

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.**

Ps 12: 6

THE COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, always pondering spiritual things,
we may carry out in both word and deed
that which is pleasing to you.
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 book of Leviticus 19: 1-2. 17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 102:1-4.8.10.12-13. R.v8

R) The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R)**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R)**

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says:

The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jn 14:23
**If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:38-48

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord,
with the observance that is your due,
we humbly ask you,
that what we offer to the honour of your majesty
may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 9: 2-3

**I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we may experience the effects of the salvation
which is pledged to us by these mysteries.
Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Jesus' teaching turns the world upside down. Instead of the things we tend naturally to do:

take revenge, snatch back our property, respond to abuse with abuse – we are called to do the opposite: forgive, give, respond gently. G.K.Chesterton, in his book on St Francis of Assisi, recommends an 'upside-down' view of things for giving us a fresh view of things: in seeing things upside-down we are given an image of their complete dependence on what is above – in other words, on God. "Perhaps Peter," he concludes, "saw the world so when he was crucified

upside down." Only Jesus can – and has the authority – to 'turn us upside-down'. Only Jesus among 'the children of men' has the true view of life, an overall understanding of what makes for human flourishing, for happiness in families and between neighbours, enabling him to redirect human emotions, desires, ambitions. On our part, with Peter we can admit that martyrdom is the ultimate admission that Jesus is the truth.

**HERE AND NOW****What About Evil?**

In the book of Daniel we read of a monster statue made of gold, bronze, iron and clay. That is what the world sometimes seems like – a great amalgam of all sorts of evil. Each age has its own monsters and tyrants. There is war, disharmony, disunity... you name it, we have it! The root of evil is a rejection of the order that originates in God. Yet history shows that evil can never have the last word. People intent upon evil-doing may think they are invincible, but they are mistaken.

The monster of gold, bronze, iron and clay is ultimately nothing but a heap of glittering dust that the wind disperses in a moment.

Evil may try us, but if we trust in God it can never come out on top. Faith is our winning weapon in the fight.

God brings good out of evil for those who trust, just as God builds the heavenly Jerusalem from the rubble of Babylon. A pure heart finds God where God was thought to be absent. Faith gives us light to see with the eyes of God rather than our own limited vision.

The chaos of evil cannot replace the order of God. Carry on regardless of all else. Cling to God's will. Do what you have to do. Be humble and gentle. Then the truth will enlighten you and you will see with the eyes of God.

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

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****Challenges to inculturating the faith**

70. It is also true that at times greater emphasis is placed on the outward expressions and traditions of some groups, or on alleged private revelations which would replace all else, than on the impulse of Christian piety. There is a kind of Christianity made up of devotions reflecting an individual and sentimental faith life which does not in fact correspond to authentic "popular piety". Some people promote these expressions while not being in the least concerned with the advancement of society or the formation of the laity, and in certain cases they do so in order to obtain economic benefits or some power over others.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

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ST WILFRID

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Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Sat	18th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Special Intention
Sun	19th	9.00am	St George's - Mrs Marjorie Beard RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	20th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	21st	10.00am	St George's - Mrs Vera Almeida RIP
Wed	22nd	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Marie Kelly RIP
Thur	23rd	10.00am	St George's - Donor's Intention
Fri	24th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	25th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - In Honour of Our Lady
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting & abstinence. Lenten Alms			
Sun	26th	9.00am	St George's - John & Margaret Forde's Intention
		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:

Back on the horizon are great events and important occasions in the life of our faith. Lent with its preparation for Holy Week; the great event that is Easter, Christ risen from the dead, our lives will never be in vain. Above all, this leads to Pentecost, when the power of the Holy Spirit will be upon us, to refresh and revitalize us.

This window in our newsletter, following the example given by Deacon John, provides a platform to present ideas and directions that can help us to be more involved with developing our Christian faith, and putting it into action in our lives and in the life of others. Preparation is in place for a retreat day at Worth Abbey on Saturday 1st April, this will be a very important and helpful event. More details to follow.....

Please God, as I have said before "we can do better". I really do hope so or we will all be dead as "dodos". Other events to look forward to; a visit from the Sisters at the St George's Retreat, with a special occasion for reconciliation, healing and benediction. Our Friday Fast will be on Thursday's at St George's Retreat. Greater efforts for CAFOD are needed.

Copies of Walk with Me "A Lenten Journey of Prayer" are now available, please speak to Fr Rory for yours.



St George's Choir Practice will take place on Saturday 25th February, 10am. We are going to be learning a new piece for Easter Sunday so attendance at rehearsal is important. New members always welcome but must be committed to monthly rehearsal.

Worship Evening with Noel & Tricia Richards and Wayne Drain: Tuesday 28th February at 7pm at Ropemaker Centre. Tickets £5. each. There will also be refreshments halfway through the evening.

Evenings of Reflection with Bishop Richard: He is once again inviting young people (11-18) to join him for Evenings of Reflection at different places around the Diocese. They will run from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Dates and locations are as follows: Saturday March 18th - St Mary Magdalene's Church, Bexhill-on-Sea
Some important points to note: Capacity is limited, so it is absolutely essential to book. To do so, please email the Youth Adviser Jack.Regan@dabnet.org. Jack will confirm whether there is space. He assumes each group will have adult leaders present. Young people who want to come alone must contact directly with Jack.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage April or May 2017:

I am organising two Medjugorje Pilgrimages for 7 nights half board with flight and airport transfers on 22nd - 29th April and 13th - 20th May from London Gatwick to Dubrovnik for €459 per person. All accommodation is within a short walk from St James Church and comes with air conditioning, free Wi-Fi and tea and coffee making facilities. All meals served in the newly renovated Irish Centre restaurant between 8am and 9pm.

If you would be interested in joining one of these pilgrimages, please contact me at jackiemulort@btinternet.com or call on 020 3239 8662.

My family first got involved in Medjugorje back in 1984 and we have been working there for the past 14 years bringing out groups and individuals.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sat 25th Feb St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am
Sat 4th March Life Quiz, Christ the King Parish Hall, 7pm for 7.15pm
Thurs 9th March Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Fri 10th March St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's, 6.15pm

Help Required: The Parish is in need of a Fire Safety Officer. Duties include monthly checks of fire extinguishers, exits and the church alarm with records to be maintained. It would take about 45 minutes of some-ones time per month. Anyone who can help please contact Fr. Rory, David Hoad or Bill O'Rourke for further information.

CAFOD Rep Required: We currently have a need for a Cafod representative whom would liaise with Cafod and relate their information and appeals to the parish community. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Fr Rory. Many thanks.

"LIFE Quiz." Looking for an evening of fun and interest - and all in a good cause?

Support our LIFE Quiz on Saturday, 4th March, 7.00 for 7.15pm at Christ the King, parish hall. Tickets are £5 each - includes sandwiches. Soft drinks available - please bring own alcohol. Teams of six would be best - or join others on the night. All proceeds to the Worthing Life House. Tickets are available from John: Telephone 644509.

Hailsham Spring into Fun A Community Event for All

Free Easter Holiday event full of activities, "have-a-go" workshops and community organisations to showcase what Hailsham has to offer!

Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

10am—2pm

Hailsham East Community Centre, Vega Close, Hailsham, BN27 2JZ

For more information and to book a table please contact Claire Reynolds or Lucy Brandt (01273) 473422 or events@ruralsussex.org.uk

COLLECTIONS: (11th/12th Feb)

St George's	£194.25
Racial Justice Appeal	£50.40
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£304.62
Racial Justice Appeal	£80.75
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 139 St G's 78	
Thank you for your continued generosity	
If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.	

Bonus Ball:

Sat 11th February

No: 28

John Forde

Wed 8th February

No: 37

Bridie Cleary