

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Cf. Ps 97:1-2

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
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 Acts of the Apostles.

6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread; the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps 32:1-2.4-5.18-19. R.v22

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

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R)**

For 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)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jn 14:6

Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.'
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:1-12

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am

you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so
how can we know the way?'

Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be
satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus
to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?'
Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

O God, who by the wonderful exchange
effected in this sacrifice
have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead,
grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to know your truth,
we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 15:1,5

**I am the true vine and you are the
branches, says the Lord.**

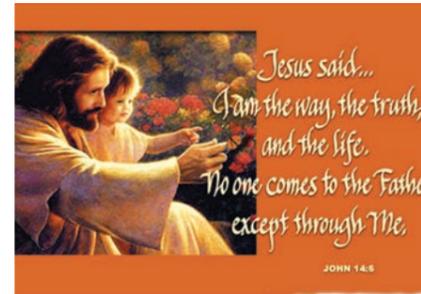
**Whoever remains in me, and I in him,
bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



"Where I am you may be too." It is clear that both Thomas and Philip – and judging from them, all the apostles, dearly wanted to be with Jesus wherever he was. Jesus was a magnet that drew them: his

Person, his human personality, which was in fact the personality of the Only Begotten Son of God! And drawn by the Person, by his love, they desired the rewards he offered and desired what he desired. "Lord show us the Father... To have seen me is to have seen the Father". They had not fully grasped Jesus' divine identity. Their puzzlement reminds us of Mary and Joseph when Jesus was twelve and 'lost' in Jerusalem: " 'Did you not know

that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he meant." Jesus' heart and love are with the Father and he longs to draw his friends with him to that 'place' or 'house' where his Father dwells; he longs to see the fulfilment of his work when his friends will continue his works, even do "greater works". But his friends, and that includes ourselves, are slow to understand.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****II. TEMPATIONS FACED BY
PASTORAL WORKERS****Yes to the challenge of a
missionary spirituality**

78. Today we are seeing in many pastoral workers, including consecrated men and women, an inordinate concern for their personal freedom and relaxation, which leads them to see their work as a mere appendage to their life, as if it were not part of their very identity. At the same time, the spiritual life comes to be identified with a few religious exercises which can offer a certain comfort but which do not encourage encounter with others, engagement with the world or a passion for evangelization. As a result, one can observe in many agents of evangelization, even though they pray, a heightened individualism, a crisis of identity and a cooling of fervour. These are three evils which fuel one another.



Holiness for Everyone*

Making Mental Prayer or Meditation (Part I)

- 1) Place yourself in the presence of God by calling to mind that God is present everywhere in creation, and present too in the depths of your soul. Another way is to think of Jesus gazing upon you or being near you as a friend is near to another friend.
- 2) Ask for God's help as you come before the Divine Presence, using a verse from a psalm, or asking one of the saints to inspire you according to what you intend to meditate on.
- 3) Choose something from the gospels and bring it vividly to mind. Using your imagination helps to keep unruly thoughts in check. But do this gently and without forcing yourself. Beginners usually need some helps like this to keep their focus
- 4) Spend time considering the mystery you have chosen, and stay with it as long as you are gaining light and help from it. Then move gently on without any undue haste. Draw honey from the same flower of prayer for as long as you can.
- 5) Prayer made in this way should move us to make some further acts of love, such as putting into words a longing to be more like Jesus in our own lives, to grow in forgiveness, be more compassionate, and so forth.

Then be practical and concrete in making resolutions regarding your own life. Being content with vague generalisations about being better is not enough. Get down to basics.

**Holiness for Everyone* by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. Published by New City.



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

Sat	13th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
Sun	14th	9.00am	St George's - Jack Gearing RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Norman South RIP 1st Anniversary
Mon	15th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	16th	10.00am	St George's - Liturgy of Word & Eucharist
Wed	17th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - In Thanksgiving Nicholas & Yolán Cooray
Thur	18th	10.00am	St George's - Liturgy of Word & Eucharist
Fri	19th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Simon Davis RIP Anniversary
Sat	20th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Elsie Brown RIP
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
(Special Collection next Sunday for The Catholic Communications Network)			
Sun	21st	9.00am	St George's - Bill McIlroy RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention

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) 832577
St George's Planned Giving Contact (01323) 870990
St George's & St. Wilfrid's Finance Committee Chairperson of the Finance Committee Charles Piegrome & Brian Winter
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, Brian Winter and Ann 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:

There was an important promise in last Sunday's scripture from the Acts of the Apostles, "and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit". The time leading up to the events of Holy week were dramatic, with a sense of tension that something very definite was going to happen. The atmosphere was one of excitement and expectation, as the people of Jerusalem went off to meet Jesus. It came to a dramatic and drastic end in the crucifixion of Jesus, who is our Divine Lord.

The time following the crucifixion had much greater confusion with the realisation that, although Christ had died on the cross, He was risen from the dead. This took a long time to fall into place. There were great moments of special grace revealed to persons like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and especially the women who, at first sight, confused Him with the gardener. From the beginning, Jesus made it clear that He will ascend into Heaven to "my father and your father". It became clear that this was to take place in Galilee in the presence of a gathering of His disciples. The important outcome of this is the instruction Jesus gave to them, that they must not leave Jerusalem until they receive the Holy Spirit. In order to prepare for this they continued to gather together for prayer. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, had a very central role to play in this time of prayer in the early church. We continue to be aware of Her presence at the heart of our prayer, as we try to be obedient to God and to prepare for Pentecost, so that we can receive the Holy Spirit and become true disciples of Jesus.

Fr Rory

Big Brekkie Fundraising Event. Share a meal, show your love for refugees and raise funds for their homes in Eastbourne. On Saturday, 20th May at Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road Eastbourne, breakfast will be served, between 9.30am – 12.30pm. Book your British and/or Syrian Breakfast by email to networx@gmail.com. A minimum donation of £3.50 per head is suggested. Delicious food is guaranteed and new friendships promised.

The Mother Teresa Group: our next meeting will be on Thursday 1st June in St George's Hall at 2.30pm, due to the elections on the 8th June. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Churches Together, Polegate. The venue of the Pentecost Service on 4th June is now changed to **Trinity Church at 6.00pm.** NOT St. Wilfrid's as suggested planned.

The Children's Liturgy outing to Abbott's Wood will be held on Sunday 21st May from 12 midday. All children and their families from both communities are welcome.

'Thy Kingdom Come' - Sunday 28 May

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. Justin Welby says: 'We are invited to make a lasting difference in our nations and in our world, by responding to God's call to find a deep unity of purpose in prayer'. **Christians in the Eastbourne area have an opportunity to come together in worship and prayer in an inter-church event at the Kings Centre, Edison Road BN23 6PT at 7 pm.** Find out more how you, your family or your church might respond.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 21st May Children's Liturgy Outing, Abbott's Wood, 12 midday
Sat 27th May Indian Mass, St Wilfrid's Church, 10am
Thurs 1st June Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Fri 2nd June St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 6.15pm
Sat 3rd June Table Sale, St Wilfrid's Hall, 10am-3pm
Sun 4th June Pentecost Service, Trinity Church, 6pm
Sun 25th June United Nations Lunch, St Wilfrid's Hall, after Mass

United Nations Lunch: will take place at St Wilfrid's on Sunday 25th June after Mass in the hall/garden. Donations for the tombola will be gratefully received, please leave in the church porch, marked 'tombola'. Thank you.

Table Sale: will take place at St Wilfrid's Church Hall on Saturday 3rd June, 10am to 3pm. If you have any suitable items for us to sell, unwanted gifts, household goods, bric-a-brac, we will be grateful for anything. Please leave in the church porch marked 'table sale'. All money raised will go to Hailsham Foodbank. Thank you.

An Indian Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, 27th May, at 10.00am in St Wilfrid's Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

St Thomas A Becket PTA invites you to Murder Mystery show on Friday 19th May.

Venue – Junior School Hall, Tutts Barn Lane, doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. A Two course supper is included. Tickets £7.50 on sale from Mon 16th May from school office or £10 on the night. All proceeds go to the schools fundraising. ADULT ONLY 16+

WINE AND CHEESE SOCIAL with a topic: "A COMPLETE LAYPERSONS GUIDE TO SOME SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY" All Are Welcome
Guest Speaker: Rev Fr Raglan Hay-Will
Date: Thursday 25th May 2017
Time: 7 for 7.30pm
Venue: Christ The King Parish Room, 3 Princess Road, Eastbourne, BN23 6HT
Any queries, contact Alex 07957632208
Students from Brighton and Sussex Universities are more than welcome

COLLECTIONS: (6th/7th May)

St George's	£228.20
Collection for Future Priests	£85.10
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£359.64
Collection for Future Priests	£75.81
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's	165
St G's	87

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

Bonus Ball:

Sat 6th May
No: 30
Ann Fielder

Wed 3rd May
No: 40
Niamh Layberry