

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**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.**

Cf. Ps 95:1,6

**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 book of Nehemiah

8:2-6. 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people — since he stood higher than all the people — Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah — His Excellency — and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****PSALM**

Ps. 18:8-10,15.R.Jn 6:63

**R) Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.**

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R)**

The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes. **(R)**

The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. **(R)**

May the spoken words of my mouth,  
the thoughts of my heart,  
win favour in your sight, O Lord,  
my rescuer, my rock! **(R)**

**SECOND READING (Shorter form)**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

12:12-14.27

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lk 4:18

**The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives.****Alleluia!****GOSPEL**

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

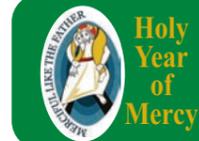
Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray,  
and in sanctifying them  
grant that they may profit us for salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**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



Jesus stands up in the synagogue, calmly reads out the Isaiah prophecy, and then claims that He is its fulfilment! Perhaps this is one

of the Lord's boldest gestures in the Gospel. He is not afraid to present Himself in the midst of His people as the Anointed One, the Messiah. He is the one bringing the Good News to poor. He is Himself the Good News. He is the liberty, the freedom, being proclaimed to a captive people, a people held captive by sin. We shall read later on in the Gospel of His restoring sight to the blind and of freeing the

downtrodden. It is to people gathered for prayer and religious instruction that Our Lord chooses to make His Messiahship known, to a body of people praying and worshipping together, not to particular individuals. Those who choose to believe in Him He will form into a Body, a spiritual Body, His own Body, in which there is no race, no social class, no gender, but only the one Spirit, who binds all together in charity.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM  
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****II. PASTORAL ACTIVITY AND CONVERSION***An ecclesial renewal which cannot be deferred*

32. Since I am called to put into practice what I ask of others, I too must think about a conversion of the papacy. It is my duty, as the Bishop of Rome, to be open to suggestions which can help make the exercise of my ministry more faithful to the meaning which Jesus Christ wished to give it and to the present needs of evangelization. Pope John Paul II asked for help in finding "a way of exercising the primacy which, while in no way renouncing what is essential to its mission, is nonetheless open to a new situation".<sup>35</sup> We have made little progress in this regard. The papacy and the central structures of the universal Church also need to hear the call to pastoral conversion.

<sup>35</sup>Encyclical Letter *Ut Unum Sint* (25 May 1995), 95: AAS 87 (1995), 977-978.

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

The best way to deepen our understanding and love of the Sacred Liturgy is to trace its roots in Scripture. A case in point is the sixth Preface for Sundays in Ordinary Time, which borrows thoughts from Saint Paul. Preaching in Athens (Acts 17,28) Paul said 'in him (i.e. God) we live and move and have our being', which the Preface takes over. Anybody who acknowledges one God could say those words. But then the Preface becomes more specifically Christian, speaking of 'the first fruits of the Spirit', an expression that Paul uses for baptism in his letter to the Romans (8,23). Finally it looks forward, speaking of our hope (an important word for Paul) for 'an everlasting share in the Paschal Mystery'. Paul had a wonderful sense of the sweep of history from Creation to Fulfilment, which the liturgy turns into prayer in this Preface.



# 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	23rd	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention <b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>(Special Collection Today for Catholic Association for Racial Justice)</b>
Sun	24th	<b>9.00am</b> 10.30am	St George's - John & Anne Winter's Intention St Wilfrid's - Michael Perry RIP
Mon	25th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	26th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Maureen Brosnan & Family's Intention
Wed	27th	10.00am	St George's - Liturgy of Word & Eucharist
Thur	28th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Liturgy of Word & Eucharist
Fri	29th	10.00am	St George's - Liturgy of Word & Eucharist
Sat	30th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Francis & Charlotte Gaynor RIP <b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>(Special Collection Next Sunday for The Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund)</b>
Sun	31st	<b>9.00am</b> 10.30am	St George's - Joseph & Rose Falkner RIP St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' 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) 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, Agnes Galt, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Betty O'Hara, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne & Harry Holt, David Thomas, Michael Bradley, 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](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com), tel.841504 or by hand marked **NEWSLETTER**, to Fr. Rory's House by **9am Wednesday.**

**Fr Rory Writes:**

Because Easter is so early this year, Lent is almost upon us. I am away for my Christmas break this week, we need to highlight this festival, so that we can get off to a quick start.

Novenas, Devotions and especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation have always been very important to our preparation, so please God, that they will receive a lot of support, care and attention.

*Fr Rory*

**Lenten Devotions** To enable us to prepare hearts and minds for Easter, **St. George's Church** will be holding Liturgical Services during Lent on **Friday evenings at 7.00 p.m.**, commencing on the 12th February. The Services will comprise readings, psalms and prayers with Holy Communion. They provide the ideal opportunity to reflect on the events leading up to Holy Week and our celebration of the Risen Christ. Both communities are warmly welcome.

**The first Coffee Morning for the Friday Group (Bereavement Support Group)** for this year will be held on Friday 29th January in the Church Hall from 10.30am to 12 noon. This is not only a mutual support group but also a social meeting. If you have been bereaved, live alone or have recently moved into the area and wish to meet people from the church/town please come along. You will receive a great welcome.

**Lenten Lunches – St. George's Church** hopes to provide a light lunch of soup and bread on Fridays during Lent, at 12.00. Numbers have declined in the last few years, but the lunches provide a valuable opportunity to raise money for CAFOD and Children's Charities whilst meeting with your friends. Home-made soup will be on offer, with good bread and butter. Menus will be posted each week. To ensure success, (and sufficient supplies!) please put your name on the list in the porch, or phone Margaret 01323 870990.

**Wednesday Bonus Ball:** Please check the list in St Wilfrid's Church porch for bonus ball renewal's. Thank you.

**Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** on Sunday 24th January at 5.30pm at Hellingly Church. Do join us for worship, as we pray for the unity of the people of Christ. For more information contact Rev. David Farey on 01323 440450 or email vicar.hellingly@gmail.com

**Week of Christian Unity - St. John's Church, Polegate** is holding a Service on Sunday, 24th January, at 6.30pm for all Christian Churches in Polegate. Please do your best to attend this important event.

**Josephine Coleman RIP:** Josephine died on 7th January at the age of 99 and will be buried on 1st February. The service will take place at the C of E Pre-reformation Church in Selmeston officiated by Fr Rory and the Rev. Peter Blee at 12noon and she will be interred in its cemetery adjoining our garden at about 1pm. For catering purposes please could you advise me if you will be attending on 01323 811356 or email [j105coleman@yahoo.com.hk](mailto:j105coleman@yahoo.com.hk)

**Health and Safety, St. George's** - Thanks to all who attended the Health and Safety Meeting last Friday. This was well attended and very successful, despite some difficulties with "noises off".

**Eileen Crisford RIP:** Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 4th February at 11.30am at St Wilfrid's Church. Her service will follow at the Crematorium for the family.

**St Valentine's Day Vintage Tea Party**, Sunday 14th February, 3.00 pm, St George's Hall. Tickets available soon for this popular event at £4.00 per person. Limited availability and no tickets will be available on the door on this occasion so buy yours early!

**Hailsham Foodbank:** are holding a foodbank social morning at Christchurch (Ropemaker Centre, Ropemaker Park) on Saturday 30th January, 10am-12noon. It would be lovely if you could join us for tea/coffee and cakes for us to say "Thank You" for all your hard work and commitment to the foodbank over the last year. It is an opportunity for all the volunteers to come together, have a chat, see what's been happening and what our plans for the future are. RSVP Julie Coates at [info@hailsham.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@hailsham.foodbank.org.uk) so we know how many cakes to get!

**A Big Thank You** to all the Sunday collection counters at St George's. Please keep up the good work, Ros.

**CAFOD** are appealing for unwanted, old or broken jewellery and watches, so if you have anything similar to get rid of please leave it at the rear of St George's Church. Thank you Ellen B.

**Saturday January 30th:** HCPT Quiz night at OLR. Come and enjoy the fun and raise money to take disabled children to Lourdes this Easter. You can make teams of 6 if you wish. For tickets £5 please phone 07976748141.

**Malayalam Mass:** We are all invited to attend the Malayalam Mass to be celebrated for our Indian friends in St Wilfrid's Church on Saturday 30th January at 10am. This is a wonderful expression of our faith. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

**BI Mother Teresa Group Meeting:** Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th February, St George's Hall at 2.30pm.

**COLLECTIONS: (16th/17th Jan)**

<b>St George's</b>	£147.00
Pax Christi Collection	£81.20
Weekly ave./Monthly D/D	£176.50
<b>St Wilfrid's</b>	£292.23
Pax Christi Collection	£81.54
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 153 St G's 80	

**Bonus Ball:**

**Sat 16th January**  
No: 38  
John Forde

**Wed 13th January**  
No: No Winner

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Wed 27th Jan** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  
**Fri 29th Jan** Friday Group Mtg (Bereavement Gp), St W's Hall 10.30am  
**Sat 30th Jan** St George's Social Committee Mtg, St G's Hall, 10am  
**Sat 30th Jan** Malayalam Mass, St Wilfrid's Church, 10am  
**Wed 3rd Feb** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  
**Wed 10th Feb** BI Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm  
**Sun 14th Feb** St Valentine's Day Vintage Tea Party, St G's Hall, 3pm

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