

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 66: 10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

THE COLLECT

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 Joshua

5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 33:2-7.R.v9

R) Taste and see that the Lord is good.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R)

Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. (R)

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. (R)

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appearing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

Lk 15:18

I will leave this place and go to my father and say:
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings,
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,
praying that we may both faithfully revere them
and present them to you, as is fitting,
for the salvation of all the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lk 15: 32

You must rejoice, my son,
for your brother was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and is found.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,
illuminate our hearts, we pray,
with the splendour of your grace,
that we may always ponder
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty
and love you in all sincerity.
Through Christ our Lord.



OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The selfishness of the younger son in today's Gospel story, has to be measured against his father's generosity, trust and love and the father in this story is given us by Our Lord as an image of his Father.- our Father.

St Paul tells us in another place, that so truly are we, the baptized, children of God the father, that we may even call him "Abba", daddy ! Sometimes, in company with the foolish son, only troubles and sorrows bring us to our knees to claim our relationship and to throw ourselves on the forgiveness and love of our 'Abba'. There are other images in the story: the younger son is not the only one to misuse his riches. No-one in that "distant country" ("distant" perhaps from the love of our Father?)

was prepared to give the starving young man even "the husks the pigs were eating". The older brother, of course, proves that his heart is in fact colder than that of the renegade. "Sin" is a word for any kind of selfishness or lack of love. But the trumpeted message of today's Gospel passage is not about sin. It is about the tender, forgiving love of God. It is a call to believe, to trust, indeed to live, as a child conscious of the surrounding love of the Father.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)

III. FROM THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

37. Saint Thomas Aquinas taught that the Church's moral teaching has its own "hierarchy", in the virtues and in the acts which proceed from them.³⁹ What counts above all else is "faith working through love" (Gal 5:6). Works of love directed to one's neighbour are the most perfect external manifestation of the interior grace of the Spirit: "The foundation of the New Law is in the grace of the Holy Spirit, who is manifested in the faith which works through love".⁴⁰

39 Cf. S. Th., I-II, q. 66, a. 4-6.

40 S. Th., I-II, q. 108, a. 1.

GLIMPSES OF GOSPEL LIFE

These brief experiences from all over the world show how, when we try to put the words of the Gospel into practice, things happen. God is never outdone in generosity, and these personal stories show in many different ways how true that is.

The Exact Amount and More...

At the end of a meeting, a woman approached me and confided that financially she was going through a very difficult time. She needed to find £3,000 straight away because she had to re-pay an old debt to the bank. She had been paying interest on it for a long time without ever being able to re-pay any capital. Her husband was working for a company which had not paid him for months. Her son, who served as a volunteer for a charitable organization, had a poorly paid job on which the family survived.

This woman's problem became my own. We were in the garden of a convent and next to it was the little chapel. I said to her, "Let's go and talk to Jesus." The woman expected a different solution, but I was sure of what I had suggested to her. Kneeling in front of the tabernacle, I explained the situation to Jesus out loud.

While I was speaking she wept. Leaving the chapel I saw she was calm and showed great faith in God.

A few days later she telephoned and announced that, out of the blue, she had received news in the post that her husband's pay arrears, which had mounted up over several months, was about to be paid: it was the exact amount needed to cancel out the debt and there was a little more to keep things going.



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	5th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Gaynor & Dobson Families Intention
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT			
Sun	6th	9.00am	St George's - In Thanksgiving Rosary Group
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	7th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	8th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Teresa McDermott RIP
Tue	8th	12.30pm	St George's - Requiem Mass Marjorie Beard
Wed	9th	10.00am	St George's - Vera Almeida RIP
Wed	9th	6.30pm	St Wilfrid's - Lenten Devotions
Thur	10th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Norman & Angela Wright RIP
Fri	11th	11.30am	St George's - Kate & Patrick Walsh RIP
Fri	11th	7.00pm	St George's - Lenten Devotions
Sat	12th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - John Dobson RIP
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT			
Sun	13th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - B Knight RIP

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, Agnes Galt, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Betty O'Hara, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne & Harry Holt, David Thomas, Michael Bradley, Elizabeth Osbourne, John Dodson, Irene Boulstridge, Mary Scales, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford 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.**

Fr Rory Writes

We continue on our Lenten journey, acknowledging that it is a Holy time, preparing us to celebrate a sacred event. This event which brings God's salvation should be at the heart of it all. Simply put: "God is love, let us love one another".

It is sad that so often this appears to be much easier said than done. As a consequence there is a lot of hurt and sadness in our lives. The Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday evening had some truly beautiful moments of grace and tears for individuals, and a sign of what God offers to all if we choose to avail ourselves of it.

Unfortunately (and I have to confess this very much applies to me) we love television too much; and it may be said of me "the pub". We must always acknowledge the circumstances and discern whether things are right or wrong. It is a sadness to me that devotions, and indeed the sacraments, are so poorly attended.

We are called to be witnesses to God's salvation and His love for His people. This is best achieved within a community and everything that strengthens us as a community is important. I really look forward to our children's party and our devotions on Sunday afternoon at St Wilfrid's Church, 3pm. Please come along and help; so that they will be great events. *Fr Rory*

Churches Together, Polegate: Three Easter Events:

Monday, March 14th – 7.30 p.m. Stainer's Crucifixion", Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Willingdon.

Sunday 20th March, Palm Sunday "The Cross of Christ" – 6.30 p.m. St. Mary the Virgin, Willingdon.

Holy Thursday, The Downland Singers are performing "The Crucifixion", at 3.00 p.m. Trinity Church, Coppice Avenue.

St George's Hall - Parish Bookings. If you are going to be holding a meeting or coffee morning after the week day Mass, please advise the Hall Administrator of the time you will be leaving the hall. This will ensure that there are no clashes with other parish groups and the hall diary is up to date for outside booking enquiries. Thank you for your help in this matter which is much appreciated.

Lenten Devotions To enable us to prepare hearts and minds for Easter, **St. George's Church** will be holding Liturgical Services during Lent on **Friday evenings at 7.00 p.m.** The Services will comprise readings, psalms and prayers with Holy Communion. They provide the ideal opportunity to reflect on the events leading up to Holy Week and our celebration of the Risen Christ. Both communities are warmly welcome.

Lenten Lunches, St George's are taking place each Friday during Lent. Remember to put your names on the list in the porch if you wish to come and share soup and bread with friends.

Stations of the Cross: There will be no Stations this Sunday (Mothering Sunday) at St George's. Stations of the Cross will resume next week, 13th March at 3pm.

St George's Children's Fund: Last year, thanks to the support of the parish, £1195. was raised and given to two children's charities, "Children with Cancer Polegate" (£597.50) and the "Demelza Hospice" (£597.50).

The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Children's First Confession will be held on Friday 18th March at St George's Church at 6pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tue 8th March St Wilfrid's Leaven Group Mtg, Parish Centre, 7.15pm
Wed 9th March Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
Wed 9th March St George's Leaven Gp Mtg, St G's Church, 6.15pm
Wed 9th March St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Sun 13th March Children's Party, St Wilfrid's Church Hall, 2pm-4pm
Wed 16th March St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
Fri 18th March Sacrament of Rec./1st Confession, St G's Church, 6pm

Easter Flowers at St Wilfrid's. There will be a second collection this weekend for the flowers for Easter.

HAILSHAM CHORAL together with **HAILSHAM SYMPHONIA** will be performing MOZART's REQUIEM & HAYDN's St. NICHOLAS MASS on Sat 19th March at 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Grange Rd. Eastbourne. Adults £12.00, children £6.00.

The Knights of St Columba meet on Monday 14th March at 3.30pm in the Parish Rooms at Christ the King. All Catholic men are welcome to come. Further details from David on 423323.

Tuesday March 8th: 7 for 7.30pm. Newman Association Talk by Fr Raglan on 'Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The challenge of a world grown up - and out of religion?' St Martha's Church Hall, Bexhill, TN39 5SP. Entrance free. All welcome. Contact Alex 07957 632208 or Edward 01424 219788.

NEW FOODBANK INITIATIVE: Hailsham foodbank is piloting a 'Holiday Meals' programme for the Trussell Trust which gives a free activity and meal to families in need during the Easter and Summer holidays. Venue is still awaiting confirmation but will run for 2-3 days each week of the Easter holidays between 11am-1pm. If you would be interested in helping out maybe with setting up tables for meals/activities, serving meals, and clearing away afterwards as well as being around to chat to families do speak to **Julie Coates on 07474 671350** or email her on info@hailsham.foodbank.org.uk.

Catholic Bible School : Eastbourne : Scripture Saturday "Christ our Bridegroom" led by Gemma Wildsmith, inspirational speaker. Saturday, March 12, 2016. 10:45am to 1:00pm. Suggested donation £10 to cover costs. Held at Our Lady of Ransom Hall, Grange Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4EU. For more details see www.catholic-bible-school.org/events

1st Communion Mass at St Wilfrid's will be at the 10:30am Mass on 22nd May.

COLLECTIONS: (27th/28th Feb)

St George's	£256.24
Weekly ave./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£200.77
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 201	St G's 89

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

Bonus Ball:

Sat 27th February

No: 55

No Winner

Wed 24th February

No: 25

Mary McKeon