

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 17: 19-20

**The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me.**

THE COLLECT

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that the course of our world
may be directed by your peaceful rule
and that your Church may rejoice,
untroubled in her devotion.
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

49:14-15

Zion was saying, 'The Lord has abandoned me,
the Lord has forgotten me.'

Does a woman forget her baby at the breast,
or fail to cherish the son of her womb?
Yet even if these forget,
I will never forget you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 61:2-3.6-9. R.v6

R) In God alone is my soul at rest.

In God alone is my soul at rest;
my help comes from him.
He alone is my rock, my stronghold,
my fortress: I stand firm. **(R)**

In God alone be at rest, my soul;
for my hope comes from him.
He alone is my rock, my stronghold,
my fortress: I stand firm. **(R)**

In God is my safety and glory,
the rock of my strength.
Take refuge in God all you people.
Trust him at all times.
Pour out your hearts before him. **(R)**

SECOND READING

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

4:1-5

People must think of us as Christ's servants, stewards entrusted
with the mysteries of God. What is expected of stewards is that
each one should be found worthy of his trust. Not that it makes
the slightest difference to me whether you, or indeed any human
tribunal, find me worthy or not. I will not even pass judgement
on myself. True, my conscience does not reproach me at all,
but that does not prove that I am acquitted; the Lord alone is
my judge. There must be no passing of premature judgement.
Leave that until the Lord comes: he will light up all that is hidden
in the dark and reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts.
Then will be the time for each one to have whatever praise he
deserves, from God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!**

Jn 17:17

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:24-34

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'No one can be the slave of two
masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat
the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be
the slave both of God and of money.

'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and
what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to
clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more
than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or
reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you,
for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And
why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the
fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not
even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now
if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there
today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much
more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry; do
not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are
we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all
these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.
Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness,
and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not
worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Each
day has enough trouble of its own.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who provide gifts to be offered to your name
and count our oblations as signs
of our desire to serve you with devotion,
we ask of your mercy
that what you grant as the source of merit
may also help us to attain merit's reward.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 12: 6

**I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me,
sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by your saving gifts,
we beseech your mercy, Lord,
that by this same Sacrament
with which you feed us in the present age,
you may make us partakers of life eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Our Lord put his trust in his
Father and 'did not worry' in the
most perfect way possible, as his
final words on the cross
demonstrate: "Father, into your

hands I commend my spirit." So
when we hear his words in today's
Gospel passage, "Set your hearts
on his (the Father's) kingdom first
and on his righteousness, and all
these other things (food, drink,
clothing etc.) will be given you as
well," we must understand that
we are not being given a promise
of wealth and comfort in this life
and an escape from troubles and
suffering.. No, the fulfilment of
God's promises is not to be
found in this life; it belongs to

Heaven and to the end of time;
this life is the 'way', the journey
with Christ to that promised
kingdom. All the same, we are
not neglected; we read about St
John Bosco multiplying bread for
the boys in his school and St
John Vianney filling an empty
barn with wheat for his
orphanage; if we do see ourselves
as the 'slaves of God', if we do set
our hearts on the kingdom,
putting aside worries about
'today', God does provide.

**HERE AND NOW****God Holds us Safely**

When we are clear about the way to go then it is easy
to walk as those who walk in the brightness of day.
But there are also times when the way is dark and
obscure because God hides in the darkness of faith.
We have no cause to be afraid of the dark night of faith.
Indeed, even though good and virtuous actions can
seem, and are, worthwhile, the heart at this stage is
more attracted to darkness and mystery, knowing that
God is present in it.

We must therefore surrender ourselves totally into the
hands of God. We will be carried if God makes the path
too dangerous and obscure for walking.
Don't be afraid! God will never desert you. Do what you
have to do. Avoid all sin. Nothing more is asked.
Beyond the shadows the light shines. Reasoning isn't
any help. Only faith.

At this point we are led as if from behind. God is there
holding us and urging us on, but we cannot see God's
face and it is useless to try. We find the way by losing
ourselves and welcoming the difficulties that come
from life. Difficulties and darkness teach us things that
we cannot learn in the light.

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

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****Challenges to inculturating the faith**

70 (Cont'd) Nor can we overlook the fact
that in recent decades there has been a
breakdown in the way Catholics pass down
the Christian faith to the young. It is
undeniable that many people feel
disillusioned and no longer identify with the
Catholic tradition. Growing numbers of
parents do not bring their children for
baptism or teach them how to pray. There is
also a certain exodus towards other faith
communities. The causes of this breakdown
include: a lack of opportunity for dialogue
in families, the influence of the
communications media, a relativistic
subjectivism, unbridled consumerism which
feeds the market, lack of pastoral care
among the poor, the failure of our
institutions to be welcoming, and our
difficulty in restoring a mystical adherence
to the faith in a pluralistic religious
landscape.



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

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting & abstinence. Lenten Alms			
Sat	25th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - In Honour of Our Lady
Sun	26th	9.00am	St George's - Sebastian Martin & Family In Thanksgiving
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	27th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	28th	10.00am	St George's - C S Lodrick RIP
Ash Wednesday (Fasting & Abstinence)			
Wed	1st	9.00am	St George's - In Honour of Our Lords Agony in the Garden
		10.15am	St Wilfrid's - Holy Souls' Intention
Thur	2nd	10.00am	St George's - Anne Snell RIP
Fri	3rd	8.45am	St Wilfrid's - Marie Kelly RIP
Fri	3rd	10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Women's World Day of Prayer Service
Sat	4th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT			
(Special Collection next Sunday for CAFOD Lenten Fast Day (Friday))			
Sun	5th	9.00am	St George's - Mr & Mrs K P Matthew RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Special Intention

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, Margaret Westcar 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:

Once again we are back to Ash Wednesday this week and ready to launch upon a great season of Lent. "Lent means Spring", in it we highlight the approaching "Kingdom of God". It takes its focus on the forty days Jesus spent in the desert or wilderness after His Baptism in the river Jordan. The Father in heaven has commended Him to us in the words "this is my beloved Son, in whom my favour rests". Listen to Him.

His words to us are "fast and pray". Our world, where some have excess and a vast multitude are oppressed and go hungry, highlights the call to God's Kingdom, and highlights a Kingdom that opposes it. This leads to a confrontation with the Kingdom of Darkness, which is very real. Even though Jesus has vanquished this kingdom of evil..... God's kingdom established..... which remains to the present day. After the resurrection, Jesus entrusted his ministry to the church with His promise, "I will be with you always".

Following the lead of Ellen Bonner, we will prioritise the good work of CAFOD with our best response possible.

In the coming weeks, we will prepare to give our best efforts for a Day at Worth Abbey on the 1st April, for which David Hoad and his team are making a lot of preparation. You will hear all about this from this window in the coming weeks.

Jr Rory

Women's World Day of Prayer, Polegate. This year we are celebrating at **Polegate Free Church, at 2.30 pm on Friday, 3rd March.** We are praying for and with the people of the Philippines, do come and join us. Refreshments will be served, giving us an ideal opportunity to talk with our fellow Christians. Everyone, male and female, will be warmly welcomed.

Stations of the Cross will be held at St George's each Sunday during Lent at 3pm commencing Sunday 5th March, except on Mothering Sunday, 26th March.

On Sunday 9th April, Palm Sunday, the Stations will be followed by Benediction and refreshments in the hall.

Soup Lunches at St George's will commence on Thursday 2nd March, but there will not be a soup lunch on Thursday, 9th March as a funeral will be taking place. All are welcome to join us after Mass /liturgy on Thursdays during Lent.

CAFOD: At St George's I am still collecting for CAFOD as I have for quite a few years. Several people are very generous in handing me money for CAFOD throughout the year. This March the sales table in the hall will be in aid of CAFOD and the children's liturgy group will be donating some of their unwanted toys as well. Members of St George's Leaven Group will be organising Lent lunches on most Thursdays in Lent at 12 noon after Mass with the proceeds going to CAFOD. The Lent Fast Day will be on Friday 10th March and special envelopes will be given out for this collection.

I do hope there will be support for at least some of these events with the proceeds going to help refugees and people living in difficult circumstances because of climate change, persecution, ill health and poverty. Ellen Bonner

Change of Day for the Mother Teresa Group Meeting: This will now be taking place on Thursday 16th March in St George's Hall at 2.30pm instead of Thursday 9th March.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tue 28th Feb Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Fri 3rd March Women's World Day of Prayer, St W's Church, 10.30am
Sat 4th March Life Quiz, Christ the King Parish Hall, 7pm for 7.15pm
Sun 5th March Stations of the Cross, St George's Church, 3pm
Fri 10th March St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's, 6.15pm
Thurs 16th March Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Sun 9th April Stations followed by Benediction/Refreshments in St George's Hall

Women's World Day of Prayer: The Women's World Day of Prayer Service is being held here in St Wilfrid's this year on Friday 3rd March at 10.30am. The Service has been prepared by the women of the Philippines and is being led by Rowena Perry and our own Teresa Bradley is taking one of the parts. Please do come along on Friday 3rd March and support this ecumenical event with all our friends from the other Churches in Hailsham and if any of you have National Costumes it would be wonderful if you could wear them at the service. Tea, Coffee, and cakes will be served in the hall afterward.

Choir Practice: There will be a choir practice on Tuesday, 28th February in St Wilfrid's church at 7.00pm. We need to revitalise the choir and for all members to be committed as far as possible to being present at practices and on Sundays. Thank you.

Thank You to all who helped in any way to make St Wilfrid's Church Quiz Night such a success, and apologies for the fact that we did not have a working microphone! The total amount raised was £405.

Worship Evening with Noel & Tricia Richards and Wayne Drain: Tuesday 28th February at 7pm at Ropemaker Centre. Tickets £5. each. There will also be refreshments halfway through the evening.

Hailsham Spring into Fun A Community Event for All

Free Easter Holiday event full of activities, "have-a-go" workshops and community organisations to showcase what Hailsham has to offer!

Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

10am—2pm

Hailsham East Community Centre, Vega Close, Hailsham, BN27 2JZ

For more information and to book a table please contact Claire Reynolds or Lucy Brandt (01273) 473422 or events@ruralsussex.org.uk

COLLECTIONS: (18th/19th Feb)

St George's	£TBC
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£229.28
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's TBC St G's TBC	
Thank you for your continued generosity	
If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.	

Bonus Ball:
Sat 18th February
No: 4
Betty Byrne

Wed 15th February
No: 31
Brian Winter