

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

**Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;  
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.**

**THE COLLECT**

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. 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 Isaiah

60:1-6

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps 71:1-2.7-8.10-13.R.cf.v11

**R) All nations shall fall prostrate  
before you, O Lord.**

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)**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **(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)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Mt 2:2

**We saw his star as it rose  
and have come to do the Lord homage.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 2:1-12

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

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

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah  
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,  
for out of you will come a leader  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,  
on these gifts of your Church,  
in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh,  
but he who by them is proclaimed,  
sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. Mt 2:2

**We have seen his star in the East,  
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,  
always and everywhere,  
that we may perceive with clear sight  
and revere with true affection  
the mystery in which you have willed us to participate.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



There is a clear contrast in the Biblical narrative between Herod and the three wise men. He is totally closed to the idea of the Messiah, for he wishes to cling to

the worldly power that he assumes the Messiah will wrest from him. They, on the other hand, are totally open to Divine Providence. They have a most ardent desire to discover the One to whom they are being drawn inexorably by the guiding star. With Herod the news of Christ's coming enlivens all his craftiness and cruelty. He desires to deprive of life the One through whom he himself has received life. With the three wise men the presence of Christ inspires their

adoration and their generosity. Gold represents the blood of sacrifice and martyrdom; incense, the odour of innocence; and myrrh, the bitter herb of penance that checks the corruption of sin. We should endeavour to imitate the three wise men through our own generosity of spirit, a willingness to be sacrificed for Christ, to be martyrs for Him, to seek to be innocent and penitent in gratitude for such a loving Redeemer.



### Recognizing God's Presence

If we know that we are meeting a King in disguise we treat him differently from an ordinary person because we are aware of his dignity and status.

In the same way, if we realize that God comes to us disguised in the duties of the present moment, we receive everything that happens with equal honour and delight. Whether the moment brings grief, suffering or joy on the natural level, God is present.

God appears to us in the most humble disguises.

Look at Bethlehem – God lying on straw in a manger, trembling and crying like any other baby.

Surely the people of Bethlehem would have taken notice of a prince born in a palace. But here they saw nothing to commend the Child to them.

Yet if we ask Mary, Joseph and the Magi what they think, we would discover that they see in this poverty and humility something that strikes them as glorious and adorable.

The eyes of faith are what make the difference, not the outward surroundings.

To adore Jesus at the Transfiguration is not so difficult. To adore Jesus on the cross demands all the faith we can muster.

To discover Jesus in great things that bring us notice and praise is not as hard, and does not call on our spirit of faith, as much as finding Jesus in small and trivial things where he is also present, but in humble disguise.

Jesus has gone before us. We have only to follow faithfully.

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

### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



#### Some cultural challenges

65. Despite the tide of secularism which has swept our societies, in many countries – even those where Christians are a minority – the Catholic Church is considered a credible institution by public opinion, and trusted for her solidarity and concern for those in greatest need. Again and again, the Church has acted as a mediator in finding solutions to problems affecting peace, social harmony, the land, the defence of life, human and civil rights, and so forth. And how much good has been done by Catholic schools and universities around the world! This is a good thing. Yet, we find it difficult to make people see that when we raise other questions less palatable to public opinion, we are doing so out of fidelity to precisely the same convictions about human dignity and the common good.



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

## ST GEORGE

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Polegate



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## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



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

### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

(Special Collection This Weekend for The White Flower Appeal)

(Special Collection Next Sunday for Pax Christi)

Sat	7th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
Sun	8th	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - Deirdre Mary Beale's Anniversary
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Michael Bradley RIP
Mon	9th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - <b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b> Marie Kelly
Mon	9th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	10th	10.00am	St George's - Kate & Patrick Walsh RIP
Wed	11th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Agnes Chetwynd RIP
Thur	12th	10.00am	St George's - Mrs Vera Almeida RIP
Fri	13th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	14th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Grace Verrall RIP

#### SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Special Collection Today for Pax Christi)

Sun	15th	9.00am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Grace Fenn RIP

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 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, 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](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com), tel.841504 or by hand marked **NEWSLETTER**, to Fr. Rory's House by **9am Wednesday.**

**Fr Rory Writes:**

The Christmas season ends on Monday with the Feast of the Baptism of Our Divine Lord, so we will have Mass at 10am in St Wilfrid's Church. The Christmas season always includes the Baptism of the Lord, mostly celebrated on the 2nd Sunday with the Feast of the Epiphany on the previous Sunday. It is always important to get the balance right. Jesus was born truly human, that is why Mary pondered and treasured his divinity in her heart. But the more insistent need at that time was his human one - shelter - and only a manger available. Human safety giving way to all the insecurities of being a migrant leaving for Egypt. Not the most attractive prospect. He, who is Divine, knowing intimately our human frailty. For many, Christmas time magnifies these frailties as the number of domestic assaults and, indeed, even suicides, is often higher. This is why Pope Francis places such focus on redemption. His latest book 'The name of God is Mercy' which was kindly gifted to me, is a compelling read. Many, many things are well expressed..... Console the afflicted.... Judge not and you shall not be judged.... all work in progress. The Epiphany expresses our guiding light, every grace and blessing be upon you through the challenges and trails of a new year in God's providence.

*Fr Rory*

**New year's resolution: Make a difference with CAFOD**

Make 2017 the year you meet new friends, inspire others to act for social justice, and use your skills to help our sisters and brothers working to overcome poverty around the globe. Are you a good communicator who would enjoy speaking in churches or schools? Are you a people-person who would relish involving and encouraging others in your local parish? Are you a budding writer who could contribute to our blog and e-news?

If so please get in touch with Martin or Jo on 01483 898866 or email [arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk)

**White Flower Appeal**

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal this weekend. In 2017 SPUC is commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. Over 8.7 million unborn children have lost their lives due to abortion in the last 50 years. Since 1967 SPUC has been working tirelessly to uphold the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. Please help make 2017 a landmark year in SPUC's historic campaign to win legal protection for unborn children. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC and help save mothers and babies from abortion.

**Epiphany Party - Changed:** It has been decided to change the Epiphany Party on 8th January at St George's Church Hall to encourage and enable our children to attend the Special Epiphany Procession and Celebration at Our Lady of Ransom, followed by Traditional Polish refreshments in aid of St Gregory's Roof Fund on the 8th January at 3pm.

**St George's Choir Practice:** will take place on Saturday 21st January at 10.00am. All welcome.

**"Love of Neighbour and Europe."** Father Chris Benyon, former parish priest of St Thomas More, Seaford will be speaking on this subject at St Martha's church hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill on Monday 16th January commencing 7.30 pm. Meeting arranged by Eastbourne and Bexhill Newman Circle. All (including non members) welcome. Further information John Carmody 726334 or Alex Mithobi 07957 632208.

**Eastbourne's 7th Day of Prayer:** Saturday 21st January 2017, The King's Centre, Edison Road, BN23 6PT. 9.30am to 5pm (lunch 12.30-1.30pm bring packed lunch). Keynote Speaker: Debra Green O.B.E. Come and go as you are able. Stay all day if you can! Snacks and drinks on sale all day. Eat your packed lunch in the venue. Please park responsibly and not in retail parks. Look forward to seeing you there.

**Thank You:** Happy New Year to you all and thank you for all the cards and good wishes. Deacon John and Tessa.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Sun 8th Jan** Epiphany Celebration, OLR - Eastbourne, 3pm  
**Tue 10th Jan** St Wilfrid's Leaven Group Mtg, Parish Centre, 7.30pm  
**Wed 11th Jan** St Wilfrid's Social Committee, Parish Centre, 7.30pm  
**Thurs 12th Jan** Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm  
**Fri 13th Jan** St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 6.15pm  
**Sat 21st Jan** St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am

The **Knights of St Columba** invite all Catholic men to their meeting on Monday 9th January at 3pm at Christ the King Parish Rooms, Langney. Further details from Bob 847014 or David 423323.

**Mother Teresa Group Meetings:** Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12th January at 2.30pm in St George's Hall. Subsequent meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Look forward to seeing you there!

**St Wilfrid's Table Sale:** Saturday 28th January. If you have any suitable items for us to sell, like unwanted Christmas presents or other household goods, bric a brac, and items if anyone is having a clearout, we will be grateful for anything. Please leave in the church porch marked "table sale". Thank you.

**Our sadness at the loss of Jack Gearing:** Please keep in your prayers Margaret Gearing and remember her husband Jack who died on Thursday night.

**St Wilfrid's Social Committee (Ex Fundraising):** There is a meeting of the St Wilfrid's Social Committee (Ex Fundraising) on Wed 11th January at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

**COLLECTIONS: (31st Dec/1st Jan)**

<b>St George's</b>	£213.00
Crib Collection	£288.09
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
<b>St Wilfrid's</b>	£307.50
Crib Collection	£115.57
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 142 St G's 68	

**Bonus Ball:****Sat 31st December**

No: 25  
Anthony Kelly

**Wed 28th December**

No: 33  
Dorothy Blake

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