

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;  
proclaim to the ends of the earth:  
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Cf. Is 48:20

**THE COLLECT**

Grant, almighty God,  
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion  
these days of joy,  
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,  
and that what we relive in remembrance  
we may always hold to in what we do.  
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.

8:5-8.14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

**PSALM**

Ps 65:1-7.16.20. R.v1

**R) Cry out with joy to God all the earth.**

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **(R)**

'Before you all the earth shall bow;  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!  
Come and see the works of God,  
tremendous his deeds among men. **(R)**

He turned the sea into dry land,  
they passed through the river dry-shod.  
Let our joy then be in him;  
he rules for ever by his might. **(R)**

Come and hear, all who fear God.  
I will tell what he did for my soul:  
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer  
nor withhold his love from me. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jn 14:23

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 14:15-21

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,  
that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,  
together with the sacrificial offerings,  
so that, purified by your graciousness,  
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Jn 14:15-16

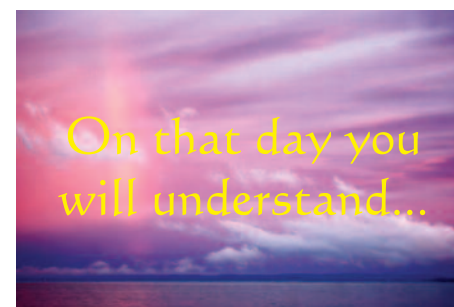
**If you love me, keep my commandments,  
says the Lord,  
and I will ask the Father and he will send  
you another Paraclete,  
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ,  
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament  
and pour into our hearts the strength of this  
saving food.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



It may be surprising to us to find that the longest psalm in the Book of Psalms, 118 or 9 – and it is a very long psalm – is a cry of love for and devotion to God's commandments. "*Oh how I love your law!*" the psalmist cries. "*Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on*

*my path.*" And again, "*Fury grips me when I see the wicked who abandon your Law... At midnight I rise to praise you for your upright judgements.*" The writer – or singer – is deeply aware that God's commandments are for the well-being and flourishing of His people; they are accompanied by promises of God's loving care for them. "*I shall live in all freedom because of your precepts*" and "*their recompense is eternal.*" How truly the psalmist spoke! Yet he

could not know how truly. It needed the Son of God to come as man to reveal to us the full wonder and glory of that "*recompense*". If we keep his commandments, which are those of his Father, Our Lord says, "*You will know that I am in the Father and you in me and I in you.*"

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

## THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EVANGELIZATION

### THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE PART

236. ... Pastoral and political activity alike seek to gather ... the best of each. There is a place for the poor and their culture, their aspirations and their potential. Even people who can be considered dubious on account of their errors have something to offer which must not be overlooked. It is the convergence of peoples who, within the universal order, maintain their own individuality; it is the sum total of persons within a society which pursues the common good, which truly has a place for everyone.



## The Sacrament of the Present Moment\*



## GOD IS AT WORK

God is weaving the tapestry of our lives, or in another metaphor, working like a painter one brushstroke at a time, or a carver one chisel mark at a time.

We must let God be God for us without being overly concerned about the finished product.

Doing God's will takes effort.

We can't just lie back and expect God to do everything for us. We must do our part too. If God inspires us to act then we must act. If not then we must be content to accept peacefully whatever God sends. Either we weave our tapestry or let God work on us with the divine chisel or paintbrush.

What we actually do doesn't count as much as the love with which we do it. Doing great and wonderful things isn't the nub of the matter. If we act as God wills then we attain perfection, whether great deeds are asked of us or not.

\*Jean Pierre de Caussade's Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence for everyone by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard and published by New City ISBN: 978-1-905039-11-1



# 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	16th	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	
Sun	17th	St George's -	Mr Sombers Intention
		St Wilfrid's -	
Mon	18th	St George's -	Mrs Evelyn South RIP
Tue	19th	St George's -	Douglas Booth RIP
Wed	20th	St Wilfrid's -	Mrs Margaret Malone RIP
Thur	21st	St George's -	<b>Ascension of the Lord</b> , Dr Ismay Crotty RIP
Fri	22nd	St Wilfrid's -	Joan Emerton RIP
Sat	23rd	St Wilfrid's -	Sheila Campbell RIP
		<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	
Sun	24th	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		St Wilfrid's -	

**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 Nursery School:** Tel 01323 725977 **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) 487212  
St George's & St Wilfrid's Finance Committee Treasurers Charles Piegrome & Monika Beaver  
Chairperson of the Finance Committee Stephen Murray  
**ALL CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE ABOVE VIA THE PRIEST'S HOUSE PLEASE**  
Polegate Hall Hire.....Tel: (01323) 504753  
Hailsham Hall Hire ..... Tel: (01323) 841504 - Mon, Wed, Fri Morning or email at above address  
Prayer Line .....Jean Barham-Wyatt Tel: (01323) 842824

#### CROSSLINK CHURCHES TOGETHER, HAILSHAM

#### POLEGATE CHURCHES TOGETHER

Contact: Margaret Piegrome 01323 870990  
Contact Care: 07900 823138

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** those who are unwell: Lily May, Edna Andrews, Juliette Lusted, Jennifer Piskac, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne Holt, Margaret, Lilian Summers, Tom Woodrow-Spencer, Dorothy Hanlon, Margaret Westcar, Angela & Michael Archer, Chris Neyenhuizen, Fr Rory, Letty Booth and Michael Copper.

**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**.  
Office Hours Monday 9am-1pm, Wednesday 8.45am-12.45pm & Friday 9am-12.30pm

### Deacon John Writes:

From Easter to Pentecost the readings all concentrate on the preaching of the Good News of salvation and on the promises Jesus made to his disciples, culminating with the promise that all would receive the Holy Spirit. This Sunday we hear about the Holy Spirit and how we can experience Him in our daily lives.

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles begins by describing how the Deacon, Philip, in Samaria, converted many of the Samaritans to Christianity and then how Peter and John were sent to follow this up through prayer and laying on of hands to bring the Holy Spirit to them.

The reading from the first letter of Peter reassures us that life is possible when we suffer in any way so long as we continue to live our Christian lives of love in the midst of any kind of suffering, be it from a virus or any other difficult situation.

The Gospel contains Jesus' promise to his disciples of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, and is part of the long "Farewell Discourse" near the end of John's Gospel. The Gospel tells us quite specifically that, providing we live as Jesus commands, the Holy Spirit will accompany us in all that we do in the name of Jesus - our faith will be nurtured, we will see Jesus in the poor, the sick and in all those in need, so enabling us to be healers of discord in our world. We are assured that we will never have to face any trial alone—even death—if we walk with Jesus. There is a sentence in the second Eucharistic Prayer when the priest holds his hands over the offerings and says: "Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ." It has only been during the lockdown that Tessa & I have actually noticed the word 'dewfall' at this point while listening to Mass!

Next Thursday is Ascension Day, the day on which Jesus was taken up to heaven. We can perhaps imagine him flying up from the land and vanishing into cloud in front of our eyes. Jesus invites all of us to prepare ourselves for a similar flight. Set our eyes towards heaven. Keep our hearts open to receive the Holy Spirit to help us achieve that goal. Surely that is what He is inviting, encouraging, helping us to do.

*Deacon John*

### Fr Rory Writes:

Once again from the Stanbrook Abbey Hymnal, a line stands out that expresses:

"The seed of Glory sown in man, will flower when we see your face"

After the early events following the crucifixion, the disciples were at a great loss. An awareness that He has Risen from the dead begins to spread, that He has gone before them into Galilee; and that it is from there that He will ascend into heaven. The situation is very difficult, and the forces that had Him crucified have not gone away. The words we read from the scriptures, in the divine office and our daily mass, highlight the issues; "He calls us out of darkness into His true light".

Our present circumstances highlighted by the closed churches, the great importance of the need to isolate and establish social distancing, in a strange way helps to draw us together. This was admirable, expressed in the Queen's address to the nation, as a most important part of the celebration of "Victory in Europe Day". Her words were memorable and will inspire for a long time to come. She captured what is best in the human spirit and that those who died, all that long time ago, would echo the sentiment that give value to their sacrifice the loss of so much life in the war.

Please God, a greater focus upon the family, and the local community may be one of the great fruits of this very difficult time. Times of trial capture what is best in the human spirit and may become a great blessing. For our parishes, when we are left to choose between partaking on screen or being present at our parish mass, may help us to establish the commitment to be involved and to truly belong within our parish community. At the same time there are always two sides to a coin. The options that will be available because of the advance in technology could benefit and enhance our world. It may reduce some of the necessity to travel and thereby help with global warming and allow different choices within the world of work.

Continued on the website.....

*Fr Rory*

### Foodbanks:

If you are still able to donate non-perishable food and money to the foodbanks over the coming months. There are opportunities to donate online, or our website to make this easier for people. Immediate food needs will probably change week to week. For more updates visit [www.hailsham.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.hailsham.foodbank.org.uk) or [www.eastbourne.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.eastbourne.foodbank.org.uk). Thank you.

### The Rosary:

The Rosary will be said every Monday at 2.30pm. Please join us in saying the rosary from your own homes to help us all stay connected.

### Joke of the Week

Lord Birkett, the English judge, said "I do not object to people looking at their watches when I am speaking. But I strongly object when they start shaking them to make certain they are still going."