

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.**

Acts 1:11

**THE COLLECT**

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,  
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,  
for the Ascension of Christ your Son  
is our exaltation,  
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,  
the Body is called to follow in hope.  
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 Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps 46:2-3.6-9.R.v6

**R) God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. **(R)**

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R)**

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Mt 28:19.20  
**Go, make disciples of all the nations;  
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 28:16-20

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

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes to the end of time.'

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord,  
to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son:  
grant, we pray,  
that through this most holy exchange  
we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Mt 28:20

**Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries,  
grant, we pray,  
that Christian hope may draw us onward  
to where our nature is united with you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



In this Gospel passage, Jesus, who is about to leave this earth, is giving authority to his Church to continue his mission, his work. The Church

is to teach all the world and by his total love for his Father and for us delivered the commandments Jesus has given and to teach "the nations" to obey them. It is not for nothing that he is entitled the "Saviour of the human race": his teaching and his grace and his commandments are given, offered, for the good order, the renewal, the happiness of the human race. The 'fall' of Adam and Eve allowed into the world the spirit of self-centredness and division; Jesus entered that distorted world and by his total love for his Father and for us delivered the world from the power of that other spirit. And Jesus is NOT going to leave his Church: "know that I am with you always ..." He promises that he himself will be always present with his Spirit to guide the teaching and enable the obedience. We can understand how the disciples, in spite of their Master's departure, "went back to Jerusalem full of joy", as St Luke tells us.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM  
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****II. TEMPATIONS FACED BY  
PASTORAL WORKERS****Yes to the challenge of a  
missionary spirituality**

80. Pastoral workers can thus fall into a relativism which, whatever their particular style of spirituality or way of thinking, proves even more dangerous than doctrinal relativism. It has to do with the deepest and inmost decisions that shape their way of life. This practical relativism consists in acting as if God did not exist, making decisions as if the poor did not exist, setting goals as if others did not exist, working as if people who have not received the Gospel did not exist. It is striking that even some who clearly have solid doctrinal and spiritual convictions frequently fall into a lifestyle which leads to an attachment to financial security, or to a desire for power or human glory at all cost, rather than giving their lives to others in mission. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary enthusiasm!



## Holiness for Everyone\*

### Advice for when Prayer is Difficult

If at times prayer is dry and difficult do not worry. Say some vocal prayers. ... [or] read a spiritual book quietly. ... Above all do not become upset and worried. Just do what you can to remain quietly in God's presence. We come to prayer for God, not ourselves. Be patient. Give God the time you have resolved to give, and do it in whatever way you can. The results are God's business, not your own satisfaction.

Beside your formal meditation do not forget to pray every morning and evening for a short while. And above all, remain in the presence of God during the day.

In the morning remember that the day has been given you by God. Thank him for preserving you throughout the night, and try to foresee what the coming day may bring in the way of difficulties and their remedy. For example, if you think you will be speaking with a person easily angered, prepare yourself not to give offence, and also think of some pleasant words to keep the person sweet-tempered. If you are to visit someone who is sick, think of when you will visit and the kind of help you can give graciously, and so forth. Then commend all to God, invoking our Lady and the saints to help you in your resolve.

\**Holiness for Everyone* by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. Published by New City.



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JG

Tel: (01323) 841504

(Answerphone service available)

Email: [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk)

## 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 - In Honour of Our Lady<br><b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b><br>(Special Collection Today for The Catholic Communications Network) |
| Sun  | 28th | 9.00am  | St George's - Eian Dirke RIP   |
|      |      | 10.30am | St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention   |
| Mon  | 29th | 2.30pm  | St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays   |
| Tue  | 30th | 10.00am | St George's - Kate & Patrick Murphy RIP  |
| Wed  | 31st | 10.00am | St Wilfrid's - Johanna Lorraine & Family RIP   |
| Thur | 1st  | 10.00am | St George's - Arthur Robinson RIP  |
| Fri  | 2nd  | 10.00am | St Wilfrid's - Teresa McDermott RIP  |
| Sat  | 3rd  | 6.00pm  | St Wilfrid's - Private Intention   |
|      |      |         | <b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b><br>(Special Collection Next Sunday for The Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese)  |
| Sun  | 4th  | 9.00am  | St George's - Parish Communities' Intention  |
|      |      | 10.30am | St Wilfrid's - Marie Kelly RIP   |

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) 832577  
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, 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](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com), tel.841504 or by hand marked **NEWSLETTER**, to Fr. Rory's House by **9am Wednesday.**

## Fr Rory Writes:

A special time of year, an important time, and please God, a Holy time. Following up upon Deacon John's guidance last week, there is no doubt that Christ has died. The evidence of Good Friday and the importance of the Prophet Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12, who in such a profoundly described way foretold the event where Jesus is lifted up upon the cross "See, my servant will prosper, he shall be lifted up, exalted, rise to great heights. As the crowds were appalled on seeing him - so disfigured did he look, that he seemed no longer human". In the time leading up to this, Jesus made his promise "I will not leave you orphans". After His death was a time of great confusion, as the word spreads "that He is alive". We would all love to see something dramatic like Thomas, but in keeping with the five possible ideas given to us last week, beginning with the pledge of the resurrection, but especially now turning to His promise of the Paraclete Holy Spirit. I feel constantly the lack of the Holy Spirit, as I listen to and try to minister to people in their everyday lives. For many, life appears to be a constant burden and there are so much real afflictions.

The first key response is forgiveness. Without that, people lock themselves into very dark places and they are often the ones who suffer the most. As we prepare ourselves for Pentecost we should re-focus on our baptism, with the desire to be as faithful as we can to the grace and great privilege we have received, and to live our lives in a way that is faithful.

*Fr Rory*

**Ministers of Holy Communion** in both communities please note: If you did not renew your promises to the Ministry on Holy Thursday please make every effort to do so on the weekend of Corpus Christi, Sat June 17<sup>th</sup>/Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup>, when there will be another opportunity to renew your promises at each Mass. Please see Fr Rory as soon as possible if you are unable to do this.

Please come to the **Garden Party** at no 3 Broad Road on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm. There will be a sales table, cakes, marmalade and jam, bric a brac and a raffle. We hope you will join us, all monies will go to the Polegate Children with Cancer Fund.

**The Mother Teresa Group:** our next meeting will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June in St George's Hall at 2.30pm, due to the elections on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. Sorry for any inconvenience.

**Churches Together, Polegate.** The venue of the Pentecost Service on 4<sup>th</sup> June is now changed to **Trinity Church at 6.00pm.** NOT St. Wilfrid's as suggested planned.

**Our Lady of Fatima Centenary celebrations at Arundel Cathedral.** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

As part of the celebrations to mark the 100 years since the apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima, the statue of Our Lady of Fatima and relics of Saints Jacinta Marto and Francisco Marto (recently canonized by Pope Francis), are travelling around the country. They visit Arundel Cathedral on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The entrance Procession is starting at 10.30am with Mass at 11am on 1<sup>st</sup> July. All welcome.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Thurs 1st June** Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm  
**Fri 2nd June** St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 6.15pm  
**Sat 3rd June** Table Sale, St Wilfrid's Hall, 10am-3pm  
**Sun 4th June** Pentecost Service, Trinity Church, 6pm  
**Sun 25th June** United Nations Lunch, St Wilfrid's Hall, after Mass  
**Wed 5th July** Garden Party, 3 Broad Road, 2.30pm

**United Nations Lunch:** will take place at St Wilfrid's on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June after Mass in the hall/garden. Donations for the tombola will be gratefully received, please leave in the church porch, marked 'tombola'. Thank you.

**Table Sale:** will take place at St Wilfrid's Church Hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 10am to 3pm. If you have any suitable items for us to sell, unwanted gifts, household goods, bric-a-brac, we will be grateful for anything. Please leave in the church porch marked 'table sale'. All money raised will go to the hall refurbishment. Thank you.

**Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead.** Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

This year the Knights of St Columba are joining with The Union of Catholic Mothers for the Pilgrimage which starts with coffee at 10.30am, followed by a talk about the shrine. Mass at 12 noon. Rosary and Benediction after a picnic lunch. Everyone is most welcome.

**Crowning of our Lady** Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May at St Wilfrid's Church. After Mass will be a social gathering for the Children's Liturgy in the hall, lots of food and activities. All welcome to come and join in the fun.

**Ecumenical Service:** Pentecost Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, a special service will take place at The Parish Church - St Mary's, Hailsham at 6.30pm. It is in the form of Songs of Praise with suggestions coming from different churches, ours being "Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart and Shine, Jesus Shine". In the life of recent events, it is important that we as Christians should pray more together and try to be a greater sign of unity and peace. For us this is a very important occasion. Please support it if you can.

### COLLECTIONS: (20th/21st May)

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| <b>St George's</b>                | £246.01 |
| Weekly aver./Monthly D/D          | £176.50 |
| <b>St Wilfrid's</b>               | £204.88 |
| Weekly aver. of DD                | £204.60 |
| Attendances: St W's 128 St G's 96 |         |

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

### Bonus Ball:

**Sat 20th May**  
No: 16  
Bill O'Rourke

**Wed 17th May**  
No: 41  
Father Rory