

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

1 Pt 2: 2  
Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure,  
spiritual milk,  
that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**THE COLLECT**

God of everlasting mercy,  
who, in the very recurrence of the paschal feast  
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,  
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,  
that all may grasp and rightly understand  
in what font they have been washed,  
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,  
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.  
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 Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47  
The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the  
apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to  
the prayers.  
The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles  
made a deep impression on everyone.  
The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common;  
they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the  
proceeds among themselves according to what each one  
needed.  
They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their  
houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly  
and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by  
everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those  
destined to be saved.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps 117:2-4.13-15.22-24. R.v1

**R) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.**

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' **(R)**

I was thrust, thrust down and falling  
but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just. **(R)**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his  
great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising  
Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and  
the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled  
and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the  
heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until  
the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of  
time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may  
for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials;  
so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been  
tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold,  
which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and  
then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see  
him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are  
already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described,  
because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your  
faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! Jn 20:29

Jesus said:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 20:19-31

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the  
doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear  
of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to  
them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his  
side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord,  
and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you,'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not  
with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have  
seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the  
nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they  
made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to  
believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again  
and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus  
came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said.  
Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are  
my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no  
longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!'  
Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the  
disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are  
recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the  
Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his  
name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, we pray,  
the oblations of your people  
and of those you have brought to new birth,  
that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism,  
they may attain unending happiness.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. Jn 20:27

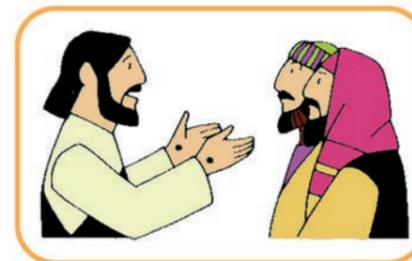
**Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,  
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that our reception of this paschal Sacrament  
may have a continuing effect  
in our minds and hearts.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Last Year was the Year of Mercy;  
today is mercy Sunday. Once  
again we are celebrating God's  
greatest mercy of all, the  
forgiveness of sins. Perhaps the  
most amazing aspect of that

forgiveness is: that sinful men are  
made a means of forgiveness of  
sins for their fellow men! So all-  
embracing is God's love in Jesus  
is that in and through Jesus the  
power of mercy is given to his  
priests in the Sacrament of  
Reconciliation. Jesus'  
resurrection is the witness to  
and evidence of that: "Receive the  
*Holy Spirit. For those whose sins  
you forgive, they are forgiven...*"  
But this wonderful gift of mercy  
is not confined to the

Sacrament. A petition of the  
Lord's Prayer is: "*Forgive us our  
sins as we forgive those who sin  
against us!*" St Stephen, the first  
martyr and therefore the first  
public witness to Christian  
mercy, prayed as he was stoned  
to death: "Lord, do not hold this  
sin against them." Those who  
are united to Jesus have a  
likeness to Jesus and  
consequently are in God's eyes  
'other Christs' and greatly  
beloved and trusted.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM  
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****II. TEMPATIONS FACED BY  
PASTORAL WORKERS**

76. I feel tremendous gratitude to all  
those who are committed to working in  
and for the Church. Here I do not wish to  
discuss at length the activities of the  
different pastoral workers, from bishops  
down to those who provide the most  
humble and hidden services. Rather, I  
would like to reflect on the challenges  
that all of them must face in the context  
of our current globalized culture. But in  
justice, I must say first that the  
contribution of the Church in today's  
world is enormous. The pain and the  
shame we feel at the sins of some  
members of the Church, and at our own,  
must never make us forget how many  
Christians are giving their lives in love.



## Holiness for Everyone\*

### What is Devotion?

You are seeking a life of devotion as a lover of God, so it is important to  
get the right idea from the start. Real devotion makes us alert and alive  
in God's service and the love of our neighbour. It enables us to do good  
promptly and joyfully rather than with a long face and heavy heart. Love  
fans the flame of devotion into a great fire and enables us to run in the  
ways of God happily and agreeably. People seem to have the idea that  
being religious is all about being gloomy, spending hours fasting and  
such like. But devotion adds sweetness to everything just as the bee  
draws nectar from all kinds of plants and converts it into honey.  
Devotion crowns love. It is as cream to milk, as flower to plant, as lustre  
to a precious stone, or perfume to balm. It comforts everyone who comes  
in contact with it. So seek it faithfully. You will not be disappointed.  
Devotion isn't the same for everyone across the board. It needs to be  
tempered to the specific calling of each one. Everyone is called to  
holiness according to their proper vocation, whatever it may be. ... In  
fact holiness makes every way of life more peaceful, pleasant, faithful  
and joyful.

\**Holiness for Everyone* by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. Published by New City.



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# 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](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk)

## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



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

### WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	22nd	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Dr Ismay Crotty 7th Anniversary RIP <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (or of Divine Mercy)</b>
Sun	23rd	9.00am	St George's - John & Paul Bree RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	24th	<b>10.00am</b>	St George's - <b>ST GEORGE</b> - Special Intention
Mon	24th	<b>11.30am</b>	St Wilfrid's - Requiem Mass for Biddie Kerridge RIP
Mon	24th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	25th	10.00am	St George's - Mr Arthur Burton RIP
Wed	26th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Greta O'Neill RIP
Thur	27th	10.00am	St George's - Holy Souls' Intention
Fri	28th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Mr Michael Bradley RIP
Sat	29th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Martin Malone RIP <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>(Special Collection Next Sunday for The Education of Future Priests)</b>
Sun	30th	9.00am	St George's - John Maguire RIP
		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) 832577  
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 Line .....Jean 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, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford, Dorothy Hanlon, Margaret Westcar, Brian Winter and Ann Winter.

**PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THOSE NAMED IN THE BOOKS IN OUR CHURCHES**

**Newsletter items:** Please send to Jackie at [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com), tel.841504 or by hand marked **NEWSLETTER**, to Fr. Rory's House by **9am Wednesday.**

## Fr Rory Writes:

Thanks be to God for the Holy Week and Easter Services with all their special moments of grace. The Good Friday Service at St George's was especially moving. It puts a great emphasis upon the virtue of hope which is not to be confused with a false optimism that everything will always work out well. Reality is that the next alternative to not having hope is despair, Judas despaired, but the other disciples in spite of being shattered by the events of the crucifixion did not, and in the end their hope was rewarded. In a confused kind of way a great message of hope began to dawn upon them. The editorial in the Tablet gives us a vivid appreciation of this great virtue of hope.

On 15th April 1945, the British war correspondent Richard Dimbleby broadcast an improvised service attended by Jewish survivors from the newly liberated concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. Despite exhaustion and emaciation they sang the song of hope, the *Hatikva*, which became the Israeli national anthem. The survival of hope in these appalling conditions was not only miraculous in itself, but a reminder that there is a fundamental continuity between Jewish hope and Christian hope. The Hebrew Bible and the New Testament are conjoined narrative of hope. Each looks towards the same ending to the human story, when God will take his own to himself. "Thy kingdom come" is both a Jewish and a Christian prayer of hope.

It goes on to say hope is not passive. The kingdom is not passive it has to be built. The early disciples had to respond to the message that they had received through Jesus and the work of the church had begun. Certain things that were rightly overshadowed by Holy Week - The first anniversary of the dedication of our new church, Friday 21st April, the letter of appeal from Bishop Richard, for our Diocese in Peru (some funds have been donated), the opportunity to support the Foodbank and the Link here in Hailsham. Monday is the Feast of St George, and the celebration of a life well lived when we have the Requiem Mass for Biddie Kerridge.

*Fr Rory*

**Thank you** to all the choir at St George's who sang so beautifully on Easter Sunday the special hymn we had been preparing for several weeks. Thank you for your commitment to rehearsals which paid off. A very special thanks to Pat for teaching us with such patience and of course John, our organist, who gave of his time at the extra rehearsals. It was very well done and added to a special, joyous and well prepared Mass.

### 'ENCOUNTER' Evenings for 15-30s starting in East Sussex

The popular ENCOUNTER programme, which has been running successfully for a few years now, will be starting in Bexhill on Friday May 12th. ENCOUNTER is an evening event for young Catholics, designed to let them deepen their faith in a friendly environment, together with people their own age. Evenings typically involve some food (snacks), live music, Adoration, and an inspiring talk. We are delighted to have David Beresford as our guest speaker for the first evening. David is the Director of the Catholic Bible School. The first evening will be on Friday May 12th, 7.30 to 9.30pm in the Hall at St Mary Magdalene's. Entry is free. For more information, search 'Catholic ENCOUNTER' on Facebook.

### 'Thy Kingdom Come' - Sunday 28 May

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. Justin Welby says: 'We are invited to make a lasting difference in our nations and in our world, by responding to God's call to find a deep unity of purpose in prayer'. **Christians in the Eastbourne area have an opportunity to come together in worship and prayer in an inter-church event at the Kings Centre, Edison Road BN23 6PT at 7 pm.** Find out more how you, your family or your church might respond.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Fri 28th April** St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St G's Hall, 6.15pm  
**Thur 11th May** Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm  
**Sun 21st May** Children's Liturgy Outing, Abbott's Wood, 12 midday

**The Children's Liturgy outing to Abbott's Wood** will be held on Sunday 21st May from 12 midday.

All children and their families from both communities are welcome. Please note there is a charge for the car park.

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** The annual Holy Hour of Prayer and Adoration will be held at St Mary Magdalene's, Bexhill on Sea at 2.30pm on Sunday 23rd April. The Order of Service and details may be viewed on the displayed posters. As usual the devotions will be followed by complimentary afternoon tea in the hall.

**A special loss** - Biddie Kerridge, one of the silver lining of the old faithful's; going back to the early time when St Wilfrid's Church was being established in Hailsham. We owe a great debt of gratitude, and please God, her funeral Requiem Mass will be well attended and celebrated on Monday 24th April at 11.30am at St Wilfrid's (Feast of St George).

**St Thomas a Becket School** are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers in exchange for some valuable school resources. If you have any please leave them on a table in the porch.

**Help Required:** The Parish is in need of a Health & Safety Officer. Duties to 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.

#### COLLECTIONS: (15th/16th April)

<b>St George's</b>	
Holy Places	£127.30
CAFOD	£51.79
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50

<b>St Wilfrid's</b>	
Holy Places	£244.06
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60

Attendances: St W's 282 St G's 137  
**Thank you for your continued generosity**

#### Bonus Ball:

**Sat 15th April**  
No: 48  
Jan Megan

**Wed 12th April**  
No: 50  
Davina Piper