

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.

**THE COLLECT**

Grant us, Lord our God,  
that we may honour you with all our mind,  
and love everyone in truth of heart.  
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 Zephaniah

Seek the Lord  
all you, the humble of the earth,  
who obey his commands.  
Seek integrity,  
seek humility:  
you may perhaps find shelter  
on the day of the anger of the Lord.  
In your midst I will leave  
a humble and lowly people,  
and those who are left in Israel  
will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.  
They will do no wrong,  
will tell no lies;  
and the perjured tongue will no longer  
be found in their mouths.  
But they will be able to graze and rest  
with no one to disturb them.

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

**PSALM**

Ps. 145:7-10 R.Mt 5:3

**R) How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R)**

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
1:26-31

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called:  
how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word,  
how many were influential people, or came from noble  
families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is  
foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that  
he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the  
world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God  
has chosen - those who are nothing at all to show up those  
who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast

Ps. 105:47

about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ  
Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our  
virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if  
anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Blessed are you, Father,**  
**Lord of heaven and earth,**  
**for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom**  
**to mere children.**  
**Alleluia!**

*Stand*  
Mt. 11:25

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12

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

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down  
and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This  
is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.  
Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.  
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.  
Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.  
Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.  
Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.  
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and  
speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice  
and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O Lord, we bring to your altar  
these offerings of our service:  
be pleased to receive them, we pray,  
and transform them  
into the Sacrament of our redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. Ps 30: 17-18

**Let your face shine on your servant.**  
**Save me in your merciful love.**  
**O Lord, let me never be put to shame,**  
**for I call on you.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that through this help to eternal salvation  
true faith may ever increase.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Our Lord goes up a hill to teach. It  
is not Moses' craggy mountain,  
but still he speaks from a height,  
the height of the Godhead. A hill  
is more gentle than a mountain; it

fits better the gentleness and  
humility of God-made-man, but it  
is still God speaking. God is giving  
us through Jesus the new  
'commandments', they can be  
stretched to ten: 1) be poor in  
spirit; 2) be gentle; 3) mourn (for  
the neglect of God, for suffering,  
for sorrows); 4) hunger and thirst  
for what is right; 5) be merciful; 6)  
be pure in heart; 7) a peacemaker;  
8) happy under persecution for  
the Faith; 9) happy to be  
exploited; 10) happy to be

calumniated for Christ's sake. In  
keeping with Christ's gentleness,  
they are not in fact  
'commandments' but blessings  
promised to those who follow  
Jesus, who want to live as he lived.  
Blessings promised to those  
whose *desire* is to be merciful as  
Jesus is merciful; who long to be  
like him, a peacemaker; to mourn  
for the 'lost sheep'; above all, to  
share his hunger and thirst for the  
coming of the Father's kingdom.



### HERE AND NOW

#### The Importance of Faith

Since we know that God is responsible for everything  
except sin we must have great courage and great  
confidence in this truth.

Joy flows from unshakeable trust.

Whatever God sends us we must learn to want and  
welcome, for faith reaches out to grasp the hand of God in  
everything.

When we know by faith that God is good, we can trust God  
absolutely. Faith always lives in God, and finds in God  
courage and joy to meet all of life's trials and sufferings.

Don't give in to various 'illnesses' that sap inner strength.  
(Real illness that needs proper treatment is not what I am  
speaking of here). Cowardice makes much of small  
ailments, whereas strength of mind can uphold a frail  
constitution. Don't go under too easily! March on  
fearlessly!

We have to forget ourselves and our little aches and pains  
so that our real beauty and character can be tempered,  
refined, strengthened, and so shine out.

Discovering God in the midst of life demands faith.

Following and surrendering to God is how we exercise that  
faith. Let God do what God likes with us so that we become  
strong and fearless in love.

*\*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

68. The Christian substratum of  
certain peoples – most of all in the  
West – is a living reality. Here we find,  
especially among the most needy, a  
moral resource which preserves the  
values of an authentic Christian  
humanism. Seeing reality with the  
eyes of faith, we cannot fail to  
acknowledge what the Holy Spirit is  
sowing. It would show a lack of trust  
in his free and unstinting activity to  
think that authentic Christian values  
are absent where great numbers of  
people have received baptism and  
express their faith and solidarity with  
others in a variety of ways.



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
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South Road  
Hailsham



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

### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Special Collection next Sunday for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund)

Sat	28th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Sylvia Galea's Intention
Sun	29th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Francis & Charlotte Gaynor RIP
Mon	30th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	31st	10.00am	St George's - Gemma Teblin RIP
Wed	1st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Marie Kelly RIP
Thur	2nd	10.00am	St George's - Celine Ammun & Loreto & Friends
Fri	3rd	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	4th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - In Honour of Our Lady

#### FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Special Collection Today for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund)

(Special Collection next Sunday for Catholic Association for Racial Justice)

Sun	5th	9.00am	St George's - Peter & Loretta Wood & Family
		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 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, Irene Boulstridge, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford, Dorothy Hanlon 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:**

## **Our Fallen State consequences of original sin**

Following on from the week of prayer for Christian Unity, which appears to receive less support each year, at least there may be less animosity between Christians. For the faithful few, it is an occasion to reminisce on the blatant unchristian actions that took part in all our congregations in the past. Stories of how marriages were celebrated because people were marrying non Catholics, how offensive the clergy were; to the trials of having their children christened.

The appropriateness of the scripture last Sunday, the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', continues to reflect our human state.

I was horrified whilst watching a documentary programme about the Ku Klux Klan, with its up to date fervent enthusiasts who, without any feeling of apology, for their actions because of our "fallen state". They consider their actions to be wholly commended as the best way of dealing with modern circumstances. Living memory of the lynchings, floggings and other terrible actions, seen by them as being fully justified - an appropriate response to "the fallen state" or original sin. Today's generation will need to be proactive to uphold its good cause.

In a similar way, the recent inauguration in America, with the President being sworn in, with hand upon the Bible, stressing the need to drastically raise spending on military, especially cyber, warfare, the upgrading of the country's infrastructure, whilst refusing to accept the consequences on the environment, adding greatly to the amount of pollution whilst ignoring its effect on climate change.

Last Saturday at the Christian Education Centre in Crawley we had a very special day. Focused upon Jesus who is our saviour. Our champion who can overcome the power of evil is a direct response by God to our fallen state. The one who has come into the world to save its people. His clear manifesto; 'I am the way, the truth and the life'. His words 'love your enemies, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who persecute you', are as challenging now as they were to His first disciples. Our best response remains the same as theirs 'I believe Lord, help my unbelief'.

*Fr Rory*

**Saturday February 4th at 7 for 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre, OLR. Come and enjoy our H.C.P.T. Quiz Night to raise money to take disabled and disadvantaged children to Lourdes this Easter. You can make teams of 6 if you wish. For £5 tickets phone Jackie 07976748141.

**Kevin O'Brien writes:** In "*Man's Search for Meaning*" Viktor Frankl describes hope as the key to survival amid the horrors of a concentration camp.

The prisoner who was able to find meaning, in nature, in the memory of a loved one, in a generous act, was more likely not to give up.

When we hope, in whatever circumstance, the future we long for comes closer, an experience of mind and heart that sustains us now and impels us forward.

**Evenings of Reflection with Bishop Richard:** He is once again inviting young people (11-18) to join him for Evenings of Reflection at different places around the Diocese. They will run from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Dates and locations are as follows:  
Saturday February 11th - St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill  
Saturday March 18th - St Mary Magdalene's Church, Bexhill-on-Sea

Some important points to note: Capacity is limited, so it is absolutely essential to book. To do so, please email the Youth Adviser [Jack.Regan@dabnet.org](mailto:Jack.Regan@dabnet.org). Jack will confirm whether there is space. He assumes each group will have adult leaders present. Young people who want to come alone must contact directly with Jack.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Sat 4th Feb** H.C.P.T. Quiz Night, Parish Centre, OLR, 7 for 7.30pm  
**Thurs 9th Feb** Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm  
**Fri 10th Feb** St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 6.15pm  
**Fri 17th Feb** St Wilfrid's Annual Quiz Night, St Wilfrid's Hall, 7.30pm

**St Wilfrid's Annual Quiz Night** is on Friday 17th February at 7:30pm, tickets now on sale £5 per adult, children free.

**Do you want to inspire young people and consider training to be an RE teacher in a secondary school? Do you want to discuss possible routes into becoming an RE teacher?**

If so then please contact either Sally Dudley, Recruitment Lead at Sussex University ([s.e.dudley@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.dudley@sussex.ac.uk) or 01273 877050) or Claire Rooney, RE Curriculum Tutor for Sussex University ([claire.rooney123@btinternet.com](mailto:claire.rooney123@btinternet.com) or 07710550339). We are keen to talk with any potential trainees for September 2017 and support you in training with the University of Sussex and would welcome an informal phone call or email.

**'How to Defend the Catholic Faith without Shouting'** The Diocese invites you to a Formation Day on Saturday 11th February 2017, Christian Education Centre, Crawley, RH10 6RP with Austen Ivereigh, Papal Biographer, Coordinator and Co-Founder of Catholic Voices and a contributing editor for Crux. 9.30am (registration from 9am) - 2pm. Bring a packed lunch. Booking essential. In an age of instant communications Catholics need to be able to communicate their faith to the world around them, demolishing myths, reframing the argument and speaking truth with love.

To book contact Mark Woods, Communications Officer on 01293 651170 or email: [communications@dabnet.org](mailto:communications@dabnet.org) or book online at [www.dabnet.org/Courses](http://www.dabnet.org/Courses) (click on Communications).

### **COLLECTIONS: (21st/22nd Jan)**

<b>St George's</b>	£225.99
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
<b>St Wilfrid's</b>	£228.26
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's	195
St G's	86

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

### **Bonus Ball:**

**Sat 21st January**

No: 51  
Margaret Booth

**Wed 18th January**

No: 45  
Ann Fielder