

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

**THE COLLECT**

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,  
may we walk eagerly in that same charity  
with which, out of love for the world,  
your Son handed himself over to death.  
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 Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Ps 129. R.v7

**R) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. **(R)**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. **(R)**

My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord. **(R)**)

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:  
who ever believes in me will never die.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Jn 11:25.26

**GOSPEL** *Shorter form*

John 11:3-7.17.20-27.33-45

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

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.  
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me  
will never die.  
Do you believe this?'

'Yes Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him 'Lord by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.  
I knew indeed that you always hear me,  
but I speak  
for the sake of all these who stand round me,  
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Hear us, almighty God,  
and, having instilled in your servants  
the teachings of the Christian faith,  
graciously purify them  
by the working of this sacrifice.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. Jn 11: 26

Everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We pray, almighty God,  
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,  
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Many meanings can be drawn from this Gospel. The first is that Jesus decides to go to Bethany to visit the house of Lazarus despite the fact that the Apostles warn him about the danger involved. His

motivation is love for his friends Lazarus, Mary and Martha which overrides any fear of death at the hands of the Jews. We then see the true humanity of Jesus – he wept, and was moved to bring Lazarus back to life. And finally we see the divinity of Jesus who prays to the Father before raising Lazarus.

Jesus' raising of Lazarus from the dead is truly miraculous, but it is much more than that. It is a "sign" of God's promise to all who have faith in him that they will be raised to eternal life. That is why Jesus

asks Martha if she believes in the resurrection from the dead. The symbolism of this event is quite clear – it is a pre-figuring of Jesus' own rising from the dead. Lazarus has already been in the tomb for several days; the tomb is sealed with a stone; the stone is taken away and Lazarus, like Jesus, has a cloth round his face. Jesus says: "Unbind him, let him go free." It is precisely what Jesus came on earth for, and what he still wants to do for us, if only we will allow him, to unbind us and set us free.

**HERE AND NOW****Finding True Peace**

Self-discipline is the first essential for true peace. We can't attain peace if we are driven here and there by forces that we make no effort to control. The second essential is self-surrender and abandonment. The third necessity is a humble heart, ready to respond willingly to whatever God asks. And so that we may not lose our way God sends us those who can best help us along the path. Wise guides enable us to discern how much freedom and how much constraint is applicable in our own case. Dreaming about a holiness that manifests itself in heroic deeds is useless if God does not ask these of us. We must resolve firmly to respond to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit and do what we can in our daily life situation. This means being fully present to what we are doing NOW. Suffering what we are called upon to suffer NOW. The outward situation doesn't have to change. The heart alone needs to be rightly ordered, then the rest will fall into place.

\**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 (*Cont'd*) The Church is called to be at the service of a difficult dialogue. On the one hand, there are people who have the means needed to develop their personal and family lives, but there are also many "non-citizens", "half citizens" and "urban remnants". Cities create a sort of permanent ambivalence because, while they offer their residents countless possibilities, they also present many people with any number of obstacles to the full development of their lives. This contrast causes painful suffering. In many parts of the world, cities are the scene of mass protests where thousands of people call for freedom, a voice in public life, justice and a variety of other demands which, if not properly understood, will not be silenced by force.



# 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Second Collection Today for Easter Flowers at St George's)			
Sat	1st	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Rob & Margaret Lemon 50th Wedding Anniversary
Sun	2nd	9.00am	St George's - A Burton's Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
		<b>3.00pm</b>	St George's - Stations of the Cross
Mon	3rd	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	4th	10.00am	St George's - Patrick McGovern RIP
Wed	5th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Grace Fenn RIP
Thur	6th	11.30am	St George's - Christopher Kelly RIP
Fri	7th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	8th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Audrey Guest RIP
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (Special Collection on Friday for The Holy Places) Fasting and Abstinence on Friday			
Sun	9th	9.00am	St George's - Doreen Muriel Slater Brooks RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
		<b>3.00pm</b>	St George's - Stations of the Cross

**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, 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:**

This week we were audited by external auditors appointed by the Diocesan Finance Office; and so a very big thank you to the Treasurers who do so much work for our Parish. They ensure that all procedures are in place and that our funding is properly accounted for. This is a very big task and indeed a headache, as it is for many parish priests. So I am truly blessed that the burden of this work is done so well, and it does truly help me to keep my focus upon the special responsibility of a priest, which is one of prayer and ministry in the service of Christ. At this time there is a great need for this, and so I ask you for your constant prayer. My thanks go to the Finance Committee and the large number who help with the collections, those who count and bank, for all those who support the constant life of a parish, with maintenance of property, gardens, and all utensils that are essential.

At this time all the envelopes including those who have Planned Giving covenants in place are being distributed. Please take out the Bankers Orders, it is important that as many as possible contribute in this way. If you can add to the list, that would be great. A very big thank you to Bob Waters for all his valiant work for St Wilfrid's through the years, and now we are grateful for Gerry Palmer who has offered his services to help this cause.

*Fr Rory*

**Schubert's Mass in G** - the South Downs Singers will be performing this beautiful Mass at St John's Church, Polegate, on Saturday 22nd April at 7.30 pm. The second part of the concert will be lighter and include a medley from The Sound of Music. Tickets are available at £8 from Clodagh at St Wilfrid's or Shirley at St George's or at the door on the night. This concert is in aid of the JPK project which provides supported living for adults with learning disabilities.

**St George's Easter Flowers:** There will be a collection this 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 [Benjmnpratt@aol.com](mailto:Benjmnpratt@aol.com), [Maggipratt@aol.com](mailto:Maggipratt@aol.com) or telephone 10323 841 249 to confirm actual time and reserve your place at breakfast.

### Holy Week, Mass Times at St George's

Palm Sunday, 9.00 am  
Holy Thursday, 7.30 pm  
Good Friday, 3.00 pm

**Stations of the Cross** will be held at St George's each Sunday during Lent at 3pm. 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:

**Tue 4th April** Private Prayer, St Wilfrid's Church, 7-8pm  
**Thurs 6th April** Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm  
**Thur 6th April** Private Prayer, St Wilfrid's Church, 3-4pm  
**Sun 9th April** Stations followed by Benediction/Refreshments, St G's  
**Thur 13th April** St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 2pm  
**Sat 15th April** St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am  
**Fri 28th April** St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St G's Hall, 6.15pm

**Hailsham Choral:** John Stainer, The Crucifixion. Good Friday, 14th April at 7pm. Hailsham Parish Church, Vicarage Road, Hailsham. Free concert with a retiring collection.

**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.

**Beachy Head Way of the Cross:** To pray for all who despair of life. Sunday April 2nd at 3pm. Starting from Bede's School Car Park.

**WANTED:** Looking for an automatic car, needs to be pre-millennium, 1.4, in reasonable condition, much needed. Any help will be appreciated by Fr Rory, as the car is needed by a parishioner. Contact Fr Rory if you can help. Thank you.

**Easter Retreat For Young Adults at Worth Abbey**  
Celebrating the passion & resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ  
Maundy Thursday 13th April - Easter Sunday 16th April 2017  
Cross Walk: 9th - 13th April 2017  
For more information or to book, contact: [TOC@worthabbey.net](mailto:TOC@worthabbey.net) or 01342 710318

**St Thomas a Becket School** are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers in exchange for some valuable school resources. If you have any please leave them on a table in the porch.

### Hailsham Spring into Fun A Community Event for All

Free Easter Holiday event full of activities, "have-a-go" workshops and community organisations to showcase what Hailsham has to offer!

Tuesday, 4th April, 2017, 10am—2pm  
Hailsham East Community Centre, Vega Close, Hailsham, BN27 2JZ

For more information and to book a table please contact Claire Reynolds or Lucy Brandt (01273) 473422 or [events@ruralsussex.org.uk](mailto:events@ruralsussex.org.uk)

### COLLECTIONS: (25th/26th March)

<b>St George's</b>	£196.79
Easter Flowers	£64.38
CAFOD	£70.50
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
<b>St Wilfrid's</b>	£293.31
Easter Flowers	£131.39
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60

Attendances: St W's 143 St G's 78

**Thank you for your continued generosity**

### Bonus Ball:

#### Sat 25th March

No: 28  
John Forde

#### Wed 22nd March

No: 42  
Margaret Forde