

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

Cf. Ps 24: 15-16

## THE COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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 Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

Ps. 102:1-4.6-8.11.R.v8

## R) The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. (R)

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R)

The Lord does deeds of justice,  
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses  
and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R)

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10:1-6. 10-12

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:17

**Glorify to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
Repent, says the Lord,  
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.  
Glorify to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

## GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look, here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year, if not, then you can cut it down."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,  
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,  
may take care to forgive our neighbour.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 83: 4-5

**The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge  
of things yet hidden in heaven  
and are nourished while still on earth  
with the Bread that comes from on high,  
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,  
that what is being brought about in us in mystery  
may come to true completion.

Through Christ our Lord.



Holy Year of Mercy

## OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



"Fruits," and their goodness or badness, are a recurring theme in the Scriptures: the psalmist sings of the virtuous, "He is like a tree that is planted by water streams, yielding its fruit in due season." It is likewise a recurring

theme in Our Lord's preaching: speaking of himself as the "true vine" he says, "Every branch in me that bears no fruit he (the Father) cuts away." What are these 'fruits'? St John the Baptist, Christ's fore-runner, proclaimed them loud and clear - and their source: "repentance for the forgiveness of sins...If you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruits" he cried, giving to the soldiers present the advice "be content with your pay". So in today's Gospel passage Jesus calls us to repent;

to have sorrow for sin, a longing to meet him in confession and have his forgiveness; and as a result to have an ever deepening love of meeting him in prayer and - in him - bearing "fruit in plenty". Where John is the servant, Jesus is the 'farmer', the Master who has the flourishing of his fruit trees at heart - and a great patience. At the same time he is reminding us of the reality of life and death - of eternal life and eternal death!

EVANGELII GAUDIUM  
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)

## III. FROM THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

36. All revealed truths derive from the same divine source and are to be believed with the same faith, yet some of them are more important for giving direct expression to the heart of the Gospel. In this basic core, what shines forth is the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead. In this sense, the Second Vatican Council explained, "in Catholic doctrine there exists an order or a 'hierarchy' of truths, since they vary in their relation to the foundation of the Christian faith".<sup>38</sup> This holds true as much for the dogmas of faith as for the whole corpus of the Church's teaching, including her moral teaching.

<sup>38</sup> SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, Decree on Ecumenism *Unitatis Redintegratio*, 11.

## GLIMPSES OF GOSPEL LIFE

These brief experiences from all over the world show how, when we try to put the words of the Gospel into practice, things happen. God is never outdone in generosity, and these personal stories show in many different ways how true that is.

## The Other Mother

A young woman, who was very troubled, came to the hospital for an examination. It was for a pregnancy test and she explained that she needed it straightaway because she wanted an abortion.

Over and above what she said, and her outward appearance, I realised she was confused and in difficulty, so much so, that at that moment she couldn't see any other solution to her problems than an abortion.

I don't remember what I said to her, I know that I loved her and listened to her, trying to absorb her bewilderment like a sponge. She stayed with me for a long time and then she left more calmly, without saying a word.

After a few months she reappeared in the clinic. She greeted me and asked if I remembered her.

I replied that I did, but I didn't dare ask her what decision she had made.

She took me by the hand and asked me to follow her. Outside, in the corridor, there was a pram. 'Doctor, this is my daughter,' she said. 'The last time I came here I was desperate and wanted an abortion. You listened to me and I was able to think it through. I thought about it all that night and now, here she is. Then she turned towards the little girl, "See? This is your other mother."



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# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

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Polegate



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## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



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

### WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	27th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - John Dobson RIP
			<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
Sun	28th	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Brian Winter's Intention
Mon	29th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	1st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - George Barham RIP
Wed	2nd	10.00am	St George's - Michael Daly RIP
Wed	2nd	6.30pm	St Wilfrid's - Lenten Devotions
Thur	3rd	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Arthur Robinson RIP
Fri	4th	<b>11.30am</b>	St George's - Holy Souls' Intention
Fri	4th	7.00pm	St George's - Lenten Devotions
Sat	5th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Gaynor & Dobson Families Intention
			<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
Sun	6th	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - In Thanksgiving Rosary Group
		10.30am	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'Hora, 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 Brian Winter.

**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:** As final payments are being put in place for our new church, it is time to say a great “thanks be to God” because it has come within our budget. For the endless hours that Brian Winter has devoted to it, a most welcome relief. It was genuinely a Parish Project, and, with a lot of work and due diligence, it was achieved within our limited budget. An important extra (storage space) makes the cabin a big bonus.

While I was growing up, such statements as “best laid plans of mice and men, often go awry” expressed things well. Very important to our original thinking was toilets, with the essential facility for handicapped persons. These failed to materialise. However, we have managed to retain some money from the original budget, so we can now go ahead with this provision. Also, we will plan for other appropriate facilities.

One essential aspect of our plan, (and I admit to being a constant advocate for this) is keeping maintenance as low as possible. We are unlikely in the future to have persons able to provide hours of voluntary labour. One reaction to our renovations has come as a “shock”. When planning, it was decided that the trees in the front of the house be cut down, primarily for safety reasons. Now that we are left completely exposed people are saying we have denuded the whole place. So, with apologies to those who shudder, I make a promise that we will re-plant as quickly as possible. All helpful suggestions will be as welcome as flowers of May!.

It has been brought to my attention that we have no memorial plaque to our major benefactor. Also, the statue of St George, the memorial to our World War dead, is left to languish in the old confessional. So much more to attend to and, please God we will use the resources that have been invested for us. A huge “thank you” to all who contribute in any way. *Jx Rory*

**Women’s World Day of Prayer, Polegate** is taking place on 4th March at 2.30pm in St. Wilfrid’s Church, Broad Road, Willingdon. It is headed this year “Receive children, Receive Me”. Come, join with us as we pray with and for the people of Cuba.

**Tue March 1st:** A St David’s Day Celebration Tea. On the menu will be Bara Brith, Welsh scones and other Welsh delights! Tickets £3 from the Parish Office or Pat on 735138

**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.** 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.

**Lenten Lunches, St George’s** are taking place each Friday during Lent. Remember to put your names on the list in the porch if you wish to come and share soup and bread with friends.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Children’s First Confession** will be held on Friday 18th March at St George’s Church at 6pm.

**The First Holy Communion Mass at St George’s** will be at the 9am Mass on Sunday 29th May.

**Karate:** A children’s karate class has started up in St George’s Hall on a Tuesday evening from 6.00 pm until 7.00 pm. Children taken from age 5 accompanied by parents. More details from Amy on 07541 957732.

**Stations of the Cross** will be held at 3pm at St George’s each Sunday during Lent, with the exception of Sunday 6th March, Mothering Sunday. Stations of the Cross can be a very meaningful preparation leading up to the services of Holy Week.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Tue 1st March** Sacrament of Rec./1st Confession, St W’s Church, 7pm  
**Wed 2nd March** St Wilfrid’s Choir Practice, St Wilfrid’s Church, 7pm  
**Fri 4th March** WWD of Prayer, St Wilfrid’s Church, Broad Rd, 2.30pm  
**Wed 9th March** Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George’s Hall, 2.30pm  
**Wed 9th March** St George’s Leaven Gp Mtg, St G’s Church, 6.15pm  
**Wed 9th March** St Wilfrid’s Choir Practice, St Wilfrid’s Church, 7pm  
**Sun 13th March** Children’s Party, St Wilfrid’s Church Hall, 2pm-4pm  
**Fri 18th March** Sacrament of Rec./1st Confession, St G’s Church, 6pm

**Easter Flowers** at St Wilfrid’s. There will be a second collection after Mass on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th for the flowers for Easter. If you will not be at Mass here at St Wilfrid’s on that weekend and wish to contribute to decorating the church at Easter please give your donation the Ann or Jean this weekend.

**HAILSHAM CHORAL** together with **HAILSHAM SYMPHONIA** will be performing MOZART’s REQUIEM & HAYDN’s St. NICHOLAS MASS on Sat 19th March at 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Grange Rd. Eastbourne. Adults £12.00, children £6.00.

**Friday March 4th: A DAY OF PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION SERVICES IN LENT** at Our Lady of Ransom. As part of Pope Francis’ call for a ‘Day for the Lord’ we will hold Adoration from 12.30pm on Friday March 4th until 12.30pm on Saturday 5th. Confessions will be available on Friday March 4th from 4pm to 5.30pm and 7pm to 10pm ending with Night Prayer. On Saturday March 5th there will be Morning Prayer at 8am and Adoration and Confessions ending with Benediction

**Tuesday March 8th:** 7 for 7.30pm. Newman Association Talk by Fr Raglan on ‘Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The challenge of a world grown up - and out of religion?’ St Martha’s Church Hall, Bexhill, TN39 5SP. Entrance free. All welcome. Contact Alex 07957 632208 or Edward 01424 219788.

**Women’s World Day of Prayer:** This year is being held on Friday 4th March at 10.30am at the Gospel Mission in Station Road. It has been written by the women of Cuba and the theme is “Receive Children, Receive Me”. All are welcome.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation/Children’s First Confession** will be held at St Wilfrid’s Church on 1st March at 7pm.

**COLLECTIONS: (20th/21st Feb)**  
**St George’s** £211.08  
 CAFOD Fast Day £227.08  
 Weekly ave./Monthly D/D £176.50  
**St Wilfrid’s** £213.94  
 CAFOD Fast Day £245.71  
 Weekly aver. of DD £204.60  
 Attendances: St W’s 149 St G’s 101  
**Thank you for your continued generosity**  
 If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.

**Bonus Ball:**  
**Sat 20th February**  
 No: 42  
 Chris Jones  
**Wed 17th February**  
 No: 7  
 Evelyn South