176.50

**St Wilfrid's** £275.26

Easter Flowers £165.60

Weekly aver. of DD £204.60

Attendances: St W's 168 St G's 87

**Thank you for your continued generosity**

If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.

### Bonus Ball:

**Sat 5th March**

No: 47

Jillian Dowsett

**Wed 2nd March**

No: 20

Jean Barham