

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

Cf. Is 30:19,30

THE COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
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 Isaiah

11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps 71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17. R.cf.v7

**R) In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R)**

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R)**

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R)**

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant
to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture
gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God.
And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you
all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ
Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other
in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason
Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so
that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the
patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for
his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise
you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

Lk 3:4.6

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the
wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for
the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the
prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a
leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild
honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan
district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him
in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw
a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he
said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the
retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the
appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We
have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise
children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is
laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to
produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I
baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me
is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-
fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his
wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will
never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bar 5:5;4:36

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



We may be surprised by the vigour
with which St John the Baptist speaks
against the Pharisees and Sadducees.
After all, they were coming to him for
baptism, along with the rest of the

Jews. But St John, greater than the
other prophets, is enlightened by
God so that he can understand their
real motives. They are moved perhaps
by curiosity alone; or perhaps by a
fear that their influence over the
other Jews may begin to wane, if they
allow themselves to be upstaged by a
new popular preacher. But they are
not penitent. Unlike the others who
come to St John, they do not confess
their sins to him. They want to be
part of the excitement outwardly but,
despite the near approach of God's
Son, they don't want to change their
lives.

Are we in any danger of imitating
the Pharisees and Sadducees? We
could be, if we prepare for Christmas
only outwardly. If we only think of
presents and parties and
decorations, then we would be
joining in the excitement but missing
the meaning. Advent is a time for
conversion. 'The axe is laid to the
root of the tree,' says St John. Is
there any frequent sin in our life, any
grudge against a neighbour, any
refusal of God's commands? If there
is, it's time to get out the axe and
wield it by a good confession. Then
we can welcome God's Son in joy.

**HERE AND NOW****God Lives in Us**

If help is given unknowingly, will there not be a greater
gratitude when all is made clear?

With God, the more we seem to lose the more we gain.
The more God takes away from us the more God gives on
the spiritual level.

A heart that is pure sees everything from the right angle –
God's angle.

A real musician is so in tune with the music that, even
without thinking about structure and composition, the
musician's melodies have a touch of perfection about them.

When we are experienced in holiness we are like a good
musician, everything that is done is done in tune with
God and God's will as if it were second nature.

Thinking much gives way to loving much, a love that is
natural and unforced. In fact we do not even realize that
God is making music in our lives. We feel barren and
hard, going on in faith alone. And yet, as we are attuned
to God's will, the music plays on in the silence.

God hides in our hearts like a seed planted in the earth, a
seed which in due course brings forth all kinds of flowers
and fruits that we ourselves are unaware of.

We give shade and nourishment to others rather than
feeding and adorning ourselves.

Let us nourish ourselves secretly on the leaves of grace...

***Life in God's Now** by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. Publisher:
New City. ISBN-13: 9781905039111

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****Some cultural challenges**

62 (cont'd) "...This is often true also in
the field of social communications which,
being run by centres mostly in the
northern hemisphere, do not always give
due consideration to the priorities and
problems of such countries or respect
their cultural make-up".⁵⁷ By the same
token, the bishops of Asia "underlined
the external influences being brought to
bear on Asian cultures. New patterns of
behaviour are emerging as a result of
over-exposure to the mass media... As a
result, the negative aspects of the media
and entertainment industries are
threatening traditional values, and in
particular the sacredness of marriage and
the stability of the family".⁵⁸

57 JOHN PAUL II, Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Africa* (14
September 1995), 52: AAS 88 (1996), 32-33; ID., Encyclical
Letter *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (30 December 1987), 22: AAS
80 (1988), 539.

58 JOHN PAUL II, Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Asia* (6
November 1999), 7: AAS 92 (2000), 458.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

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ST WILFRID

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

WEEKLY SERVICES

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Sat	3rd	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Agnes Chetwynd RIP
Sun	4th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Miss Dorothy Povey
Mon	5th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	6th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Grace Verrill RIP
Wed	7th	10.00am	St George's - Johanna Lorraine and Family
Wed	7th	6.30pm	St Wilfrid's - Devotions
Thur	8th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Ellen Kavanagh RIP
Fri	9th	10.00am	St George's - Norman & Angela Wright RIP
Sat	10th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Elsie Brown RIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Sun	11th	9.00am	St George's - Con & Kathleen O'Donnell RIP
		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 LineJean 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, tel.841504 or by hand marked **NEWSLETTER**, to Fr. Rory's House by **9am Wednesday**.

Deacon John Writes:

Leader: The fruit of Silence is Prayer. **All:** Lord, teach us to Pray

Leader: The fruit of Prayer is Faith. **All:** Lord, give us the gift of Faith

Leader: The fruit of Faith is Love. **All:** Lord, help us to choose Love

Leader: The fruit of Love is Service. **All:** Lord, grant us a heart for Service

Leader: The fruit of Service is Peace. **All:** Lord, may our souls be at Peace.

St Teresa on Love

"All sicknesses have cures. The only one that cannot be cured is the sickness of feeling unloved. I invite all those who appreciate our work to look around them and be willing to love those who have no love and to offer them their services. Are we not, by definition, messengers of love?"

"Let us not be satisfied just by giving money. Money is not everything. Money is something you can get. The poor need the work of our hands, the love of our hearts. Love, an abundant love, is the expression of our Christian religion."

(From "Mother Teresa in her own Words", by Gramercy Books, 1997)



Epiphany Party: There will be an Epiphany Party on Sunday 8th January from 2 - 4pm in St George's Church Hall to which all children from St George's and St Wilfrid's Children Liturgy are invited.

Lights of Love, St. George's Church, 5th December at 7.00pm (In support of St. Wilfrid's Hospice). You are warmly invited to attend this celebration during which we come together to remember and reflect on time spent with those who have touched our lives but are no longer with us. After a programme of readings and carols, refreshments will be served in the hall. You can be assured of the warmest welcome and we really look forward to seeing you there.

St George's Choir Practice: will be on Saturday 17th December at 10.00am.

Young People's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, October 2017 – The Sacred Heart Parish, Hove, are running a Holy Land Pilgrimage for 18-35s during October half term 2017. It is open to young people from across the Diocese and will be a comprehensive Pilgrimage, taking in areas including Galilee, Cana, Nazareth, the River Jordan, Mount Tabor, Capernaum, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Jaffa and many others. A fantastic chance to make some new friends and to learn more about your faith in the land where it all started! You can download an application pack at [Facebook.com/HolyLand2017](https://www.facebook.com/HolyLand2017). For more information, contact YPPHL2017@gmail.com.

Sponsorship request for St George's parishioners: 10 year old Erin Todd is having her long hair cut off for Charity, the hair will be donated to the Little Princes Trust who make Children's wigs and any sponsored donations will go to St Wilfrid's Hospice. If you would like to sponsor please place your name and donation amount on the form at the back of church, you can give immediately or provide money at mass on December 4th once the hair is cut. Thank you for your support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Mon 5th Dec Lights of Love, St George's Church, 7pm
Wed 7th Dec Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Wed 7th Dec St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 6.15pm
Wed 7th Dec St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Sat 17th Dec St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am
Sat 31st Dec Indian Mass, St Wilfrid's Church, 10am
Sun 8th Jan Epiphany Party, St George's Hall, 2-4pm

Christmas Flowers at St Wilfrid's: There will be a second collection after Mass this weekend for the flowers to decorate the Church for the Christmas period.

Indian Mass: There will be an Indian Mass at St Wilfrid's Church on Saturday 31st December at 10am.

"Reverse Advent Calendar". Some commercial Advent Calendars provide a little gift each day for the person who opens the window in the Calendar. The **Knights of St Columba** invite everyone to reverse this process - Give to the needy this Advent! Just provide a small gift every day of Advent for the **Food Bank**. Tins, packet food, toiletries, laundry goods etc. will be welcome.

Inclusion Course - Learning to become an interpreter for people who are deaf: To help communicate with deaf people in our churches and parishes. The course will start at a basic level and then progress through the levels as appropriate. If you are interested in finding out more about the course please contact: Margaret Fraher, Inclusion Adviser, 01293 651196 or email margaret.fraher@dabnet.org

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.

Mahatma Gandhi 1869-1948:

It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.

COLLECTIONS: (26th/27th Nov)

St George's	£TBC
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£TBC
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
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 26th November
No: TBC
Wed 23rd November
No: 29
John Forde