

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King,
who rules heaven and earth for ever.

THE COLLECT

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, 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

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you
and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 66:2-3.5.6.8.R.v2

R) O God, be gracious and bless us.

God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R)**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **(R)**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul of the Galatians 4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Heb 1:1-2
At various times in the past
and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:16-21

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

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in your kindness begin all good things
and bring them to fulfilment,
grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother
of God,
that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace,
so one day we may rejoice in its completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Heb 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord:
grant, we pray,
that it may lead us to eternal life,
for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary
Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



'As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.' The union of God and man takes place in various ways. There is the raising of

human nature to the divine in the unity of the Person of Jesus Christ. There is the individual union of each baptized Christian by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our souls. There is our corporal union with Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament. And then there is that raising of one person in particular, Mary, to union with God through her Divine Motherhood, which is the unique privilege of Our Blessed Lady. She, and no other, is Mother of God, *theotokos*, as the Council

of Ephesus affirmed in 431. Her God was her child! She gave human existence to Him through whom she had been created. She gave to her Redeemer the blood that He would shed for her. He lived with her and she lived with Him, both physically in the same house, and spiritually through the divine life He shared with her. In a certain sense, He is more her Son than in ordinary cases, because He receives his human existence from his mother alone.

**HERE AND NOW****Doing God's Will**

Our duty consists in two things:

- 1) What God asks of us as members of the human race.
- 2) What God asks of us specifically because of our own particular calling.

No one lives exactly the same kind of life as another, although there may be similarities. There is nobody else quite like me. God's mercy and grace are available to me as the unique person I am. It is no use comparing myself with the saints. Sometimes lives of holy people seem quite outside the possibilities offered to me. That is because I am different and live in a different life situation, with different graces and gifts.

Yet as God gives us human life and all we need for our bodily existence like air, water, light, so God gives us all that we need for our spiritual flourishing. If we give ourselves to God we can be sure we will receive all that is necessary to grow in holiness. Our daily duties are given to us at each moment. All we have to do is respond with generosity. The saints did God's will. That is the secret of sanctity, and that is possible for us too. God is weaving the tapestry of our lives, or in another metaphor, working like a painter one brushstroke at a time, or a carver one chisel mark at a time. We must let God be God for us without being overly concerned about the finished product.

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

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

64 (cont'd) "... Such claims usually follow from a form of moral relativism that is joined, not without inconsistency, to a belief in the absolute rights of individuals. In this view, the Church is perceived as promoting a particular prejudice and as interfering with individual freedom".⁵⁹ We are living in an information-driven society which bombards us indiscriminately with data – all treated as being of equal importance – and which leads to remarkable superficiality in the area of moral discernment. In response, we need to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values.

⁵⁹ UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, *Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care* (2006), 17.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JG

Tel: (01323) 841504

(Answerphone service available)

Email: ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com

Website: www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

| MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (Special Collection Next Weekend for The White Flower Appeal) | | | |
|---|------|---------------|--|
| Sat | 31st | 6.00pm | St Wilfrid's - In Honour of Our Lady |
| Sun | 1st | 9.00am | St George's - Parish Communities' Intention |
| | | 10.30am | St Wilfrid's - Norma & P J Kelly RIP |
| Mon | 2nd | 2.30pm | St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays |
| Tue | 3rd | 10.00am | St George's - Anne & Roy Eamers Intention |
| Wed | 4th | 10.00am | St Wilfrid's - Margaret Malone's Intention |
| Thur | 5th | 9.30am | St George's - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation |
| Thur | 5th | 10.00am | St George's - Kate & Patrick Walsh RIP |
| Fri | 6th | 10.15am | St Wilfrid's - Holy Souls' Intention |
| Sat | 7th | 6.00pm | St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention |
| EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Special Collection This Weekend for The White Flower Appeal) | | | |
| Sun | 8th | 9.00am | St George's - Deirdre Mary Beale's Anniversary |
| | | 10.30am | St Wilfrid's - Michael Bradley RIP |
| <i>1st Thursday 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, 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:

As we launch ourselves into a new year with the change in Mass Schedules and with the finalising of the Parish Centre Project at St Wilfrid's, we are ready to launch into the New Year. Please God, it will be an enjoyable and successful year. Once again your generosity and constant support of good causes is part of our response to the commitment of our baptism. As the year develops, with Brexit and many other factors signalling a time of change, we can only turn to God that these will be rewarding, but certainly there is a challenge that greater stresses and tensions can arise.

Fr Rory

Crib Offering 2016 Arundel & Brighton Diocese

CRIB OFFERINGS This year, with the encouragement of Bishop Richard, this parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing initiatives. FHL is apolitical and ecumenical. For further information, please take a look at the poster on the notice board and please keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.

New year's resolution: Make a difference with CAFOD

Make 2017 the year you meet new friends, inspire others to act for social justice, and use your skills to help our sisters and brothers working to overcome poverty around the globe. Are you a good communicator who would enjoy speaking in churches or schools? Are you a people-person who would relish involving and encouraging others in your local parish? Are you a budding writer who could contribute to our blog and e-news?

If so please get in touch with Martin or Jo on 01483 898866 or email arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

White Flower Appeal

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend. In 2017 SPUC is commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. Over 8.7 million unborn children have lost their lives due to abortion in the last 50 years. Since 1967 SPUC has been working tirelessly to uphold the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. Please help make 2017 a landmark year in SPUC's historic campaign to win legal protection for unborn children. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC and help save mothers and babies from abortion.

Epiphany Party - Cancelled: It has been decided to cancel the Epiphany Party on 8th January at St George's Church Hall to encourage and enable our children to attend the Special Epiphany Procession and Celebration at Our Lady of Ransom, followed by Traditional Polish refreshments in aid of St Gregory's Roof Fund on the 8th January at 3pm.

Erin Todd is delighted to announce she raised £1685.17 for St Wilfrid's Hospice following her hair cut (hair donated to princess trust for use as a wig). Erin and her family would like to thank everyone for their generosity - the parishioners of St George's responded to her appeal so well that a whopping £263 of the money raised was from her church appeal. BIG THANK YOU ALL.

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.

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!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wed 4th Jan St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Sun 8th Jan Epiphany Celebration, OLR - Eastbourne, 3pm
Tue 10th Jan St Wilfrid's Leaven Group Mtg, Parish Centre, 7.30pm
Wed 11th Jan St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
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

Catholic Bible School: Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne: Scripture Saturday: In the beginning to the birth of Jesus: Saturday January 14th

David Beresford, Director of the Catholic Bible School will bring his dynamic presentation of the Old Testament exploring the major themes and major characters. Saturday, January 14, 2017. FREE - Donations gratefully received. 10:45am to 1:30pm. Bring a packed lunch. Held at Our Lady of Ransom, Grange Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4EU. For more details see <http://www.catholic-bible-school.org/eastbourne-events/jan17>

Diocesan Directory 2017: Diocesan Directories have arrived, please avail of them because this is important. £4 would be appreciated. Thank you.

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>

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

COLLECTIONS: (24th/25th Dec)

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| St George's | £TBC |
| Weekly aver./Monthly D/D | £176.50 |
| St Wilfrid's | £942.71 |
| Weekly aver. of DD | £204.60 |
| Attendances: St W's 336 St G's TBC | |
| Thank you for your continued generosity | |
| If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes. | |

Bonus Ball:

Sat 24th December
No: 12
Michael Copper
Wed 21st December
No: 27
David Curtis