

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Acts 1:11

**Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.**

THE COLLECT

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,
for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation,
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,
the Body is called to follow in hope.
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 Acts of the Apostles

1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps. 46:2-3.6-7.8-9.R.v6

**R) God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R)**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R)**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

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

Mt 28:19.20

**Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Luke 24:46-53

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord,
to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son:
grant, we pray,
that through this most holy exchange
we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 28:20

**Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries,
grant, we pray,
that Christian hope may draw us onward
to where our nature is united with you.
Through Christ our Lord.



OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In the First Preface for the Dead in the Roman Missal we read that, for those who believe, "life is changed, not ended". In the Ascension of

the Lord, our own life in Christ is changed, rather than being ended. Christ is now present to us, indeed in us, by His Spirit, who 'clothes us from on high', and empowers us to proclaim "repentance for the forgiveness of sins...preached to all nations". This mission of God's mercy is committed by Christ first to His Apostles just before He is taken up into heaven. He blesses them, and their

response is one of humble worship and joyful praise: "they were continually in the Temple praising God". The mission of mercy is begun and completed in the worship of God and in singing His praises. Yet at the same time as this heavenward gaze, our mission is carried forward by Christ who remains always with us as we bring His mercy to the ends of the earth.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



IV. A MISSION EMBODIED WITHIN HUMAN LIMITS

42. All of this has great relevance for the preaching of the Gospel, if we are really concerned to make its beauty more clearly recognized and accepted by all. Of course, we will never be able to make the Church's teachings easily understood or readily appreciated by everyone. Faith always remains something of a cross; it retains a certain obscurity which does not detract from the firmness of its assent. Some things are understood and appreciated only from the standpoint of this assent, which is a sister to love, beyond the range of clear reasons and arguments. We need to remember that all religious teaching ultimately has to be reflected in the assent of the heart by its nearness, love and witness.

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.

Blessed Illness

I am suffering from a serious illness. My kidneys have not been working properly for more than ten years and I am forced to undergo dialysis three times a week. In time, other organs will fail too.

A few days ago when I was in a lot of pain, I complained to Jesus that it was a cursed illness. But soon afterwards I felt him reproach me.

"No, Luigi, it isn't cursed, quite the opposite, this illness is blessed, because thanks to this, you and I are much closer."

How true were those words! Thinking about it I would not change this illness for anything in the world. I thanked him. But then I had the thought, "I would like to go out and 'evangelise' like I did when I was young!" The very next day, a priest, whom I had met at work, said, "The word of God is really spreading in my diocese!" He was referring to a video prepared for Jubilee 2000, which had been distributed throughout ninety parishes of the diocese, which contained among others, my witness on my illness.

What joy I felt! With my heart full of happiness and my eyes full of tears, I said to Jesus, "How sensitive you are, how delicate is your love! Not even twenty-four hours have gone by and already you have answered me!"



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	7th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Peter Quinlan RIP THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
(Special Collection Today for The Catholic Communications Network)			
Sun	8th	9.00am 10.30am	St George's - Parish Communities' Intention St Wilfrid's - Laurence Rigamonti RIP
Mon	9th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	10th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Mrs Hermione Feldbacker RIP
Wed	11th	10.00am	St George's - Patty Sibler RIP
Thur	12th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Mary O'Donoghue's Intention
Fri	13th	10.00am	St George's - Elizabeth Shepherd - Mother Teresa Group
Sat	14th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - In Honour of Our Lady PENTECOST SUNDAY
Sun	15th	9.00am 10.30am	St George's - Gerhard & Christina Neyenhuizen's Intention 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, Agnes Galt, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne & Harry Holt, David Thomas, Michael Bradley, Elizabeth Osbourne, 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:

“The White Fathers” - Missionaries of Africa

The Missionaries of Africa” a.k.a (The White Fathers), are an international team of priests, brothers and lay associates from Africa, Britain and many countries around the world. Any ministry which has a real relationship with Africa, no matter in what part of the world it may be, is considered by the Missionaries of Africa to be within the scope of the apostolate. Through parish work, building up small Christian communities, working with the media, involvement in justice and peace, agriculture, seminary training, education and social welfare the Missionaries of Africa aim to work in partnership with the Church in Africa.... and above all else to help build up the leadership of the Churches.

Fr Rory wishes to thank Fr Joseph Cummins for allowing him to have a welcome break with a priest friend in Yorkshire. Wishing him a very successful appeal and blessings upon all his endeavours with the “White Fathers Missions”.

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord - Sunday 8th May 2016, World Communications Day

Communication lies at the heart of the Gospel. It is necessarily a foundation for the life and development of the Church. Our Church must be sure to be communicating the Gospel of all people using all the various means at its disposal. Not only do we need to continue in the development of our own Faith, and to pass our Faith to the next generation, but Pope Francis calls us to be “Missionary Disciples” which makes demands on each of us to communicate the Gospel to others.

The Gospel has much to say to our world. In this digital age of immediate communication, never before has it been so necessary that we have good communication where reliable information is easily accessible and the Gospel promoted on the world stage. *Fr Rory*

The South Downs Singers will be performing "Music From the Movies" at St John's Church, Polegate on Saturday 14th May at 7.30 pm. Tickets available on the door @ £8.00. Evening is in aid of The Cinnamon Trust, a charity recently supported by St George's. Several members of both our communities are in this choir so please come and support them and the charity.

Thank You: Margaret and Jack Gearing wishes to thank Father Rory, Deacon John and the people of St George's and St Wilfrid's for all the prayers said and the help given to both of us in recent months. Please continue to think of us in your prayers.

St George's Plant Fair and Coffee Morning: Saturday 21st May at 10.00 am.

St George's Choir Practice will take place on Saturday 28th May at 10.00 am.

St George's Social Committee - meeting will take place on Friday 13th May at 11.00 am in the hall.

For the attention of all Gift Aid Donors: On 6th April 2016 some changes to tax allowances became effective. Please remember that you must have paid sufficient Income/Capital gains tax that is at least equal to the amount reclaimed on all your Gift Aid donations to charities. If you have paid insufficient tax you will have to repay the shortfall. If you need tax advice please contact either your tax office or professional tax adviser.

The First Holy Communion Mass at St George's will be at the 9am Mass on Sunday 29th May.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Tue 10th May** St Wilfrid's Leaven Group Mtg, Parish Centre, 7.30pm
- Wed 11th May** Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm
- Wed 11th May** St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St G's Church, 6.15pm
- Wed 11th May** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
- Fri 13th May** St George's Social Committee, St George's Hall, 11am
- Wed 18th May** St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm
- Sat 21st May** St G's Plant Fair/Coffee Morning, St G's Hall, 10am
- Sun 22nd May** 1st Communion Mass, St Wilfrid's Church, 10.30am
- Sat 28th May** St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am
- Sun 29th May** 1st Communion Mass, St George's Church, 9am

St Wilfrid's Leaven Group Meeting: Tuesday 10th May at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.

Please Help we have a beautiful new Church and a growing community and we desperately need more welcomers, singers for the choir, readers and ministers of the Eucharist. Please come forward and give some of your time to make our community grow in faith, caring and friendship. Please see Ann, David or Jean. Thank you.

Prayers: We have just had notification that Betty O'Hora has died, please remember her in your prayers.

St Wilfrid's Readers please pick up their new rotas from the table in the church porch. Ann

Talk organised by the Newman Association, all welcome: Monday 16th May 2016 at Christ The King Parish, Eastbourne, 3 Princess Road, BN23 6HT. 7pm for 7.30pm sharp start - 9pm
TOPIC: The Migrant Conundrum
Speaker: Rev Fr Neil Chatfield

Bonus Ball: There are lots of numbers available for both the Saturday and Wednesday Bonus Ball. Anyone interested in one please see Bill or Mick. Thank you.

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

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.

COLLECTIONS: (30th April/1st May)

St George's	£174.91
Pope Francis Appeal	£109.46
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£223.06
Pope Francis Appeal	£269.90
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 181 St G's 84	
Thank you for your continued generosity	
If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.	

Bonus Ball:

Sat 30th April

No: 31
Fr Rory

Wed 27th April

No: 28
John Forde