

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 66: 10-11

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

THE COLLECT

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 first book of Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13
The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 22. R.v1

R) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R)**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R)**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14
You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed

even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 8:12

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God!**

GOSPEL Shorter form

John 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings,
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,
praying that we may both faithfully revere them
and present them to you, as is fitting,
for the salvation of all the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 9: 11, 38

**The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity.
Through Christ our Lord.



Many people still perceive Catholicism as a set of rules to be obeyed to the letter. This is precisely the opposite of what Jesus wants. He reserves his

severest rebukes for the Scribes and the Pharisees who sought perfection in observing the Law, but who had little or no regard for the essence of their religion which was to love God and to love one's neighbour. So, in healing the blind beggar on the Sabbath, Jesus, according to the Pharisees, was breaking the Law. But for Jesus, the only real law is the law of love, which supersedes every other law. The irony is that it was the Pharisees who were truly blind because they were unable or unwilling to see the truth.

We too can suffer from the same kind of blindness the Pharisees had if we think, for example, that Sunday mass attendance is sufficient to fulfil our Christian duty. What Jesus wants, first and foremost, is that we love one another as he loved us – and he gave his life for us. And this is only possible with his help. At the end of our lives, we will be judged, not by how well we have followed the rules, but by how much we have loved.

**God is at Work**

God is weaving the tapestry of our lives, or in another metaphor, working like a painter one brushstroke at a time, or a carver one chisel mark at a time.

We must let God be God for us without being overly concerned about the finished product.

Doing God's will takes effort.

We can't just lie back and expect God to do everything for us. We must do our part too. If God inspires us to act then we must act. If not then we must be content to accept peacefully whatever God sends. Either we weave our tapestry or let God work on us with the divine chisel or paintbrush.

What we actually do doesn't count as much as the love with which we do it. Doing great and wonderful things isn't the nub of the matter. If we act as God wills then we attain perfection, whether great deeds are asked of us or not.

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

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****Challenges from urban cultures**

74. What is called for is an evangelization capable of shedding light on these new ways of relating to God, to others and to the world around us, and inspiring essential values. It must reach the places where new narratives and paradigms are being formed, bringing the word of Jesus to the inmost soul of our cities. Cities are multicultural; in the larger cities, a connective network is found in which groups of people share a common imagination and dreams about life, and new human interactions arise, new cultures, invisible cities. Various subcultures exist side by side, and often practise segregation and violence.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

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Polegate



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ST WILFRID

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

WEEKLY SERVICES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT "Laetare Sunday"

(Second Collection Today for Easter Flowers at St Wilfrid's)

Sat	25th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Sun	26th	9.00am	St George's -	Steve Vodrey RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Gordon Lawley RIP
Mon	27th	2.30pm	St George's -	2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	28th	10.00am	St George's -	Mrs Elizabeth Shepherd
Wed	29th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Thelma & Cyril Repose RIP
Thur	30th	11.30am	St George's -	Anne Snell RIP
Fri	31st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	1st	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	Rob & Margaret Lemon 50th Wedding Anniversary

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sun	2nd	9.00am	St George's -	Jack Gearing 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) 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, 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, tel.841504 or by hand marked **NEWSLETTER**, to Fr. Rory's House by **9am Wednesday**.

Fr Rory Writes:

It was just a lovely enjoyable evening on St Patrick's Day, and as such a Godsend. This is the result from a lot of hard work, and great credit and a special thank you to the organizers. For us in our parish community, it is something to be treasured and shared, but most important it can encourage our future. Special occasions can leave very important memories, above all, they can prepare the ground for the future. This was followed by an equally important and well supported occasion for our children's liturgy at St George's church on Saturday morning. As Lenten preparation they have a very meaningful Stations of the Cross and a Lenten Lunch with soup and bread. That with our special moment from the Children's Liturgy at the Sunday Mass at St Wilfrid's, helps us to acknowledge that there are things to be truly thankful for, and to continue to try to develop and grow as a community of faith.

We have some very special events on our horizon. On Friday 31st March at 3pm with our Lenten Devotions, we have the celebrations of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Healing, ending with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The following day, Saturday 1st April, an away day at Worth Abbey. On Thursday our Lenten Lunch at St George's at 11.30am, with an opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Tuesday the 4th April at 7.30pm at St Wilfrid's, we have a service of Reconciliation for the parish community.

By then we should be ready to really participate in Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday when we play our part to welcome Jesus as he was welcomed by the people of Jerusalem, that we may really go out to meet him with all our attention and love. As Holy Week progresses we may more deeply share in the events leading up to the crucifixion and death of our Saviour, which truly brings God's salvation to our world and prepares us for the most important event of all, Easter Sunday, when we celebrate with joy the fact that Jesus is now risen from the dead and lives among us.



St George's Easter Flowers: There will be a collection next weekend for Easter Flowers, thank you.

St George's Choir Practice: there will be two further practices before Easter Sunday. These will be on Thursday 13th April at 2pm and Saturday 15th April at 10am. Thank you for your commitment.

Holy Week and Easter Events in Polegate - Good Friday, The Walk of Witness, Polegate High Street, 10am.; **Easter Saturday,** Easter Hymns will be sung outside the Salvation Army in Polegate from 10.30am until 11.00am.; **Easter Sunday,** Sunrise Service at Butts Brow, at sunrise, followed by breakfast. Please contact Bnjmnratt@aol.com, Maggipratt@aol.com or telephone 10323 841 249 to confirm actual time and reserve your place at breakfast.

St George – The new Collection envelopes are available at the back of church. Please pick up your box as soon as possible. If you are an income tax payer and do not already Gift Aid your donation but would like to – please see Charles Piegrome after Mass.

Eastbourne Foodbank – once again extends warm thanks to St George's Church which has provided a wonderful 66 meals so far in 2017. A great accomplishment! Please continue to give generously during Lent, and at Easter time.

Stations of the Cross will be held at St George's each Sunday during Lent at 3pm, except on Mothering Sunday, 26th March. On Sunday 9th April, Palm Sunday, the Stations will be followed by Benediction and refreshments in the hall.

St George's Church – Readers' and Eucharistic Ministers' Rotas are ready for collection at the back of the church. Please take your copy. The readings for Holy Week are also at the back of the church.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Fri 31st March Lenten Prayers & Devotions, St Wilfrid's Church, 3pm
Thurs 6th April Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Sun 9th April Stations followed by Benediction/Refreshments, St G's
Thur 13th April St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 2pm
Fri 28th April St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St G's Hall, 6.15pm

Thank You: The parishioners of St George's (who attended the St Patrick's Day Dinner) would like to thank St Wilfrid's for a truly splendid event. Thank you, too, for your warm welcome, the "classy" food, and for making it such a **FUN** evening. It was the best gig in town!

Private Prayer: St Wilfrid's Church will be open in Lent for private prayer on Tuesday evenings from 7 - 8pm and Thursday afternoons from 3 - 4pm.

St Wilfrid's Easter Flowers: There will be a collection this Weekend for Easter Flowers, thank you.

Parish Day of Reflection on Saturday 1st April at Worth Abbey. Should you wish to attend please enter your details on the form at the back of the church, if you need to discuss the day please contact David on 849909 or Ann 843361.

The Children's Liturgy Family Stations of the Cross held at St George's on Sat 18 March was a great success, attended by over 40 children, parents and grand parents from both communities. The children processed around the church following the leader and cross bearer, stopping at each Station for prayer and meditation. The feedback from the adults was that the children were attentive and prayerful, and that they, too, appreciated the experience. This was followed by a very enjoyable Lenten lunch in the church hall. Many thanks to all those who attended and to those who helped to make the morning a great experience for both children and adults. A collection was made for CAFOD.

COLLECTIONS: (18th/19th March)

St George's	£340.64
CAFOD	£114.00
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£333.17
CAFOD	£25.00
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60

Attendances: St W's 158 St G's 62

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

Bonus Ball:

Sat 11th March

No: 46

Bernard Drake

Sat 18th March

No: 43

Marianne Patel

Wed 15th March

No: 55

John Perry