

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Cf. Ps 16:15

THE COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. 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

55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

PSALM

Ps.64:10-14.R.Lk 8:8

R) Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **(R)**

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **(R)**

You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R)**

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

1 Sam 3:9; Jn 6:68

GOSPEL

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

Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.'

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant that, when consumed by those who believe, they may bring ever greater holiness. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf.Ps 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow. Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



"Many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see to hear what you hear." Two thousand years after Christ our position, in one way, is similar to that of the prophets: we

long to see Jesus, the fulfilment of the ancient prophecies, face to face. We hear his message through his ministers, his Church but we do not see him. Or do we? In fact, we have Jesus among us, we have the 'real presence', invisible, it is true, yet real. As baptized Christians we have the Spirit of Jesus living in us and giving us first-hand knowledge of the Father and the Son. Isaiah says of Jesus, that he will be sent to *"bring sight to the blind"* ... We were the blind and have had our spiritual eyes opened:

"You were darkness once," says St. Paul, *"but now you are light in the Lord"*. The gates of Heaven have been finally and irrevocably opened to the human race. We still face the *"lure of riches"*, trials, the possibility of persecution, but we listen to the parables of Jesus; we listen, and by the grace of God, by sharing in the Mass, by the teaching of his Spirit, and with the help of his ministers, we understand. And Jesus says *"Happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear,"*

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)**II. TEMPATIONS FACED BY PASTORAL WORKERS****No to a sterile pessimism**

84(cont'd) Fifty years after the Second Vatican Council, we are distressed by the troubles of our age and far from naive optimism; yet the fact that we are more realistic must not mean that we are any less trusting in the Spirit or less generous. In this sense, we can once again listen to the words of Blessed John XXIII on the memorable day of 11 October 1962: "At times we have to listen, much to our regret, to the voices of people who, though burning with zeal, lack a sense of discretion and measure. In this modern age they can see nothing but prevarication and ruin ... We feel that we must disagree with those prophets of doom who are always forecasting disaster, as though the end of the world were at hand. In our times, divine Providence is leading us to a new order of human relations which, by human effort and even beyond all expectations, are directed to the fulfilment of God's superior and inscrutable designs, in which everything, even human setbacks, leads to the greater good of the Church".⁶⁵

⁶⁵ Address for the Opening of the Second Vatican Council (11 October 1962): 4, 2-4: AAS 54 (1962), 789.



Holiness for Everyone*

**On Good and Evil Friendship**

Friendship is about mutual love and sharing. Make sure your own friendships are built upon qualities of mind and heart, not just passing accomplishments, much less the excitement of empty flirtations, or even 'affairs'. And do not use your friends for gain. Love them for themselves not what they can give you. A true friend loves what you love and shares what you value. A true friend is a gift from God to be received with gratitude.

Do not become embroiled in superficial relationships which sap your energy and lead nowhere. Sharing at a deep level is what constitutes real friendship. Go for the reality, not the mirage.

Jesus had special friends in Martha, Mary and Lazarus, so did the saints. It is not a sign of perfection to keep from making friends. But be sure that your friendships are good and holy ones. Choose your own special friends wisely and they will help, not hinder you on your way to God.

If you find yourself embroiled in a friendship that takes you into evil paths don't waste time trying to disentangle yourself. Cut, break, tear yourself away. Don't compromise your integrity, and don't be someone who makes friends with an eye to their usefulness. That is self-seeking, not love.

**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	15th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Arthur Robinson RIP
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Sun	16th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Donor's Intention
Mon	17th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	18th	10.00am	St George's - Parents of Nicholas Cooray RIP
Wed	19th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Kenneth & Jean Compton RIP
Thur	20th	10.00am	St George's - Jack Gearing RIP
Fri	21st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	22nd	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Sun	23rd	9.00am	St George's - Kathleen Nolan RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Michael Bradley RIP

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 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, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford, Dorothy Hanlon, Margaret Westcar, Brian Winter, Ann Winter and Empress.

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:

As a follow up to the parable of the sower, there is a poem by Goodenough Sakhile Dlamini, there is a comparison with gardening which, hopefully will give you food for thought, and, possibly, help you:

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.

If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.

If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.

If you plant perseverance, you will reap victory.

If you plant consideration, you will reap harmony.

If you plant hard work, you will reap success.

If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.

If you plant faith, you will reap miracles.

The important question we can all ask ourselves is "What have we planted?"

Deacon John

Thank you all parishioners of St George and St Wilfrid who attended the Garden Party hosted by Deacon John and Tessa, your generosity raised £500.50p for Children with Cancer. Much of the money raised was from donations for which we were very grateful, much heartfelt thanks to all.

BINGO SESSION: starts on Friday September 1st, to be held at St Georges Hall. Please put a note in your diaries.

Back by popular demand at St George's Church Hall, **The Anne Shelton Story** - presentation by her niece, Kelly Richards. This will take place on Sunday 20th August at 3.00pm followed by a vintage tea party. Tickets at £5.00 per person available soon.

Evenings of Reflection with Bishop Richard 2018:

Thursday January 18th - St John's Church, Horsham, Thursday February 8th - St Joseph's Church, Epsom, Thursday February 22nd - St Michael's Church, Worthing, Saturday March 3rd - St John's Seminary, Womersley, Saturday March 10th - St Mary Magdalene's, Bexhill. All evenings run from 7pm to 9pm. **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.** Contact Jack.Regan@dabnet.org

Diocesan Wedding Anniversaries Mass: If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year please join Bishop Richard to give thanks for the gift of marriage. 12noon on Saturday 7th October 2017, at Arundel Cathedral, London Road, Arundel, BN18 9AY. Followed by a drinks reception in the Cathedral Centre. Family members welcome. For a booking form please contact the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Secretary, Rosie Read: Tel: 01293 651161 or email rosie.read@dabnet.org

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Thurs 10th Aug Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Sun 20th Aug Presentation/Vintage Tea Party, St George's Hall, 3pm
Fri 1st Sept Bingo Session, St George's Hall,

First Holy Communion 2017 at St Wilfrid's: Please could any child around the age of 7 years old, wishing to do their First Holy Communion in 2018 at St Wilfrid's; please write your contact details on the piece of paper in the Sacristy, we will need child's and parent's name and phone number. The lessons will commence in October 2017.

Annual Formation Day for Grandparents: Thursday 21st September, in the beautiful setting of Worth Abbey, from 10 am to 3 pm (packed lunch needed). Fr Stephen Ortiger, and Elizabeth O'Shea, Parenting Expert, will explore how Grandparents can support their Grandchildren in dealing with their perceptions of failure. No charge but donations welcome to cover costs. Please book by contacting Rosie on 01293 651161. rosie.read@dabnet.org <<mailto:rosie.read@dabnet.org>>

'Dear Church, can you hear me...?' - Saturday 16 September
A chance for Deaf, and hard of hearing and hearing people to work better together. A conference at Victoria Baptist Church 10am to 2.15pm approx. For anyone who is concerned about making the church welcoming and fully accessible to people who are Deaf or experience hearing loss, whether they are Deaf BSL users or lip readers, hard of hearing or hearing. It would be wonderful to welcome at least one representative from every church. For more information look on the website www.hellochurch.co.uk/ or email Daphne Brett on dmbrett@btinternet.com.

Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers: Bishop Richard will preside at Holy Mass for all Diocesan Altar Servers on Saturday 9th September 2017 at 12 noon in Arundel Cathedral. All who have served, all who are serving and anybody who would like to come are welcome to attend. Please bring your cassock and cotta or alb. Mass is followed by light refreshments in the Cathedral Centre (Please bring a packed lunch)

COLLECTIONS: (8th/9th July)

St George's	£233.36
Apostleship of the Sea	£130.21
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£312.28
Apostleship of the Sea	£182.70
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 142 St G's 96	

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

Bonus Ball:

Sat 8th July
No: 25
Anthony Kelly
Wed 5th July
No: 4
Susan Oates