

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 Micah

5:1-4

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 79:2-3,15-16,18-19.R.v4

**R) God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R)**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;

then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Lk 1:38
**I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.**
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-44

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

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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



It is a moving and disturbing thought in these days of mass murder of infants in the womb, that grace works even in the womb! We know that Our

Lady was by grace preserved from sin from the first moment of her being, but that can seem more negative than positive. John's "leap for joy" reminds us that infants in the womb are growing, developing, influenced by the environment that surrounds them, the love of their parents and family and in this case, by the nearness of the Saviour. Babies in the womb are little human beings with intelligence and will, fit to be graced with a share in the

Divine life. If this is true of Mary and of John, what of the Child that Mary carries in her womb? The Child who comes as the *source* of grace for both his Mother and his pre-cursor! And not only for them, but for all who, like Mary, "believe"! What an irony Satan's temptation of Eve, that if they ate of the fruit they would be "like gods" - gods in their own image. The amazing truth is, that we are created to share by grace in God's own Divine life.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)

II. PASTORAL ACTIVITY AND CONVERSION
An ecclesial renewal which cannot be deferred
28 (cont'd)

The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration.²⁷ In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers.²⁸ It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented.

27 Cf. *Propositio* 26.28 Cf. *Propositio* 44.Monsignor Bruce Harbert –
Thoughts on today's Mass

During the final week of Advent the Church encourages us through her liturgy to bear especially in our minds and hearts Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord and God, and our spiritual Mother. This week has a Preface all to itself which conveys a sense of mounting excitement as it recalls the long preparation for Christ's coming, first in the writings of the prophets, then in Our Lady herself as she awaited her Son's birth, and then in the preaching of Saint John the Baptist, who prepared the way of the Lord. We catch the same mood from the ancient antiphons, all beginning with 'O', which are used in the Office and before the Gospel at Mass, all of which climax in a plea to Christ, Wisdom of the Most High, ruler of Israel, root of Jesse, key of David, Rising Sun, King of the nations, God with us, to come to his people.



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	19th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Philomena McAuliffe RIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
(Friday is a Holy Day of Obligation: Nativity of the Lord)			
Sun	20th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Christie O'Rourke RIP
Mon	21st	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	22nd	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Vera Almeida's Intention
Wed	23rd	10.00am	St George's - Reg Miles RIP
Thur	24th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Christmas Eve Mass
			Parish Communities Intention
Fri	25th	9.15am	St George's - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD "Christmas Day" Holy Day
			Special Intention
Fri	25th	10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Special Intention
Sat	26th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Eileen Crisford's Deceased Relatives and Friends
			Tony Frank Hipgrove RIP
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH			
Sun	27th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Teresa Gorman RIP

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) 509047
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, Josephine Coleman, Elizabeth Osbourne, John Dodson, Irene Boulstridge, Mary Scales, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford and Vera Almeida.

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 light the 4th Advent Candle the circle of light is complete; we come to an end of our Advent preparation. Our first response is one of gratitude for the gift to accept the message of an angel, announcing glad tidings of salvation for all mankind. The acceptance of this important event may be shared with what for many can be very superficial; yet something that stands out in their lives. The grace is given to us to accept the true treasure that is; the Son of God coming down from heaven to make His home among us. Constantly, we are offered ways of celebrating God's grace and goodness to us. First, through forgiveness for those of us who celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In our own special celebration here on Tuesday, the 15th, we were able to clearly link with the year of mercy called for by Pope Francis, with the age-old image of going through the cathedral door to express "what the Catechism taught us – the outward sign of inward grace".

Please God the carol service this Sunday will be a great event for us. I find it hard to credit that it is time to celebrate the Christmas season once again. Let us do this lovingly and well.

Fr Rory

Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve:

Vigil Mass (Family Mass), St Wilfrid's Church, 6pm

Christmas Morning Mass:

St George's Church, 9.15am

St Wilfrid's Church, 10.30am

CAFOD: This year St Georges has raised a total of £1233.93 for CAFOD including the Lent Fast and Harvest collections. A cheque for £721.35 is included and has been sent to help with the refugee crisis where CAFOD is working with Caritas in Lebanon and Greece.

This latest sum came through individual donations and the hall table where goods were offered in exchange for a voluntary donation to CAFOD. Thanks are due to all of you who donated. Ellen

Crib Donations: This year, with the encouragement of Bishop Richard, this parish will be sending crib donations 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 or housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. For further information, please take away the leaflet by the crib and keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.

Thank You: Tessa & Deacon John wish to say thank you for all the cards and good wishes received for Christmas. We also want to wish all in our communities good health in body and soul and a peaceful and blessed New Year.

Diocesan Directories: for 2016 have arrived. They provide details of all churches and organisations within our Diocese, as well as a full calendar of the Church Year. They cost £4.50, if you would like to purchase one.

A & B Youth Festival 2016 - Mercy: takes place on Saturday 27th February 2016, 6.30pm - 10.30pm at St Joseph's Church, Redhill (RH1 1LF). For ages 11 to 18. For more information, please e-mail Jack.Regan@dabnet.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 20th Dec Special Carol Concert, St Wilfrid's Church, 3pm

Tue 22nd Dec Rehearsal Xmas Nativity Mime, St W's Church, 10.30am

Wed 23rd Dec St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm

Wed 30th Dec St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm

Special Carol Concert - St Wilfrid's: Come and join us for our special concert on 20th Dec at 3pm in St Wilfrid's New Church. All welcome, especially children. Mince pies, mulled wine, refreshments in the Hall (Old Church) after the Concert.

Rehearsal for Christmas Mime: There will be a rehearsal on Tuesday 22nd December at 10.30am for all the children who would like to take part in the Christmas nativity mime performed on Christmas Eve at the Mass at 6pm. All ages are welcome to join in celebrating the wonderful birth of Jesus.

Christmas Posters are again being provided this weekend by the Knights of St Columba as part of their Keep Christ in Christmas campaign. Please take one if you can display it in your window. Thank you.

Thank You: Richard and Davina Piper would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and sharing in the Baptism of Freddie and Harry last weekend.

Silent Prayer Time: at St Wilfrid's Church, from 5pm to 7pm every Wednesday in Advent. Quiet reflection, just pop in for 5 minutes or as long as you are able. All welcome.

Healing & Forgiveness: Friday 26th February - Sunday 28th February 2016, Led by Dr Stephanie Thornton C.Psychol, AFBPsS At St Cuthman's Retreat & Meeting Centre, Cowfold Road, Coolham, RH13 8QL. For more information e-mail enquiries@stcuthmans.org or telephone 01403 741220.

COLLECTIONS: (12th/13th Dec)

St George's £220.29

Flowers £79.07

Weekly ave./Monthly D/D £176.50

St Wilfrid's £328.59

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 12th December

No 23

Karl Jung

Wed 9th December

No: 32

Ephraim Crowe