

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works.
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 prophet Isaiah 8:23–9:3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy
when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 26:1.4.13-14. R.v1

R) The Lord is my light and my help.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **(R)**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **(R)**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:10-13. 17

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to make up the differences between you, and instead of
disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief
and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me,
my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences
among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have,
like: 'I am for Paul,' 'I am for Apollos,' 'I am for Cephas,' 'I am for
Christ.' Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was
crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good
News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which
the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Mt 4:23
Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom,
and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

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

For shorter form (4:12-17) read between []

[Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land
and shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray,
and in sanctifying them
grant that they may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 33:6

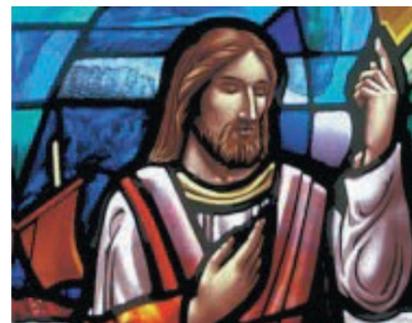
**Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, receiving the grace
by which you bring us to new life,
we may always glory in your gift.
Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



'Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.' Repentance is the effect of realising our sinfulness and our need of God's mercy. Sin, with all its

manifold, devastating and far-reaching consequences, is the only real misery. But it summons such an excess and superabundance of mercy from the Almighty that it can be considered under several aspects. Mercy is the gentleness that stays God's vengeful arm. Mercy is the patience that causes God to hold back the consequences of our sins until we tire of them and feel inclined to return to Him. Mercy is the kindness with

which God repeatedly receives us back into the highest favour of His Kingdom. Mercy is the clemency with which God imposes upon us crosses that are far lighter than we deserve. God does so much for us, even as we are obstinate in our sin, in order to coax us back to Him; and He does even more for us when we repent. "He will show the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy that He has prepared for glory" (Rom. 9:23).

**HERE AND NOW****Me - a Saint?**

Saints are those who had a faith that continued firm through all the trials of life. Visions, mystical graces and so on, are not what make the saints saints - only faith. Real faith doesn't need signs and wonders, rather it finds proof of God's providence in life's day-to-day happenings. Many who are real saints are never known on earth. They are hidden beneath an unprepossessing exterior and will shine only in heaven. If I only sip from the water of God's life I will remain thirsty. If I drink deeply, then my thirst will be quenched. In the same way, if I just try to be a saint by doing a little here and a little there I won't get anywhere fast. If I abandon myself to God wholeheartedly and generously I shall soon attain holiness. There is no other secret to learn, except that of complete abandonment to God moment by moment. Learning to see God at work in my own life is far more profitable than just reading about God's presence and work in the lives of other people, no matter how holy. Jesus speaks to each one of us. The Holy Spirit is always present to us. We don't have to crave martyrdom. We can die for God or live for God by accepting all that God sends us, and accepting it with love here and now. I too can be a saint!
***Life in God's Now** by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. Publisher: New City. ISBN-13: 9781905039111

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

67. The individualism of our postmodern and globalized era favours a lifestyle which weakens the development and stability of personal relationships and distorts family bonds. Pastoral activity needs to bring out more clearly the fact that our relationship with the Father demands and encourages a communion which heals, promotes and reinforces interpersonal bonds. In our world, especially in some countries, different forms of war and conflict are re-emerging, yet we Christians remain steadfast in our intention to respect others, to heal wounds, to build bridges, to strengthen relationships and to "bear one another's burdens" (Gal 6:2). Today too, various associations for the defence of rights and the pursuit of noble goals are being founded. This is a sign of the desire of many people to contribute to social and cultural progress.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Sat	21st	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Flora De Sousa RIP
Sun	22nd	9.00am	St George's - John Bree RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	23rd	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	24th	10.00am	St George's - Michael Daly RIP
Wed	25th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Dennis Beckwith RIP
Thur	26th	10.00am	St George's - Mrs Vera Almeida RIP
Fri	27th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Marie Kelly RIP
Sat	28th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Sylvia Galea's Intention
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Special Collection next Sunday for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund)			
Sun	29th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Francis & Charlotte Gaynor RIP

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:

This is the middle of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. It began on Wednesday 18th and ends on Wednesday 25th. Ecumenical Service will be held at St George's Church on 24th January at 10.30am, followed by refreshments in the Hall. In the meantime it has not had much response. Some years ago it did receive a lot of energy and some very good endeavour within the Christian communities. To a larger degree it has established a greater amount of goodwill and in some places it has been rewarded by well established relationships between the churches. This has been significantly so in Polegate/Willingdon and up until recently the laity had a very active group from the churches. In Hailsham there has been a very sustained fraternal feeling among the ministers, and its meeting to pray together every month is quite well supported and sustained, but some of the laity feel excluded.

Activity for sharing church services and occasions for prayer together by the various congregations has declined and at this time not likely to receive a new lease of life. When I was ordained, it was considered to be a mortal sin to go to a protestant church, to actively and strongly support an ecumenical service was a high priority. Then you were asking people to go to a second service on the day. If there was a good response, as was generally true in the early days, this was a cause of some satisfaction. The stand out places were Taize and Iona, and these places had a strong influence upon the music and service as monasteries did in the past. For me today the Link Coffee Shop in Hailsham is a beacon, and I try to support it by going as regularly as I can. The food there certainly beats the microwave and Icelands! I hope to see some more of us when visiting there.

Fr Rory

St George's Children Fund would like to thank all those who supported us last year at Bingo, Sales Tables and Coffee Mornings, we raised £1,221 altogether for our local Polegate Children with Cancer Fund. Many thanks.

ANGELIC VISITORS by Sister Melannie Svoboda

"Sometimes we wish angels would appear to us and give us direction for our lives: *take the path to the left; choose option B; here's what you should say.* Most of us will never experience the dramatic angelic visitations that Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds had. But the truth is we have angelic visitors of another kind: *the wise counsel of an elder; the gentle support of a friend; a certain line from Scripture; a song sung at Mass; a neighbour in need; a news story that haunts us; the leaning of our heart during prayer.*

And what's more, sometimes we are an angelic visitor for someone else." At the start of this New Year may we pray that we will hang on to the important pieces of our life, and as Mary did, reflect on them in our heart.

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 January 28th - St Joseph's Church, Redhill
Saturday February 11th - St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill
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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tue 24th Jan Ecumenical Service, St George's Church, 10.30am
Fri 27th Jan Friday Group Coffee Morning, St Wilfrid's Hall, 10.30am
Sat 28th Jan St Wilfrid's Table Sale, St Wilfrid's Hall,
Thurs 9th Feb Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Fri 10th Feb St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 6.15pm
Fri 17th Feb St Wilfrid's Annual Quiz Night, St Wilfrid's Hall, 7.30pm

St Wilfrid's Annual Quiz Night is on Friday 17th February at 7.30pm, tickets now on sale £5 per adult, children free.

The next **Friday Group Coffee Morning** will be held in St Wilfrid's Hall on Friday, 27th January, at 10.30am. If you are bereaved, alone, have moved from another parish or wish to get to know more people in our community, then please join us. We look forward to welcoming you.

St Wilfrid's Table Sale: Saturday 28th January. If you have any suitable items for us to sell, like unwanted Christmas presents or other household goods, bric a brac, and items if anyone is having a clearout, we will be grateful for anything. Please leave in the church porch marked "table sale". Thank you.

'How to Defend the Catholic Faith without Shouting' The Diocese invites you to a Formation Day on Saturday 11th February 2017, Christian Education Centre, Crawley, RH10 6RP with Austen Ivereigh, Papal Biographer, Coordinator and Co-Founder of Catholic Voices and a contributing editor for Crux. 9.30am (registration from 9am) - 2pm. Bring a packed lunch. Booking essential. In an age of instant communications Catholics need to be able to communicate their faith to the world around them, demolishing myths, reframing the argument and speaking truth with love.

To book contact Mark Woods, Communications Officer on 01293 651170 or email: communications@dabnet.org or book online at www.dabnet.org/Courses (click on Communications).

Friends of EDGH: are still collecting milk bottle tops to help raise money for hospital equipment. Please help them by bringing in your washed red, blue and green bottle tops and place in the container provided in both church porches. Thank you.

COLLECTIONS: (14th/15th Jan)

St George's	£201.35
Pax Christi	£89.20
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£284.88
Pax Christi	£125.81
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's	119
St G's	86

Thank you for your continued generosity
If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.

Bonus Ball:

Sat 14th January

No: 33
Karl Jung

Wed 11th January

No: 10
Rowena Perry