

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

THE COLLECT

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 97:1-6. R.v3

R) All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **(R)**

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **(R)**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **(R)**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher

than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Shorter form*

John 1:1-18

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 beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day, when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O merciful God, that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The union of God and man is what St Paul describes as the mystery which has been hidden from ages and generations, but is now made manifest to God's

saints (Col.1:26). Regarding ourselves, we are incapable of detecting the juncture between body and soul, the point of union between our corporal and our spiritual constituents. How much further from us, then, is the wonderful working of the Almighty Trinity! Even the angels cannot comprehend it. In order to understand it (and even then only within the capacities of a rational animal elevated to the supernatural by God's grace) we

need the infused power of faith, we need spiritual vision, the light of Christ himself. Human reason alone is unable to attain to it, though it can and should recognise it as reasonable. God has granted us the gift of faith. There can be no greater gift than this. We should continually render thanks to God for his gift of faith to us, and seek to nourish that faith by all the means the Church puts at our disposal.



Saying our 'Yes'

Saying 'Yes' to God demands both activity and passivity - doing and accepting.

We must do all God asks.

We must accept all God sends.

Doing what we must do is to act with simplicity and safety. We can then go ahead without undue concern about theology or high-flown thinking. God teaches us on a deeper level than that. However, remaining in the present moment takes great courage. To sing the song of abandonment, no matter what storms are raging around us, makes us like Jesus.

Jesus walked the way of his passion and cross in loving obedience to the Father, even though it meant being treated in a way that was totally opposed to his human dignity. Jesus marched on undaunted, and so should we. God alone matters and doing God's will is how we show that God matters most.

When a tapestry is being stitched the stitches are made on the reverse side of the canvas. The final pattern is only revealed when the stitching is completed and the design seen in all its beauty right side up.

Surrendering ourselves to God moment by moment is like making a stitch on the reverse side of a tapestry. One stitch at a time is one more step towards completing the full design that we shall see only in eternity.

Our tapestry is made moment by moment, stitch by stitch. There is nothing here outside the capacity of anyone. Fidelity to duty is within the reach of all, and on it is built the most perfect holiness.

***Life in God's Now** by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. Publisher: New City. ISBN-13: 9781905039111

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



Some cultural challenges

64. The process of secularization tends to reduce the faith and the Church to the sphere of the private and personal. Furthermore, by completely rejecting the transcendent, it has produced a growing deterioration of ethics, a weakening of the sense of personal and collective sin, and a steady increase in relativism. These have led to a general sense of disorientation, especially in the periods of adolescence and young adulthood which are so vulnerable to change. As the bishops of the United States of America have rightly pointed out, while the Church insists on the existence of objective moral norms which are valid for everyone, "there are those in our culture who portray this teaching as unjust, that is, as opposed to basic human rights..."⁵⁹

59 UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, *Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care* (2006), 17.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

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ST WILFRID

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

WEEKLY SERVICES

			THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD "Christmas Day"	
Sat	24th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Sun	25th	9.00am	St George's -	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD "Christmas Day"
				Priests' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Jose B Juanilla RIP
Mon	26th	2.30pm	St George's -	2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	27th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Norman & Angela Wright RIP
Wed	28th	10.00am	St George's -	Teresa Daly's Intention
Thur	29th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Special Intention
			THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	
Fri	30th	10.00am	St George's -	Brenda Troy RIP
Sat	31st	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	In Honour of Our Lady
			MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	
Sun	1st	9.00am	St George's -	Norman & P J Kelly RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
<i>1st Friday of the month: 9.30am St George's - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation</i>				

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:

To all our Ministries and all who have responsibilities for the organisation, support and wellbeing of our Parish, all our love and blessings at the joyful season of Christmas.

Many thanks for all your kindness and generosity over the year. This especially includes your Christmas offerings, gifts and cards. I am most grateful, but my biggest thanks is for all that is done to celebrate and enhance the life of our community. This is the best expression of our hope, trust and confidence in God.

Fr Rory

Crib Offering 2016 Arundel & Brighton Diocese

CRIB OFFERINGS This year, with the encouragement of Bishop Richard, this parish will be donating crib offerings 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 and housing initiatives. FHL is apolitical and ecumenical. For further information, please take a look at the poster on the notice board and please keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.

Epiphany Party - Cancelled: It has been decided to cancel the Epiphany Party on 8th January at St George's Church Hall to encourage and enable our children to attend the Special Epiphany Procession and Celebration at Our Lady of Ransom, followed by Traditional Polish refreshments in aid of St Gregory's Roof Fund on the 8th January at 3pm.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Carol Service last weekend. It was a lovely preparation for Christmas with all the old favourite carols enthusiastically sung, alongside some beautiful poems read with feeling and wit by our readers. Special thanks to John Winter for his organ playing and also to Cathy and Trevor not only for their fabulous mulled wine which is now legendary, but also the huge amount of washing up they did in the kitchen. All appreciated one and all. Merry Christmas.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASSES - please note that St George's will celebrate Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays, St Wilfrid's on Wednesdays and Fridays, starting week commencing 2nd January 2017. Times remain the same - 10am.

Mother Teresa Group Meetings: Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12th January at 2.30pm in St George's Hall. Subsequent meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Look forward to seeing you there!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sat 31st Dec Indian Mass, St Wilfrid's Church, 10am
Wed 4th Jan St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Sun 8th Jan Epiphany Celebration, OLR - Eastbourne, 3pm
Tue 10th Jan St Wilfrid's Leaven Group Mtg, Parish Centre, 7.30pm
Wed 11th Jan St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Thurs 12th Jan Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Fri 13th Jan St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 6.15pm

Indian Mass: There will be an Indian Mass at St Wilfrid's Church on Saturday 31st December at 10am.

Catholic Bible School: Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne: Scripture Saturday: In the beginning to the birth of Jesus: Saturday January 14th

David Beresford, Director of the Catholic Bible School will bring his dynamic presentation of the Old Testament exploring the major themes and major characters. Saturday, January 14, 2017. FREE - Donations gratefully received. 10:45am to 1:30pm. Bring a packed lunch. Held at Our Lady of Ransom, Grange Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4EU. For more details see <http://www.catholic-bible-school.org/eastbourne-events/jan17>

Friends of EDGH: Please remember to save all your stamps, especially during the Christmas period. These can be left in both the church porches for collection. Thank you.

The Federation of St Thomas a Becket Infant and Junior Schools are consulting about their Admissions Policy for September 2017. The proposed policy and Supplementary Information requirement fall in line with diocesan guidelines. Both documents can be seen on the school website at: <https://stthomasbecketcatholicschool.co.uk/esussex/primary/stthomasbecket>

Please send any questions or return comments to the Chair of the Governing Body, via the school office by 30th January, 2017.

COLLECTIONS: (17th/18th Dec)

St George's	£214.39
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£319.13
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 150 St G's 91	
Thank you for your continued generosity	
If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.	

Bonus Ball:

Sat 17th December
No: 8
Bob Waters
Wed 14th December
No: 36
Jean Barham