

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.**

Lk 2:16

THE COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.

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

1:20-22.24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord'. There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps. 83:2-3.5-6.9-10.R.v5

R) They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. **(R)**

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength. **(R)**

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
Look on the face of your anointed. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

3:1-2.21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed,
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,

because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

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

Cf. Acts 16:14

**Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation,
humbly asking that,
through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and

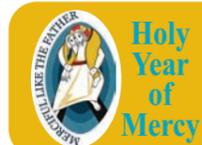
Saint Joseph,
you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bar 3:38

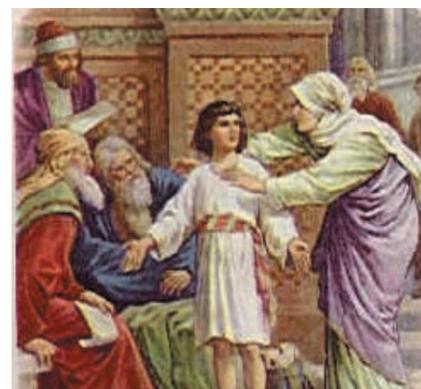
Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,
most merciful Father,
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,
so that, after the trials of this world,
we may share their company for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.



OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



"They assumed he was with the caravan.." Mary and Joseph are travelling back to Nazareth from Jerusalem, where they have been celebrating the Passover

together with friends and relations. Naturally, when they missed Jesus, they looked for him *"among their relations and acquaintances"*. *"Naturally,"* but Mary and Joseph are not, as we know, in a purely 'natural' situation: Mary is the mother and Joseph the guardian, of the Only Begotten Son of God! Mary and Joseph live the life of faith with their Child – just as we do too. All the same, human life – theirs and ours - begins with what is

natural and the natural, that is, what belongs to everyday life, whether animal, vegetable or mineral, is God's creation and intention; and the natural in more than one way, underpins the super-natural, or spiritual dimension of life. So Jesus led his parents – as indeed he leads us - through the events, the excitements, the drudgery of daily life, to lift up our minds and hearts to Our Heavenly Father and follow where Jesus goes.

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

29. Other Church institutions, basic communities and small communities, movements, and forms of association are a source of enrichment for the Church, raised up by the Spirit for evangelizing different areas and sectors. Frequently they bring a new evangelizing fervour and a new capacity for dialogue with the world whereby the Church is renewed. But it will prove beneficial for them not to lose contact with the rich reality of the local parish and to participate readily in the overall pastoral activity of the particular Church.²⁹ This kind of integration will prevent them from concentrating only on part of the Gospel or the Church, or becoming nomads without roots.

29 Cf. *Propositio* 26.**Monsignor Bruce Harbert –
Thoughts on today's Mass**

The week that follows Christmas is full of feast-days, some of them older than Christmas itself. Yesterday we remembered Saint Stephen, stoned to death. Tomorrow we shall be remembering the cruel slaughter of the Holy Innocents and the agony of their bereaved mothers and fathers. Tuesday will be the turn of Saint Thomas of Canterbury, murdered for standing up to the King. It may seem strange to surround the beauty of Christmas with these horrifying stories. But in fact they help us to understand Christmas itself. Jesus narrowly escaped death with the rest of the Innocents, and his parents became exiles in order to protect him. In our world of today we constantly hear of families destroyed by murder and homelessness. On today's feast let us remember the families of today that, like the Holy Family, are surrounded by threats and bloodshed and forced into exile.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

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(Answerphone service available)

Email: ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com

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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	26th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Eileen Crisford's Deceased Relatives and Friends Tony Frank Hipgrove RIP
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH			
Sun	27th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Teresa Gorman RIP
Mon	28th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	29th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - P J Kelly RIP
Wed	30th	10.00am	St George's - Anne & Ray Eamer's Intention
Thur	31st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Donor's Intention
Fri	1st	9.30am	St George's - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation
Fri	1st	10.00am	St George's - Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	2nd	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD			
Sun	3rd	9.00am	St George's - Kelly & Di's Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Alan O'Rourke RIP

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 LineJean Barham Tel: (01323) 842824

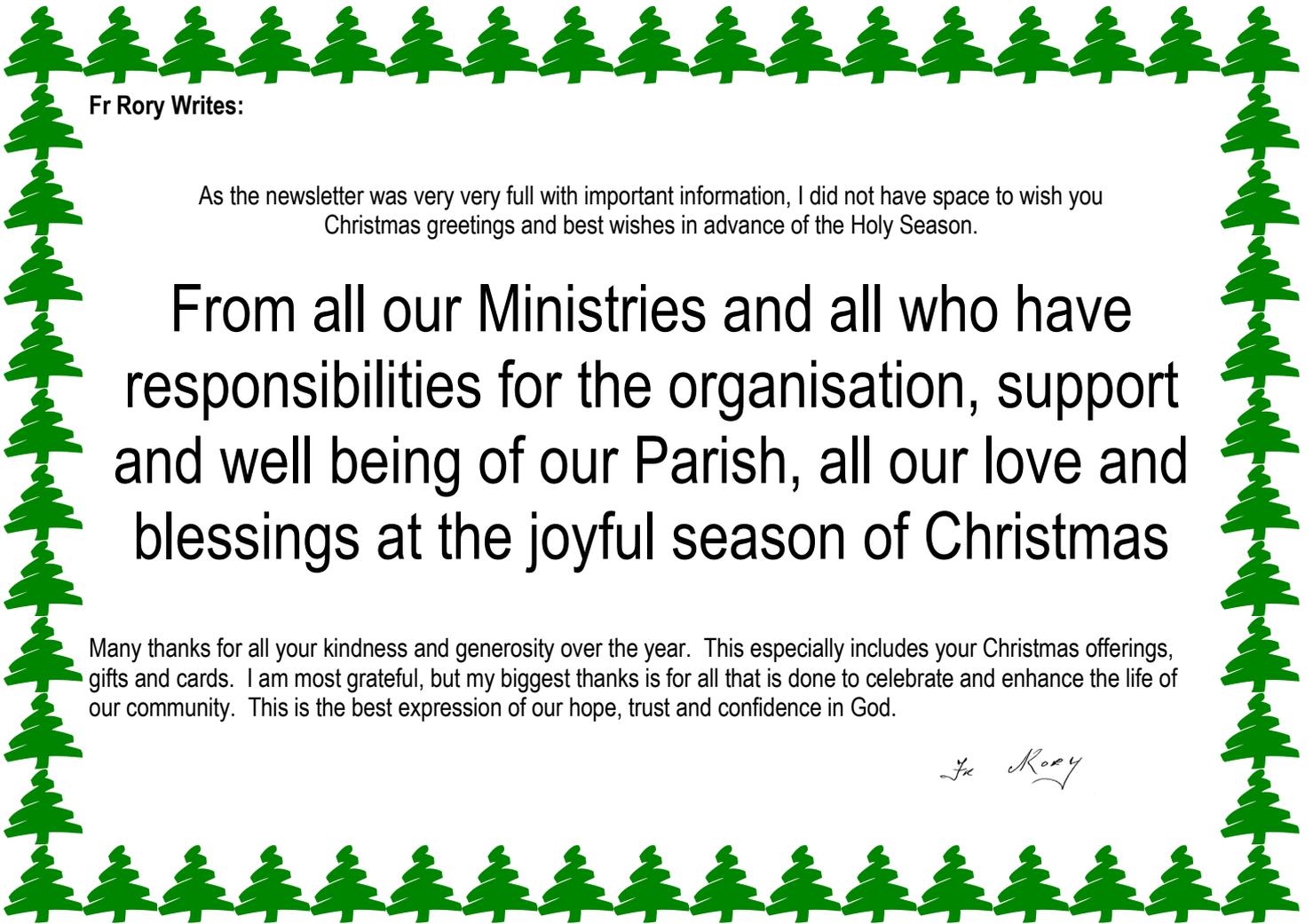
CROSSLINK CHURCHES TOGETHER, HAILSHAM
Contact: Ann Fielder 01323 843361

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, Agnes Galt, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Betty O'Hora, 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, 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, tel.841504 or by hand marked **NEWSLETTER**, to Fr. Rory's House by **9am Wednesday.**



Fr Rory Writes:

As the newsletter was very very full with important information, I did not have space to wish you Christmas greetings and best wishes in advance of the Holy Season.

From all our Ministries and all who have responsibilities for the organisation, support and well being 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 Donations: This year, with the encouragement of Bishop Richard, this parish will be sending crib donations 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 or housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. For further information, please take away the leaflet by the crib and keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.

Diocesan Directories: for 2016 have arrived. They provide details of all churches and organisations within our Diocese, as well as a full calendar of the Church Year. They cost £4.50, if you would like to purchase one.

A & B Youth Festival 2016 - Mercy: takes place on Saturday 27th February 2016, 6.30pm - 10.30pm at St Joseph's Church, Redhill (RH1 1LF). For ages 11 to 18. For more information, please e-mail Jack.Regan@dabnet.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Wed 30th Dec St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
- Wed 6th Jan St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
- Sun 10th Jan St Wilfrid's Christmas Party, St Wilfrid's Hall, 3pm-7pm
- Wed 13th Jan St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St G's Church, 6.15pm
- Wed 13th Jan St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm

St Wilfrid's Christmas Raffle

Winning tickets are as follows:-

1st Prize - Mr J E Cope - Ticket Number 0480 - £200.

2nd Prize - Ann Fielder - Ticket Number 0518 - £100.

3rd Prize - Ms M Brosnan - Ticket Number 0126 - £50.

Very many thanks to all who contributed and particularly Betty Byrne for organising it. Total amount raised to be confirmed.

St Wilfrid's Christmas/New Year Party

Sunday 10th January, 3pm to 7pm in St Wilfrid's Church Hall. All welcome. There is a list in the church porch for anyone who wishes to contribute, please leave your name and what you are bringing. Thank you.

Healing & Forgiveness: Friday 26th February - Sunday 28th February 2016, Led by Dr Stephanie Thornton C.Psychol, AFBPsS At St Cuthman's Retreat & Meeting Centre, Cowfold Road, Coolham, RH13 8QL. For more information e-mail enquiries@stcuthmans.org or telephone 01403 741220.

COLLECTIONS: (19th/20th Dec)

St George's	£187.20
Weekly ave./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£290.86
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 167 St G's 88	

Bonus Ball:

Sat 19th December
No 42
Chris Jones

Wed 16th December

No: 14
Fr Rory

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