

# GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel passage presents Our Lord's 'menu' for peace on earth: our recognition of the truth that of ourselves we are nothing. "You gave us being out of nothingness," cries St. Catherine of Siena. So as Our Lord says, to act as though any power or honour we might obtain makes us in any real way better than our fellow 'nothings' is a bit ludicrous. Those who most truly recognized their 'nothingness' were

the saints; now they are the ones who receive honour and glory in God. Here on earth we call them heroes and leaders, teachers (Doctors of the Church), patrons of continents. They can be glorified because they have recognised the source of glory. They learned humility in the pattern of Our Lady, who had it from the beginning: "...because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant, yes from now on all generations will call me blessed." These men and women are found in every nation, in every country on the globe, among kings and among shopkeepers, among parents and among priests and nuns: they are the 'pattern' for peace. In Heaven they are already the true 'United Nations' and those who follow in their footsteps are the true builders of a present and future united world.

## Knowing How to Lose\*

### PENITENCE

On Ash Wednesday Pope Paul VI gave a talk on penitence. After drawing attention to the reduction the Church had made in physical penances, he explained how 'penitence' means above all metanoia or 'change of heart', and he said that it is interior change, more than exterior change, which is brought about by the essence of Christianity: charity.

'Penitence is not a backward step in modern life and teaching. On the contrary, it is a step forward, since it is more inwardly developed, and more demanding in terms of self-examination and the development of one's own personality, in order to make it what it should be: a Christian personality.

'Now since the essence of Christianity is charity, each of us should face the renunciation, sacrifice, self-denial and perseverance that charity demands; even to the point of reaching some form of abdication of ourselves and our ego. We must die inwardly if we want to be born again...

Then he spoke of prayer, the great penance. He said: 'Then there remains the great penance, that of directing our soul towards God, prayer. Elevatio mentis ad Deum (The raising of the mind to God). Even this form of spiritual duty we consider to be easy, since it is familiar to us, it fills our days, our timetables. But it is important to pray well...'

\**Knowing How to Lose* by Chiara Lubich. Published by New City. ISBN: 9781905039265



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# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## Liturgy

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Cf. Ps 37: 22-23

**Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!  
constantly seek his face.**

**FIRST READING:** Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10

*You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your instruction.*

**PSALM:** Ps 130

**R) Keep my soul in peace before you,  
O Lord.**

O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.

I have not gone after things too great  
nor marvels beyond me. **(R)**

Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.

A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul. **(R)**

O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and forever. **(R)**

**SECOND READING:**

I Thessalonians 2:7-9,13

*We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good news but our whole lives as well.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Mt 23:9,10  
**You have only one Father, and he is in  
heaven;  
you have only one Teacher, the Christ!  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 23:1-12

*They do not practise what they preach.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Cf. Ps 15: 11

**You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
O Lord.**

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



## II. TEMPATIONS FACED BY PASTORAL WORKERS

### *No to spiritual worldliness*

97. Those who have fallen into this worldliness look on from above and afar, they reject the prophecy of their brothers and sisters, they discredit those who raise questions, they constantly point out the mistakes of others and they are obsessed by appearances. Their hearts are open only to the limited horizon of their own immanence and interests, and as a consequence they neither learn from their sins nor are they genuinely open to forgiveness.

This is a tremendous corruption disguised as a good. We need to avoid it by making the Church constantly go out from herself, keeping her mission focused on Jesus Christ, and her commitment to the poor. God save us from a worldly Church with superficial spiritual and pastoral trappings! This stifling worldliness can only be healed by breathing in the pure air of the Holy Spirit who frees us from self-centredness cloaked in an outward religiosity bereft of God. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the Gospel!

# 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	4th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Conleigh Cully RIP <b>THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>(Special Collection Today for The Retired Priests Fund)</b>
Sun	5th	9.00am	St George's - Paul Bree RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	6th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	7th	10.00am	St George's - Felix & Josephine Sorros RIP
Wed	8th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Norman & Angela Wright RIP
Thur	9th	10.00am	St George's - Jenny Duder-Rumsey RIP
Fri	10th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	11th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - In Honour of Our Lady <b>THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>(Special Collection Next Sunday for The Cathedral Maintenance Fund)</b>
Sun	12th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Donor's Special 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 Primary School:** Tel 01323 726004 **St. Thomas a Becket Primary 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 & Monika Beaver  
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, Edna Andrews, Julliette Lusted, Jennifer Piskac, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne & Harry Holt, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford, Dorothy Hanlon, Margaret Westcar, Jenny Price, Ann Winter and Empress.

**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:**

Last week, lost to our attention despite the best efforts of the Catholic media, was the staggering number of legitimate abortions that has taken place since it was made legal. When I was first ordained, this was of a great and grave concern for a lot of parish priests. They felt that the hierarchy had failed them and failed to authorise the much greater protests that they were prepared to make. Then I was not enthused by their concern that we would look upon this event in similar terms to the holocaust of the Jewish people that had taken place in Europe in their lifetime. Obviously the scale of numbers involved would legitimise their desired stance. We can only place our hope in God's provider as we genuinely acknowledge, sorry for our failings in this and in so many other ways. But to never loose heart, but above all to continue to pray. Here are some extracts from a newsletter from a parish in a neighbouring deanery:-

O'Mary, Mother of the Life Within, all life we entrust to you; The life of every expectant mother and the child within her womb: The life of every human body, the life of every human soul; The life of every newborn child and the life of all grown old. You held the Lord to your own heart and drew Him so close in. So draw us now in all our needs, O Mother of the Life Within. Amen.

If you would like a Mass for a special intention or for a deceased person, just go into the parish office after Mass to book one. It is the most powerful gift you can give to a grieving person or a sick person.

*Fr Rory*

**2030:** There will be two meetings for anyone to give responses to the Bishop's article re 2030. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting primarily, but not exclusively, for anyone over 55 on Tue Nov 7<sup>th</sup> after the 10am Mass. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting primarily, but not exclusively, for anyone under 55 on Tue Nov 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30-9pm. The Bishop wants everyone's opinion. Both meetings will be in St George's Hall.

**RED WEDNESDAY** 22 November 2017. On this day we are asked to remember and pray for the many Christians in the world who are suffering persecution for their faith. One way would be to wear red on that day. You could also attend the prayer service at St Wilfrid's Church, Hailsham at 9.30am with Mass at 10am.

The **Knights of St Columba** meet on Monday 13th November at 3pm at Christ the King Parish rooms. All Catholic men are invited.

**Saturday November 11th** 10.30am-4pm at St Thomas More, Seaford. Dr Stefan Reynolds leads a day of reflection on three inspirational women and their response to God. Call 01323 8988548.

**BINGO:** All proceeds to Polegate Children with Cancer Fund, to be held at St George's Hall on Friday the 10th November all welcome. Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, raffle and refreshments on the night.

**The South Downs Singers' Christmas Concert:** will be in aid of Children with Cancer in Polegate. Sat 9th December, 3.30pm at St Saviour's Church, South Street, Eastbourne. Tickets £10. each from Clodagh at St Wilfrid's & Shirley at St Georges.

**St Wilfrid's Bereavement Mass:** will be held on Sunday 12th November 2017 in St Wilfrid's Church, at 3pm. All are welcome to attend from both parishes.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Tue 7th Nov** Re: 2030, St George's Hall, After Mass  
**Fri 10th Nov** Bingo, St George's Hall, 7 for 7.30pm start  
**Sun 12th Nov** Bereavement Mass, St Wilfrid's Church, 3pm  
**Tue 14th Nov** Re: 2030, St George's Hall, 7.30-9pm  
**Tue 21st Nov** 1st Holy Com. Lesson, St Wilfrid's Hall, 5-6pm  
**Sat 25th Nov** Advent Prayer & Prep Day, Holy Cross Priory,  
**Sun 3rd Dec** Christmas Party, St Wilfrid's Hall, 3pm-6pm  
**Tue 12th Dec** 1st Confession, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  
**Fri 22nd Dec** Nativity Rehearsal, St Wilfrid's, 10-11.30am  
**Sun 24th Dec** Xmas Family Mass, St Wilfrid's Church, 5.30pm

**Advent Prayer Day:** Sign up sheets are available in the porches for those wishing to attend the Advent Prayer Day at Holy Cross Priory, on the 25th November. A contribution of £20 is requested to help with the cost of the meal and refreshments during the day, but the cost should not be an impediment for anyone who would like to come but may not have the financial resources available. We would love everyone to come to this event, so please see Fr Rory. Finally please put your contributions in an envelope marked Advent Prayer Day, with your name clearly marked, and the amount contributed and leave your envelope in the sacristy for collection.

**Love In A Box:** The Mustard Seed Relief Mission in Eastbourne is collecting shoe boxes for a child. Details of what to put in the boxes can be found on leaflets left in the church porch. This is such a worthwhile cause, so please support it if you can. Thank you.

**A Big Thank You:** to all who helped to make the Beetle Drive held last week at St Wilfrid's such a great success. We raised a total of £330. Thank you.

**First Confession:** On Tuesday the 12th December at 7pm at St Wilfrid's, the First Holy Communion candidates will be having their First Confession. Everyone is welcome.

The next **St Wilfrid's First Holy Communion Lesson** is from 5-6pm on the 21st November in the church hall

**Rehearsal for the St Wilfrid's Nativity Mime** is on Friday 22nd December from 10-11:30am, all children wanting to participate in the mime on Christmas Eve please come along to the rehearsal.

**The Christmas Family Mass** at St Wilfrid's is at 5:30pm on 24th December, where children will take part in our Nativity Mime.

**Genie Tutors** are now hiring the Church Hall in Hailsham on Thursday evenings from 4.00pm to 6.30pm. They provide tuition in English, Maths, and Science for 5 to 18 year olds and are offering a 30% discount to parishioners. Please contact Teresa Palmer on 01323 700777 for more details.

**COLLECTIONS: (28th/29th Oct)**  
**St George's** £206.83  
 Weekly aver./Monthly D/D £176.50  
**St Wilfrid's** £285.86  
 Weekly aver. of DD £204.60  
 Attendances: St W's 157 St G's 88  
**Thank you for your continued generosity**  
 If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.

**Bonus Ball:**  
**Sat 28th October**  
 No:  
 No Winner  
**Wed 25th October**  
 No: 21  
 Maeve O'Rourke