

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were
made, alleluia.

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
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

13:14. 43-52

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps.99:1-3.5.R.v3

R) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **(R)**

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **(R)**

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

7:9. 14-17

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jn 10:14

**I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

John 10:27-30

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:

'The sheep that belong to me
listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from me.
The Father who gave them to me
is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.
The Father and I are one.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

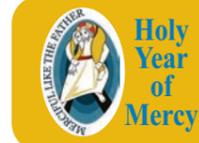
Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these
paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.**

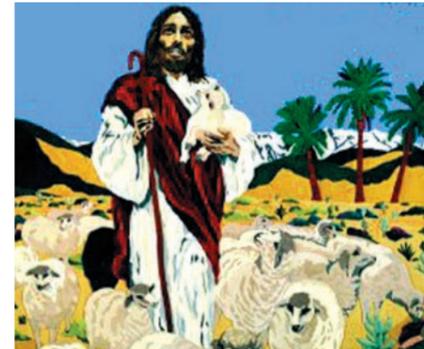
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.



OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The Jewish religious leaders at Antioch are jealous of the growing popularity of Paul and Barnabas among their

congregations. Attendance at the synagogue is going up, until the whole town starts to come to listen to the Apostles preach. So the scribes plant hecklers and gainsayers among the crowd to curse and contradict them. They also manage to convince the political powers to expel them from the city. These events lead Paul and Barnabas to the realisation that their ministry among the Jews will always be dogged by the envy

and rivalry of the scribes, and so they come to the decision to go to the pagans. Not all people recognise the voice of the shepherd who has become the Lamb, and who "gives them eternal life" and is one with the Father. Paul and Barnabas are ready to go to the ends of the earth to bring His voice to all who will listen. They are the light that enlightens the Gentiles.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



IV. A MISSION EMBODIED WITHIN HUMAN LIMITS

40 (*cont'd*) Within the Church countless issues are being studied and reflected upon with great freedom. Differing currents of thought in philosophy, theology and pastoral practice, if open to being reconciled by the Spirit in respect and love, can enable the Church to grow, since all of them help to express more clearly the immense riches of God's word. For those who long for a monolithic body of doctrine guarded by all and leaving no room for nuance, this might appear as undesirable and leading to confusion. But in fact such variety serves to bring out and develop different facets of the inexhaustible riches of the Gospel.⁴⁴

44 Saint Thomas Aquinas noted that ... "what each individual thing lacked in order to reflect the divine goodness would be made up for by other things", since the Creator's goodness "could not be fittingly reflected by just one creature" Consequently, we need to grasp the variety of things in their multiple relationships. By analogy, we need to listen to and complement one another in our partial reception of reality and the Gospel.

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 "Sweetener"

An associate and I run a small business importing medical equipment. It is very expensive and so it's not easy to make sales. Unfortunately, in public hospitals it is the custom to give the people responsible for making the purchase a "sweetener". My associate and I don't agree with this way of doing business and we have often lost out on potential sales. At a very difficult time, when there had been few sales, one of our salesmen came to my office to tell me that to pull off a sale - on the point of completion - the buyer was asking for a "sweetener" from us. I realized that for our salesman it was very important to go ahead with the deal, because he received commission on sales as part of his salary. Calmly, I spoke clearly to him, explaining my principles, that this would be a corrupt act, and that even though we might profit from it, it was not part of our company's policy. He left the office thoughtfully, but returned later decisive: he would not make the sale under those conditions.

That same afternoon the telephone rang. It was a doctor with whom we had been trying to finalise a very big sale for some time but who kept putting it off. Out of the blue he confirmed that he was buying our product: the cost was exactly ten times more than the sale which hadn't gone ahead.

When I put down the telephone, surprised and happy, I remembered what had happened a few hours earlier, the words of Jesus, "Seek first the kingdom of God and its justice and the rest will be given to you as well."

I wanted to share the great joy I was experiencing straight away with the salesman, so that he too could touch God's providence.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	16th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Special Collection Today for the Education of Future Priests)
Sun	17th	9.00am 10.30am	St George's - Deacon John & Tess Truman's Intention St Wilfrid's - Mrs Elsie Winter RIP
Mon	18th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	19th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Caroline Cunningham's Intention
Wed	20th	10.00am	St George's - Mrs Vera Almeida RIP
Thur	21st	12.00pm	St George's - Requiem Mass for Elizabeth Shepherd RIP
Thur	21st	7.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Service of Dedication of St Wilfrid's Church
Fri	22nd	10.00am	St George's - Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	23rd	10.00am	St George's - Gretta Mary Atkins RIP
Sat	23rd	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Sun	24th	9.00am 10.30am	St George's - Mrs Flora De Sousa's Intention St Wilfrid's - Michael Burke RIP
			<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 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, Agnes Galt, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Betty O'Hora, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne & Harry Holt, David Thomas, Michael Bradley, Elizabeth Osbourne, 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, tel.841504 or by hand marked **NEWSLETTER**, to Fr. Rory's House by **9am Wednesday.**

Fr Rory Writes:

Two major events this week:

On Thursday 21st at 7pm the Dedication of our New Church, and please God, a moment of grace and inspiration for the years to come.

On Saturday 23rd the Feast of St George "Forgotten hero" by Joanna Bogle.

Mention St George to a practising Catholic today and you're likely to get a response like 'Hasn't he been abolished?' or 'Wasn't he just a mythical figure?'

The answer to both is an emphatic **NO**, but it's depressing having this dialogue, especially if you happen to live in England, where St George is supposed to be an important figure. He is Protector of our country, and personal patron saint of the Sovereign. But on his feast-day, April 23rd, very few people will be wearing his symbol, a red rose (admittedly not seasonal in April, and obtainable only at overpriced flower stalls), and fewer still will attend Mass in his honour.

This is a pity, because he has much to tell us, especially about chivalry, honour, and the importance of standing up for your Faith even to the point of martyrdom: points which are of tremendous importance today precisely because they are somewhat unfashionable. St George was a soldier in the Roman Army, in the early part of the 4th century serving in the Middle East - his grave is at Lydda, now Lod in modern Israel. He was a leading Christian, and a popular officer, holding the rank of Tribune (about equivalent to Colonel). When the Emperor Diocletian issued his edict against Christians, George spoke out against it - with predictable results. He was arrested, tortured, and executed. His death occurred on April 23rd, which that year happened to be Good Friday. He became a popular saint throughout the Church.

Google how many countries have St George as their National Patron Saint.



St George's Church Lenten Lunches were again a great success. Two charities were supported: CAFOD for whom we raised £182, and Children with Cancer (Polegate) Fund, for which £182.50 was donated. Thank you for your generosity, with very many thanks to all the cooks who made such delicious soups, not forgetting the team of willing helpers, without whom these lunches would not be possible.

St George's Day/Queen's Birthday Vintage Tea Party on Saturday 23rd April, 3.00 pm. Tickets £5 per person. No tickets will be available on the door, so please purchase early. Tickets available from Ros or Shirley.

Vocations Day/Good Shepherd Sunday: Lord Jesus, Word made flesh, you who said to us 'If you do not become like little children you will not enter the Kingdom of God', teach us to follow in your footsteps humbly and simply. Send into your Church the priests, deacons, religious and lay people that are needed in order to make you better known and loved throughout the world. Amen.

CAFOD: If anyone at St George's has collected money for CAFOD, please hand it in now so that it can be sent off in time to take advantage of the government's promise to match funds raised through parishes during the Lent season. Thank you for your generosity.

The First Holy Communion Mass at St George's will be at the 9am Mass on Sunday 29th May.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 17th April St G's Children's Liturgy Cake Sale, after Mass
Mon 18th April St Wilfrid's Fundraising Mtg, Parish Centre, 7.30pm
Wed 20th April St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Thur 21st April Dedication of St Wilfrid's New Church, 7pm
Sat 23rd April Vintage Tea Party, St George's Hall, 3pm
Wed 27th April St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Wed 11th May Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Wed 11th May St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St G's Church, 6.15pm
Sun 22nd May 1st Communion Mass, St Wilfrid's Church, 10.30am
Sun 29th May 1st Communion Mass, St George's Church, 9am

St Wilfrid's Fundraising Meeting: Monday 18th April at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome to come along and put forward ideas for raising funds for the building work needed to complete our hall. The main discussion will be the United Nations Lunch on June 26th.

A HUGE thank you to all who contributed to the collection for flowers for the Dedication of the new St Wilfrid's Church. A fantastic amount of £207.49 which included donations from St George's. Bless you All.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy 2015-2016:

Bishop Richard encourages everyone in the Diocese to make a Pilgrimage to the places where Holy Doors are situated. The goal of our pilgrimages is to come to the Father so as to receive his mercy; then to offer the same mercy that we have received. An important symbolic act performed by pilgrims is to pass through the Holy Door.

The Knights of St Columba have arranged the following Pilgrimages:

Saturday 23rd April. Cathedral of St George, Southwark. 3pm Mass offered by Archbishop Peter Smith. Pilgrims are asked to make their own way by train.

Sunday 1st May. 3pm. Rosary and Benediction at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead. A bus will pick up pilgrims from Christ the King at 1.30pm, Our Lady of Ransom at 1.45pm and Polegate crossroads at 2pm. Cost £13 each. Please contact David 423323 to book a seat or to obtain further details.

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

COLLECTIONS: (9th/10th April)

St George's	£222.78
Weekly ave./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£204.92
Flowers for Dedication of church	£207.49
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 122 St G's 94	
Thank you for your continued generosity	

Bonus Ball:

Sat 9th April
No: 18
Jean Barham
Wed 6th April
No: 5
Sylvia Winter