

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
the King of Israel.
Hosanna in the highest

Mt 21:9

PALM GOSPEL:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Mt 21:1-11

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow
caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross,
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.
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

50:4-7

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R.v2

R) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **(R)**

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. **(R)**

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **(R)**

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

2:6-11

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:8-9

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory:
Christ was humbler yet,
even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name which is above all names.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.**

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

Matthew 26:14-27:66

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord,
may our reconciliation with you be near at hand,
so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds,
yet by this sacrifice made once for all,
we may feel already the effects of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 26:42

**Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, just as through the death of your Son
you have brought us to hope for what we believe,
so by his Resurrection
you may lead us to where you call.
Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The scene described in today's Gospel probably seemed to the people at the time to be Jesus' great moment of triumph. Finally, he has been accepted by large

crowds of people who call him "son of David" as he makes his way into Jerusalem. The Apostles too probably saw this as Jesus getting his just reward for the love he had shown to so many people. And, though they had been told by Jesus that he was going to suffer and die, that was far from their thoughts amidst all the celebrating. And yet, in a very short time, the tide was to turn against Jesus. The crowds, instead of praising him, will soon be baying for his blood and preferring a

common thief to him. Even his closest companions whom he had called and loved in a special way would deny him and run away when the going got tough. There are times for us too, when things seem to be going well that we want to thank and praise the Lord, when we promise to be faithful to him come what may. But it doesn't take much, especially when things appear to go 'wrong' for us, that we turn our backs on God and try to find comfort in the things of this world.



Recognising 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)



Challenges from urban cultures

75. We cannot ignore the fact that in cities human trafficking, the narcotics trade, the abuse and exploitation of minors, the abandonment of the elderly and infirm, and various forms of corruption and criminal activity take place. At the same time, what could be significant places of encounter and solidarity often become places of isolation and mutual distrust. Houses and neighbourhoods are more often built to isolate and protect than to connect and integrate. The proclamation of the Gospel will be a basis for restoring the dignity of human life in these contexts, for Jesus desires to pour out an abundance of life upon our cities (cf. Jn 10:10).



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JG

Tel: (01323) 841504

(Answerphone service available)

Email: ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com

Website: www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Special Collection on Friday for The Holy Places, Fasting and abstinence on Friday

Sat	8th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	Audrey Guest RIP
Sun	9th	9.00am	St George's -	Doreen Muriel Slater Brooks RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		3.00pm	St George's -	Stations of the Cross
Mon	10th	2.30pm	St George's -	2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	11th	10.00am	St George's -	Bill McIlroy RIP Followed by Burial of Ashes
Wed	12th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Declan Corbett RIP
Thur	13th	7.30pm	St George's -	Mass of the Last Supper Renewal of commitment by Ministers of Holy Communion
Fri	14th	3.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	Good Friday celebration of the Passion & Death of Our Lord
Fri	14th	3.00pm	St George's -	Good Friday celebration of the Passion & Death of Our Lord
Sat	15th	8.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	Special Intention

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Sun	16th	9.00am	St George's -	Fr Rory's Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' 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 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) 832577
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, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford, Dorothy Hanlon, Margaret Westcar, Brian Winter and Ann 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:**Responding to God's Grace and Blessings**

There is a special opportunity to support and indeed further develop the work of the Foodbank here in Hailsham, and also help to develop the work of Churches Together in Hailsham. The Link has long been the only resilient recognition of our Christian responsibility to work together. In recent years there has been little or no initiative though Women's World Day of Prayer has been honoured. On the horizon there is an initiative focused on Songs of Praise on Sunday 7th June. Further information will follow concerning these things.

This Sunday begins a most special time in the life of our faith. Palm Sunday focuses for us, an awareness that with great fanfare the people of Jerusalem went out to greet Jesus and to welcome Him for who He isTheir Saviour little realising what was in store for them. Scripture reveals to us that if they had not welcomed and greeted Him, the realms of nature "even the very stones would cry out".

Daily we realise, as indeed do endless ink in newspapers and hours on television, the powers of Evil. Only Jesus, the Son of God, born of Mary (hence our great celebration of Christmas) can overcome this power. So as we begin Holy Week, we welcome at St George's, this Sunday, the Jané Heidsiek Family into our Community, in preparation for Baptism of their three children on Easter Sunday. We commence our Service at St.Wilfrid's in the hall today. This week we make an extra special effort to involve ourselves in the events that will take place. On Thursday at St.George's we celebrate together the Last Supper and on Good Friday in both Churches we participate in the Passion and Death of Our Lord, which is especially honoured throughout the World. *Jr Rory*

Schubert's Mass in G - the South Downs Singers will be performing this beautiful Mass at St John's Church, Polegate, on Saturday 22nd April at 7.30 pm. The second part of the concert will be lighter and include a medley from The Sound of Music. Tickets are available at £8 from Clodagh at St Wilfrid's or Shirley at St George's or at the door on the night. This concert is in aid of the JPK project which provides supported living for adults with learning disabilities.

St George's Choir Practice: there will be two further practices before Easter Sunday. These will be on Thursday 13th April at 2pm and Saturday 15th April at 10am. Thank you for your commitment.

Holy Week and Easter Events in Polegate - Good Friday, The Walk of Witness, Polegate High Street, 10am.; **Easter Saturday,** Easter Hymns will be sung outside the Salvation Army in Polegate from 10.30am until 11.00am.; **Easter Sunday,** Sunrise Service at Butts Brow, at sunrise, followed by breakfast. Please contact Bnjmnprratt@aol.com, Maggiprratt@aol.com or telephone 10323 841 249 to confirm actual time and reserve your place at breakfast.

Holy Week, Mass Times at St George's

Palm Sunday, 9.00 am; Holy Thursday, 7.30 pm;
Good Friday, 3.00 pm

Thank You: Many thanks to the ladies at St George's who made soup for the Lenten lunches. The soups were much appreciated by all who attended and declared delicious. We raised about £200 for CAFOD as a result.

St George's: N.B. Tuesday 11th April - there will be no tea/coffee after Mass as the hall is booked all morning by an outside group.

Stations of the Cross On Sunday 9th April, Palm Sunday, the Stations at 3pm will be followed by Benediction and refreshments in the hall.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 9th April Stations followed by Benediction/Refreshments, St G's
Thur 13th April St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 2pm
Sat 15th April St George's Choir Practice, St George's Church, 10am
Fri 28th April St George's Leaven Group Mtg, St G's Hall, 6.15pm
Thur 11th May Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm

Holy Week Posters are available after Mass this weekend, supplied by the Knights of St Columba. Please take one if you can display it in a window.

The Knights of St Columba thank everyone who supported their Grand National Draw. Winners of horses have been notified. A full list of winners is available from Bob on 847014. The Knights meet on Monday 10th April at 3pm at Christ the King parish rooms. All Catholic men are invited to come. Further details from Bob.

Hailsham Choral: John Stainer, The Crucifixion. Good Friday, 14th April at 7pm. Hailsham Parish Church, Vicarage Road, Hailsham. Free concert with a retiring collection.

Private Prayer: St Wilfrid's Church will be open in Lent for private prayer on Tuesday evenings from 7 - 8pm and Thursday afternoons from 3 - 4pm.

Divine Mercy Sunday: The annual Holy Hour of Prayer and Adoration will be held at St Mary Magdalene's, Bexhill on Sea at 2.30pm on Sunday 23rd April. The Order of Service and details may be viewed on the displayed posters. As usual the devotions will be followed by complimentary afternoon tea in the hall.

Worth Retreat Day: Our thanks to everyone who attended the retreat day at Worth Abbey last weekend, your active participation made the day a great event as we celebrate Lent in anticipation of Easter. A special thanks to Teresa & Gerry Palmer, Ann Fielder and Jean Barham who worked so hard to put the occasion together and deliver the event on the day.

St Thomas a Becket School are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers in exchange for some valuable school resources. If you have any please leave them on a table in the porch.

COLLECTIONS: (1st/2nd April)

St George's	£TBC
Easter Flowers	£64.38
CAFOD	£70.50
Weekly aver./Monthly D/D	£176.50
St Wilfrid's	£223.72
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60
Attendances: St W's 122 St G's 86	
Thank you for your continued generosity	
If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.	

Bonus Ball:

Sat 1st April
No: 14
Sally O'Reilly

Wed 29th March
No: 29
Sally O'Reilly