

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Have mercy on me, O Lord,  
for I cry to you all the day long.  
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of mercy to all who call to you.

Cf. Ps 85:3,5

**THE COLLECT**

God of might, giver of every good gift,  
put into our hearts the love of your name,  
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,  
you may nurture in us what is good  
and, by your watchful care,  
keep safe what you have nurtured.  
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 Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****PSALM**

Ps 14:2-5. R.v1

**R) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?  
He who walks without fault;  
he who acts with justice  
and speaks the truth from his heart. **(R)**

He who does no wrong to his brother,  
who casts no slur on his neighbour,  
who holds the godless in disdain,  
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R)**

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;  
who takes no interest on a loan  
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.  
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St James 1:17-18.21-22.27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! James 1:18  
By his own choice the Father made us his children  
by the message of the truth,  
so that we should be a sort of first-fruits  
of all that he created.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 7:1-8.14-15.21-23

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

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,  
while their hearts are far from me.  
The worship they offer me is worthless,  
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May this sacred offering, O Lord,  
confer on us always the blessing of salvation,  
that what it celebrates in mystery  
it may accomplish in power.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Mt 5:9-10

**Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.  
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of  
righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table,  
we beseech you, Lord,  
that, being the food of charity,  
it may confirm our hearts  
and stir us to serve you in our neighbour.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



There are Orthodox Jews today to whom practices similar to those described in today's Gospel passage (the way they dress, the way they pray, the

food they eat) are familiar and important and ideally lived with inward devotion. In our use of *sacraments* and *sacramentals* (holy water, statues, etc.), we Catholics are often accused of relying superficially on 'magic' and it is indeed possible to fall into a habit of using outward signs casually, almost as lucky charms. This is to deserve Our Lord's rebuke to the Pharisees. It is to forget the true purpose of signs as reminders of salvation and stirrers-up of love and gratitude and faithfulness to Our

Lord's teaching. With the sacraments, such carelessness is serious, since the sacraments of the Church are the immediate instruments of Jesus' work in our souls. Yes, they work *ex opera operato*, bringing about without our help, what they symbolise and profess (through water Baptism gives the *indelible character* of child of God) but devotion, gratitude, co-operation are all the more important so that what Jesus has won for us may bear the fruit of eternal life.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM  
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)**

12. Though it is true that this mission demands great generosity on our part, it would be wrong to see it as a heroic individual undertaking, for it is first and foremost the Lord's work, surpassing anything which we can see and understand. Jesus is "the first and greatest evangelizer".<sup>9</sup> In every activity of evangelization, the primacy always belongs to God, who has called us to cooperate with him and who leads us on by the power of his Spirit. The real newness is the newness which God himself mysteriously brings about and inspires, provokes, guides and accompanies in a thousand ways. The life of the Church should always reveal clearly that God takes the initiative, that "he has loved us first" (1 Jn 4:19) and that he alone "gives the growth" (1 Cor 3:7). This conviction enables us to maintain a spirit of joy in the midst of a task so demanding and challenging that it engages our entire life. God asks everything of us, yet at the same time he offers everything to us.

<sup>9</sup> PAUL VI, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (8 December 1975), 7: AAS 68 (1976), 9.

**Monsignor Bruce Harbert –  
Thoughts on today's Mass**

The Mass can deceive us. It doesn't take long. Not much seems to happen. Sometimes it is celebrated carelessly, as if it doesn't really matter. Today's Mass, in the Prayer over the Offerings, gives us two words to counter these mistaken ideas: 'mystery' and 'power'. The former reminds us that not everything that happens at Mass is immediately and obviously apparent. Mysteriously, quietly, invisibly, God becomes present among us. The Mass is the only occasion on earth at which the Creator becomes present to his people. And he comes with power, to enable and transform us, both as individuals and as the community that has gathered to worship him. This prayer is a wake-up call for anybody who attends Mass distractedly and for those who negligently stay away. There is no more important event than the Mass, no more important place than the altar, because of the mystery and power of what takes place there.



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



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## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



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

### WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	29th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Creta O'Neil RIP
<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Sun	30th	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - In Thanksgiving Special Intention
Mon	31st	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	1st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Mr Alfonso Reynolds RIP
Wed	2nd	10.00am	St George's - Sr Monica's Intention
Thur	3rd	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Michael Bradley's Intention
Fri	4th	10.00am	St George's - Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	5th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - In Honour of Our Lady
<b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Sun	6th	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - Donor's Intention
		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) 509047  
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'Hara, 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 and Enza Riddiford.

**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:

Back on the road again - a familiar theme for our newsletter at this time of year. A recent introduction is our support for the sponsored "Ride and Stride". Next Saturday evening we will have the return of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In fact a real sense of back to work. Essential to this is our Children's Liturgy, recruiting and preparing for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. There is also an urgent need for candidates for our ministries, especially here at St Wilfrid's.

A new church presents a great opportunity to take a fresh look at what we believe and especially what we do about our belief. We are the living stones that make up the church, which is the body of Christ. More important than the bricks and the benches. It is truly important that we work to pass on our faith to a new generation. This will be our agenda for the coming year and indeed years.

*Fr Rory*

**St George's Social Committee** invite you to afternoon tea! Tea will be served on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00 pm in the church hall. Delicious dainty sandwiches and homemade cakes, all served to you at your table on beautiful vintage china. Tickets now available from Shirley and Ros at £5 per person or £6 on the door. Tickets can be obtained at St Wilfrid's through Brian Sutcliffe. Please do come and join us.

### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

**The 1st meeting** of this new section at Christ the King will be on **Monday, September 14 at 7:30pm** in the Parish Room at Christ the King, Langney, and then **every 2nd Monday of the month**. If you would like to become a member of the **CWL** just come along that evening or email Margaret von Speyr at [margaret-vs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaret-vs@hotmail.co.uk)

**Music Day at St Agnes** in Eastbourne on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Do you enjoy singing and would like to know more about how music can enhance the Mass? Speakers include Catherine Christmas from the Diocesan Liturgy Team. More details to follow.

**Talk organised by the Newman Association:** 'Who, What and Why is Newman Today?', Thursday 3<sup>RD</sup> September, 7.30pm to 9pm. **St Martha Church**, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4SL. The speaker, Fr Nicholas Schofield, London parish priest, and joint producer of a famous DVD on Newman, 'Lead Kindly Light'. ALL WELCOME.

**Missa Orbis** – the Jubilee Mass. This will be introduced to St George's probably some time in September. In preparation for this, the choir will sing pieces from it at the start of Sunday Mass so you begin to become familiar with it.

**Annual Altar Servers Mass:** This will take place at Arundel Cathedral on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 12 noon with Bishop Richard Moth presiding. All welcome.

**BINGO at St George's:** There will be another BINGO session on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September also for Children with Cancer. Doors open at 7pm to begin at 7.30pm. We hope you can come along.

**St Cuthmans' Apple Day:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Sunshine or rain, you are invited to come and join us in the orchard to harvest the years' apple crop. Help sort the different apples, make apple juice and have fun. Please bring food to share for lunch and tea and cake will be provided, music and Mass celebrated. If you have an instrument you play please feel free to bring it along. The day will be from 10am to 4pm. No charge. St Cuthman's Retreat and Meeting Centre, Cowfold Road, Coolham, RH13 8QL. enquiries@stcuthmans.org/ or Tel: 01403 741220.

**Friends of EDGH:** are collecting milk bottle tops to help raise money for hospital equipment. Please help them by bringing in your washed red, blue and green bottle tops and place in the container provided in both church porches. Thank you.

**The Secular Franciscan Order** St Francis of Assisi inspires people to follow Jesus by living the gospel in Franciscan Fraternity. If you would like to find out more or come to one of our meetings, which are held on the first Sunday of each month, 3.30pm to 5.30pm, please contact Glenn Lowcock on 07973 115203. Our members come from Eastbourne, Lewes, Bexhill, Tunbridge Wells as well as St Leonards.

**Pray for the Sick:** If you or loved ones are admitted to hospital and would like to have Chaplaincy visits, please contact Fr Rory via the office or let the chaplaincy know. Thank you.

**Friends of EDGH -** Paperback books are needed for the mobile library in the hospital. If you have any unwanted books they will be gratefully received.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Wed 2nd Sept** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  
**Fri 4th Sept** Bingo - for children with cancer, St George's Hall, 7pm  
**Wed 9th Sept** Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm  
**Wed 9th Sept** St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St G's Church, 6.15pm  
**Wed 9th Sept** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  
**Sun 13th Sept** Vintage Tea Party, St George's Hall, 3pm  
**Wed 16th Sept** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  
**Mon 21st Sept** St Wilfrid's Fundraising Meeting, St W's Cabin, 7.30pm  
**Sat 26th Sept** St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am

### COLLECTIONS: (22nd/23rd August)

**St George's** £TBC  
Weekly ave./Monthly D/D £176.50

**St Wilfrid's** £TBC  
Weekly aver. of DD £209.60

Attendances: St W's TBC St G's TBC

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

### Bonus Ball:

**Sat 22nd August**  
No TBC

**Wed 19th August**  
No TBC