

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down the dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

THE COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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

7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps 23:1-6. R. Cf.vv7.10

**R) Let the Lord enter!
He is the king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **(R)**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **(R)**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the

obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Mt 1:23

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today we hear of how the Saviour is to come into the world. A virgin is to conceive and bear a Son, and he shall be known as 'God-with-us'. This

was made known to St Joseph in a dream, by an angel of the Lord. Our Lady was also visited by a messenger of God, the angel Gabriel, and it was through him that she came to know of God's plan of salvation for humanity. We pray each day, three times, in the Angelus: 'Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the

message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection'. We place our faith, all our trust and hope, in this message of salvation delivered to us by the messenger of God, for without the grace of God, which has been made available to us through the Incarnation of his Son, we should have no grounds for hope. Faith is the ground of things hoped for, and God's grace alone produces that faith.

**HERE AND NOW****EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****Some cultural challenges**

63 (*cont'd*) These religious movements, not without a certain shrewdness, come to fill, within a predominantly individualistic culture, a vacuum left by secularist rationalism. We must recognize that if part of our baptized people lack a sense of belonging to the Church, this is also due to certain structures and the occasionally unwelcoming atmosphere of some of our parishes and communities, or to a bureaucratic way of dealing with problems, be they simple or complex, in the lives of our people. In many places an administrative approach prevails over a pastoral approach, as does a concentration on administering the sacraments apart from other forms of evangelization.

The Ways in Which God Uses Us

God uses us in two ways:

- 1) When we act on our own initiative.
- 2) When we let God act through us.

To act on our own initiative is to seek to do what God wants. To act on God's initiative means being open to God's inspirations. Surrender makes both forms of action possible. It entails a complete commitment to doing God's will in the present moment.

God wants us NOW. God will show us the Divine Will NOW. Our part is to live in life's NOW so that God can take complete possession of our hearts, not at some time in the distant future but right NOW in the present moment.

The present is a present from God where God is found. Open that present and find God in the simplicity of a pure heart that wants only what God wants.

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



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

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ST WILFRID

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

WEEKLY SERVICES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Next Sunday is The Nativity of the Lord)			
Sat	17th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Kitty Baker RIP
Sun	18th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Mr Janusz Zylewicz
Mon	19th	3.00pm	St George's - Carol Service
		2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	20th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Susan David
Wed	21st	10.00am	St George's - In Honour of the Holy Infant
Wed	21st	6.30pm	St Wilfrid's - Devotions
Thur	22nd	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Miguel & Guadercia Aleadore RIP
Fri	23rd	10.00am	St George's - Nicholas & Yolen Cooray RIP
Sat	24th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD "Christmas Day"			
Sun	25th	9.00am	St George's - Priests' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Jose B Juanilla RIP
1st Friday 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.**

Deacon John Writes:**Leader:** The fruit of Silence is Prayer. **All:** Lord, teach us to Pray**Leader:** The fruit of Prayer is Faith. **All:** Lord, give us the gift of Faith**Leader:** The fruit of Faith is Love. **All:** Lord, help us to choose Love**Leader:** The fruit of Love is Service. **All:** Lord, grant us a heart for Service**Leader:** The fruit of Service is Peace. **All:** Lord, may our souls be at Peace.**St Teresa on Peace**

"War is the killing of human beings. Who can even think that it could ever be "just"?"

"To die in peace with God is the culmination of any human life. Of those who have died in our houses, I have never seen anyone die in despair or cursing. They have all died serenely. I took a man I had picked up from the street to our Home for the Dying in Calcutta. When I was leaving he told me "I have lived like an animal on the streets, but I am going to die like an angel. I will die smiling". He did die smiling, because he felt loved and surrounded by care. That is the greatness of our poor." (From "Mother Teresa in her own Words", by Gramercy Books, 1997)

*Deacon John***Fr Rory Writes:**

I, for important reasons (i.e. in the plural), have decided to change the Mass schedule for the coming years. The time and venues remain the same, so Mass will be celebrated at St George's Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at St Wilfrid's on Wednesdays and Fridays. On the first Thursday we will have Veneration and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with the opportunity for confession/reconciliation, and on the first Friday a Mass for healing and anointing, followed by my rounds taking Holy Communion to the housebound. This will also facilitate a booking of the hall by Slimmer's World. I deeply and sincerely acknowledge the personal and particular difficulties that this will cause and especially to our Mother Teresa Group who over many years reflected what is best in our parish communities. My greatest prayers are with them as they adapt with all of us to the changes. Next weekend is Christmas and at the Masses will be a Crib Collection, this year it will be donated to Friends of the Holy Land for the poorest Christian families in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.

Fr Rory

Advent Taize Service on Wednesday 21st December at 7pm at St Gregory's Church, Victoria Drive, Eastbourne. Beautiful music and song to adore our Lord at Christmas. All welcome.

The Christmas Nativity Rehearsal for St Wilfrid's will be on Thursday the 22nd of December at 11am. All children from St George's and St Wilfrid's are welcome.

St Georges Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - Rotas for early 2017 are at the back of the church. Please collect your copy as soon as possible.

Mother Teresa Group Meetings: Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12th January at 2.30pm in St George's Hall. Subsequent meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Look forward to seeing you there!

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASSES - please note that St George's will celebrate Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays, St Wilfrid's on Wednesdays and Fridays, starting week commencing 2nd January 2017. Times remain the same - 10am.

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

Erin Todd, the St George's parishioner who recently cut her hair to donate it to the Princess Trust and obtained sponsorship to go to St Wilfrid's Hospice, and her family would like to thank parishioners for their generosity in sponsoring her. The final total raised is not yet known but it is thought to be in excess of £1000, we will announce the exact amount once available.

The Federation of St Thomas a Becket Infant and Junior Schools are consulting about their Admissions Policy for September 2017. The proposed policy and Supplementary Information requirement fall in line with diocesan guidelines. Both documents can be seen on the school website at: <https://stthomasbecketcatholicschool.co.uk/esussex/primary/stthomasbecket>

Epiphany Party: There will be an Epiphany Party on Sunday 8th January from 2 - 4pm in St George's Church Hall to which all children from St George's and St Wilfrid's Children Liturgy are invited.

Please send any questions or return comments to the Chair of the Governing Body, via the school office by 30th January, 2017.

Indian Mass: There will be an Indian Mass at St Wilfrid's Church on Saturday 31st December at 10am.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 18th Dec Carol Service, St George's Church, 3pm
Wed 21st Dec Advent Taize Service, St Gregory's Church E/B, 7pm
Thurs 22nd Dec Xmas Nativity Rehearsal, St Wilfrid's Church, 11am
Sat 31st Dec Indian Mass, St Wilfrid's Church, 10am
Sun 8th Jan Epiphany Party, St George's Hall, 2-4pm
Thurs 12th Jan Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Fri 13th Jan St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 6.15pm

COLLECTIONS: (10th/11th Dec)

St George's	£207.00
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£313.56
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 117 St G's 85	
Thank you for your continued generosity	
If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.	

Bonus Ball:

Sat 10th December
 No: 20
 David Hoad
Wed 7th December
 No: 42
 Margaret Forde