

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Cf. Ps 85:1-3

**THE COLLECT**

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful  
to unite in a single purpose,  
grant your people to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,  
our hearts may be fixed on that place  
where true gladness is found.  
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 Joshua 24:1-2.15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God and serving other Gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Ps 33:2-3.16-23. R.v9

**R) Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R)

The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal. (R)

They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R)

Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken. (R)

Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R)

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just

as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words are spirit, Lord,  
and they are life:  
you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!

Cf. Jn 6:63.68

**GOSPEL**

John 6:60-69

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

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.  
The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption  
through the one sacrifice offered once for all,  
bestow graciously on us, we pray,  
the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. Jn 6:54

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
has eternal life, says the Lord,  
and I will raise him up on the last day.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray,  
the healing work of your mercy  
and graciously perfect and sustain us,  
so that in all things we may please you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



"Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God." Amazing words of St Peter! He was someone whose ear was

open to hear the "teaching" of the Father. Jesus shows this again at Caesarea, when Peter once more confesses Jesus' true identity. "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man... it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you, but my Father in Heaven." Jesus' true identity as the Only-begotten Son of God, God himself, is what distinguishes him from all other men who offer a meaning and purpose for life. All others read the mysteries of life from within; like those who listen to them, they are pilgrims

seeking their way forward, seeking for signs. Only Jesus is "from above", speaking of "where he was before". The Son of God is not "part" of this universe; he has "come down from Heaven" and brings with him his 'bird's-eye view' of reality, of the human race and all its doings. He brings with him also his first-hand knowledge of where to go and how to get there. He has the power too, to get to their destination those who, like St Peter, believe in him.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM  
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****Eternal newness**

11. A renewal of preaching can offer believers, as well as the lukewarm and the non-practising, new joy in the faith and fruitfulness in the work of evangelization. The heart of its message will always be the same: the God who revealed his immense love in the crucified and risen Christ. God constantly renews his faithful ones, whatever their age: "They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not be faint" (Is 40:31). Christ is the "eternal Gospel" (Rev 14:6); he "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb 13:8), yet his riches and beauty are inexhaustible. He is for ever young and a constant source of newness. The Church never fails to be amazed at "the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God" (Rom 11:33). Saint John of the Cross says that "the thicket of God's wisdom and knowledge is so deep and so broad that the soul, however much it has come to know of it, can always penetrate deeper within it".<sup>7</sup> Or as Saint Irenaeus writes: "By his coming, Christ brought with him all newness".<sup>8</sup> With this newness he is always able to renew our lives and our communities, and even if the Christian message has known periods of darkness and ecclesial weakness, it will never grow old. Jesus can also break through the dull categories with which we would enclose him and he constantly amazes us by his divine creativity. Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world. Every form of authentic evangelization is always "new".

<sup>7</sup> Spiritual Canticle, 36, 10.

<sup>8</sup> Adversus Haereses, IV, c. 34, n. 1: PG 7, pars prior, 1083: "Omnem novitatem attulit, semetipsum afferens".

**Monsignor Bruce Harbert –  
Thoughts on today's Mass**

The Letter to the Hebrews stresses that Christ's sacrifice of himself on the Cross brought to an end the era of sacrifices in the Jewish Temple. There will never again be any need of a further sacrifice to make our peace with God. Protestant Christians have criticized Catholics for speaking of 'the sacrifice of the Mass' as if each Mass was a new sacrifice, and thus contradicting Scripture. Catholics reply that at Mass the one sacrifice of Christ is not repeated, but becomes present and newly powerful. The liturgy often uses the word 'memorial' to express this truth. Today's Prayer over the Offerings reminds us of this with the phrase 'the one sacrifice offered once for all'. This is a new prayer, written in the 1960s though based on Scripture. Its incorporation in our Mass is a welcome sign that Protestants and Catholics have found common ground on this matter.



# 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

Sat	22nd	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
<b>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Sun	23rd	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - Marion Ann Carson RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Angela & Norman Wright RIP
Mon	24th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	25th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Mass with Baptism of Thomas Sijo
Wed	26th	10.00am	St George's - Enid & Peter Andrews RIP
Wed	26th	12.00noon	St Wilfrid's - Requiem Mass for Hugh Francis Reilly RIP
Thur	27th	2.30pm	St Wilfrid's - Requiem Mass for Gordon Charles Lawley RIP
Fri	28th	10.00am	St George's - Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	29th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Creta O'Neil RIP
<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Sun	30th	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - In Thanksgiving Special Intention

*1st Friday 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) 509047  
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, Agnes Galt, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Betty O'Hara, 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 and Enza Riddiford.

**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:

Again Happy Holidays - this is a most important time. Just as in the world of nature there are dormant periods, the earth lies low. In fact very often it is after longer dormant spells that nature comes more fully and abundantly alive. During this dormant period the seeds and sources of new life take shape and when conditions are right they break into life.

The heart of this is equally true in the life of faith. There are various important elements that determine whether things will come to fruition, and how good the harvest will be. One of the key elements is ability. We know that we are meant to be a body made up of many parts, and these parts working together make up the body of Christ which is His Church. God knew what abilities He has blessed us with, and Jesus speaks to us about this in His parables. So please God, we will become more fully aware of the abilities, talents and gifts He has given to us that lie dormant within us at the moment.

*Fr Rory*

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**St George's Social Committee** invite you to afternoon tea! Tea will be served on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00 pm in the church hall. Delicious dainty sandwiches and homemade cakes, all served to you at your table on beautiful vintage china. Tickets now available from Shirley and Ros at £5 per person or £6 on the door. Tickets can be obtained at St Wilfrid's through Brian Sutcliffe. Please do come and join us.

**Music Day at St Agnes** in Eastbourne on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Do you enjoy singing and would like to know more about how music can enhance the Mass? Speakers include Catherine Christmas from the Diocesan Liturgy Team. More details to follow.

**BINGO at St George's:** There will be another BINGO session on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September also for Children with Cancer. Doors open at 7pm to begin at 7.30pm. We hope you can come along.

**Friends of EDGH:** are 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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Wed 26th Aug** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  
**Wed 2nd Sept** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  
**Fri 4th Sept** Bingo - for children with cancer, St George's Hall, 7pm  
**Wed 9th Sept** Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm  
**Wed 9th Sept** St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St G's Church, 6.15pm  
**Wed 9th Sept** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  
**Sun 13th Sept** Vintage Tea Party, St George's Hall, 3pm  
**Mon 21st Sept** St Wilfrid's Fundraising Meeting, St W's Cabin, 7.30pm

**St Wilfrid's Chair Appeal:** The fantastic sum of £5,100 has been banked so far with promises of more to come. A huge thank you goes to all those who have contributed so far for their generosity. If there is anyone who has not contributed and wishes to do so please put the donation in an envelope, marked for "chair appeal" and place in the collection plate. The donation can be gift aided by putting the donation in your second collection envelope if you are a gift aider or in one of the yellow envelopes that are available in the porch.

## Guild of Our Lady of Ransom:

We have received a very generous donation of £2,200 from the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom which Fr Rory has earmarked for the Memorial Garden in the New Church grounds. Our appreciation and thanks to the Guild for this donation from the parishioners of St Wilfrid's.

**Talk organised by the Newman Association:** 'Who, What and Why is Newman Today?', Thursday 3<sup>RD</sup> September, 7.30pm to 9pm. **St Martha Church**, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4SL. The speaker, Fr Nicholas Schofield, London parish priest, and joint producer of a famous DVD on Newman, 'Lead Kindly Light'. ALL WELCOME.

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

<b>St George's</b>	£195.42
Children with Cancer	£172.38
Weekly ave./Monthly D/D	£176.50
<b>St Wilfrid's</b>	£284.95
Weekly aver. of DD	£209.60
Attendances: St W's 160 St G's 81	
<b>Thank you for your continued generosity</b>	
If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.	

## Bonus Ball:

**Sat 15th August**  
No 28  
John Forde

**Wed 12th August**  
No 37  
Bridie Cleary