

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.
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

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel,
in whom I shall be glorified';
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,
my God was my strength.
And now the Lord has spoken,
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant,
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors
of Israel;
I will make you the light of the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 39:2.4.7-10. R.vv8.9

**R) Here I am, Lord!
I come to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **(R)**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **(R)**

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **(R)**

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. **(R)**

Ps 65:4

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
1:1-3

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother
Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to
the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their
place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord
Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 1:29-34

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

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is
the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the
one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks
before me because he existed before me. I did not know him
myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came
baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit
coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on
him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise
with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit
come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the
Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the
Chosen One of God.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that we may participate worthily in these mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 22:5

**You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,
and in your kindness
make those you have nourished
by this one heavenly Bread
one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Our Lord did not declare
Himself. The Spirit made Him
known to St John the Baptist.
'He who humbles himself shall
be exalted'. In Christ and in

John we meet that humility
which seeks only the Father's
will. Christ, who has no need of
spiritual washing, humbles
Himself and is baptized. John,
who recognises the Lamb of
God, balks at the idea of
cleansing his Master, but obeys
without hesitation when Christ
bids it. Then the heavens were
opened, the Holy Spirit came to
rest upon Jesus, and a voice
declared Him to be the Messiah,
the beloved Son of God. It is

the humility of St John, even
more than his gift of prophecy
and austere manner of life,
which shows forth his greatness
and holiness. It is Christ's
humility, rather than His
inherent power, that leads Him
more effectually to His being
raised up by the Father. Humility
is, so to speak, the mother of all
virtues, because it enables us to
recognise who we are in our
relations with our Creator and
with each other.



The Living Word

As God's written word in the Bible is full of mystery, so is
God's word mysterious when revealed in what God does
now...

All that we read of in the Bible, strange as it may sometimes
seem, is a message from God, a ray from the Sun.

All that has happened in history is likewise a message
from God to which we may be blind, until we stop trying
to reason everything out and walk in the way of faith.
Often instead of finding God in the Bible, in history, in
our own personal life story, we see only tragedy and
chance, rather than God's providence. Only the eyes of
faith enable us to see truly.

Faith here – glory hereafter. There is no other way to
discover God. In this the Holy Spirit enlightens and
teaches us.

If we want wisdom rather than an accumulation of bare
facts we must allow God's Spirit to lead us... into the
Divine way of faith where we see God continually at work
in all that has happened, is happening, and will happen
in the future.

God is here in history and in our lives. God is always at
work. Every moment is a revelation, a word
from God if only we allow ourselves to become aware of
that fact.

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

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



Some cultural challenges

66. The family is experiencing a profound
cultural crisis, as are all communities and
social bonds. In the case of the family, the
weakening of these bonds is particularly
serious because the family is the fundamental
cell of society, where we learn to live with
others despite our differences and to belong
to one another; it is also the place where
parents pass on the faith to their children.
Marriage now tends to be viewed as a form of
mere emotional satisfaction that can be
constructed in any way or modified at will.
But the indispensable contribution of
marriage to society transcends the feelings
and momentary needs of the couple. As the
French bishops have taught, it is not born "of
loving sentiment, ephemeral by definition, but
from the depth of the obligation assumed by
the spouses who accept to enter a total
communion of life".⁶⁰

⁶⁰ CONFÉRENCE DES ÉVÊQUES DE FRANCE, *Conseil
Familie et Société, Élargir le mariage aux personnes de
même sexe? Ouvrons le débat!* (28 September 2012).



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Special Collection Today for Pax Christi)

Sat	14th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - John Barnes 2nd Anniversary RIP
Sun	15th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Grace Fenn RIP
Mon	16th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	17th	10.00am	St George's - Brenda Troy RIP
Wed	18th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Marie Kelly RIP
Thur	19th	10.00am	St George's - Teresa Daly's Intention
Fri	20th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - George Barham 1st Anniversary RIP
Sat	21st	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Flora De Sousa RIP
			THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Sun	22nd	9.00am	St George's - John Bree 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) 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**.

Fr Rory Writes:

The Bishops of England and Wales invite us to keep this Sunday as a day of prayer for world peace and to reflect on the theme Pope Francis has chosen for the annual World Peace Day: *Nonviolence: a style of politics for peace*. We will explore that theme in our Mass today, but let us begin with that first word in the title, 'Nonviolence', and use that as the basis for our examination of conscience and acknowledgement of fault. How often do we actually express in our own lives what St Paul wishes for the Church of Corinth in today's second reading - namely, 'grace and peace'? And what do we actually do in the face of the violence in the world around us - respond with more violence (of thought, or word, or even deed)? Or does Christ show us a better way and give us something urgent and important to say to our neighbours?

Fr Rory

Pax Christi - The Peace of Christ

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.

'From Maintenance to Mission' is an inspiring book outlining the importance of evangelisation and the revitalisation of our parishes. **Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist and Ministers of the Word** will be particularly interested in an important meeting being held at **DABCEC in Crawley, on 21st January**, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. The discussion, based on the book, will be led by Michael Roche. Refreshments will be served, but please take a packed lunch. If anyone would like to attend please contact Margaret Piegrome (St. George's) or David Hoad (St. Wilfrid's). Copies of the book will be available on the day.

St George's Children Fund would like to thank all those who supported us last year at Bingo, Sales Tables and Coffee Mornings, we raised £1,221 altogether for our local Polegate Children with Cancer Fund. Many thanks.

Prayer Meeting: There will be a Prayer Meeting on Tuesday 17th January at 33 Hailsham Road, Polegate at 7.30pm. with refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

St George's Choir Practice: will take place on Saturday 21st January at 10.00am. All welcome.

"Love of Neighbour and Europe." Father Chris Benyon, former parish priest of St Thomas More, Seaford will be speaking on this subject at St Martha's church hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill on Monday 16th January commencing 7.30 pm. Meeting arranged by Eastbourne and Bexhill Newman Circle. All (including non members) welcome. Further information John Carmody 726334 or Alex Mthobi 07957 632208.

Eastbourne's 7th Day of Prayer: Saturday 21st January 2017, The King's Centre, Edison Road, BN23 6PT. 9.30am to 5pm (lunch 12.30-1.30pm bring packed lunch). Keynote Speaker: Debra Green O.B.E. Come and go as you are able. Stay all day if you can! Snacks and drinks on sale all day. Eat your packed lunch in the venue. Please park responsibly and not in retail parks. Look forward to seeing you there.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tue 17th Jan Prayer Meeting, 33 Hailsham Road, Polegate, 7.30pm
Sat 21st Jan St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am
Fri 27th Jan Friday Group Coffee Morning, St Wilfrid's Hall, 10.30am
Sat 28th Jan St Wilfrid's Table Sale, St Wilfrid's Hall,
Thurs 9th Feb Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm

The next **Friday Group Coffee Morning** will be held in St Wilfrid's Hall on Friday, 27th January, at 10.30am. If you are bereaved, alone, have moved from another parish or wish to get to know more people in our community, then please join us. We look forward to welcoming you.

St Wilfrid's Table Sale: Saturday 28th January. If you have any suitable items for us to sell, like unwanted Christmas presents or other household goods, bric a brac, and items if anyone is having a clearout, we will be grateful for anything. Please leave in the church porch marked "table sale". Thank you.

ANGELIC VISITORS by Sister Melannie Svoboda

"Sometimes we wish angels would appear to us and give us direction for our lives: *take the path to the left; choose option B; here's what you should say*. Most of us will never experience the dramatic angelic visitations that Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds had. But the truth is we have angelic visitors of another kind: *the wise counsel of an elder; the gentle support of a friend; a certain line from Scripture; a song sung at Mass; a neighbour in need; a news story that haunts us; the leaning of our heart during prayer*. And what's more, sometimes we are an angelic visitor for someone else." At the start of this New Year may we pray that we will hang on to the important pieces of our life, and as Mary did, reflect on them in our heart.

Friends of EDGH: are still collecting milk bottle tops to help raise money for hospital equipment. Please help them by bringing in your washed red, blue and green bottle tops and place in the container provided in both church porches. Thank you.

Friends of EDGH: Please remember to save all your stamps. These can be left in both the church porches for collection. Thank you.

COLLECTIONS: (7th/8th Jan)

St George's	£212.55
White Flower Appeal	£146.86
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£280.23
White Flower Appeal	£165.54
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 147 St G's 99	

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

Bonus Ball:

Sat 7th January

No: 38
John Forde

Wed 4th January

No: 32
Ephraim Crowe