

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were
made, alleluia.**

Cf. Ps 32:5-6

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
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

2:14. 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 22:1-6.R.v1

**R) The Lord is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R)**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R)**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R)**

Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently
when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ
suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way

he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jn 10:14

**I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

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: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:
'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



"Gates" play a large part in Scripture, both practically and metaphorically. The gates in ancient cities were strongly built and strongly guarded; they were the vulnerable areas of the city's defences. They were also places of meeting, in particular of the "elders" -

leaders and senior citizens – and therefore places of discussion and decision and of honour. In today's Gospel passage Jesus speaks of himself as "the gate" of a sheepfold. This is metaphor, of course, but as metaphor it is strongly linked to the role of Jerusalem as "*the City of God*" and its mystical description in the Book of Revelation, as having "*twelve gates...over which were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel*", forerunners of the twelve Apostles and the

Church. This Heavenly City has no temple. "*The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the Temple.*" Here, the "*Lamb*" represents Jesus as the Saviour sacrificed for the flock and therefore its head. The Church, one with its Head, is the "*gate*" to the eternal city, Heaven.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EVANGELIZATION THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE PART

235. The whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts. There is no need, then, to be overly obsessed with limited and particular questions. We constantly have to broaden our horizons and see the greater good which will benefit us all. But this has to be done without evasion or uprooting. We need to sink our roots deeper into the fertile soil and history of our native place, which is a gift of God.

The Sacrament of the Present Moment*

WEAVING THE TAPESTRY OF OUR LIFE

When a tapestry is being stitched the stitches are made on the reverse side of the canvas. The final pattern is only revealed when the stitching is completed and the design seen in all its beauty right side up.

Surrendering ourselves to God moment by moment is like making a stitch on the reverse side of a tapestry. One stitch at a time is one more step towards completing the full design that we shall see only in eternity.

Our tapestry is made moment by moment, stitch by stitch. There is nothing here outside the capacity of anyone.

Fidelity to duty is within the reach of all, and on it is built the most perfect holiness.

*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

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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	2nd	St Wilfrid's -	Holy Souls' Intention
		Fourth 'Good Shepherd' Sunday of Easter	
Sun	3rd	St George's -	Margaret Madams RIP
		St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	4th	St George's -	Mary McGrory RIP
Tue	5th	St George's -	Mary Jenner RIP
Wed	6th	St Wilfrid's -	Winifred O'Donnell RIP
Thur	7th	St George's -	Pat Burke RIP
Fri	8th	St Wilfrid's -	Our Lady's Intention
Sat	9th	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		Fifth Sunday of Easter	
Sun	10th	St George's -	Lil & Bill Parkinson RIP
		St Wilfrid's -	Deacon Finton Phelan Intention

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 LineJean 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, Evelyn South, 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 & Douglas 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:

If you travel around in Jordan you will see shepherds everywhere. They are part of the landscape. The Bedouins who tend the sheep sleep on hillsides under tents; they stand watch in large empty fields while the sheep graze on weeds and dust and sand. Your vehicle is sure to come to a halt in the middle of the road while a shepherd leads his flock across the road. One shepherd is Mohammed. He is in his early 20s, shy. He was asked how long he'd been a shepherd.

"Four years," he said and added: "it's alright, but it's boring."

It's not that exciting for the sheep, either. They aren't pure lambs with "fleece as white as snow." They all look as white as mud—hardly the image one gets from the nursery rhyme.

Mr Google on the Internet, informed me about a shepherd in Italy named Fabrizio Innocenzi who oversees about 60 sheep in the hills of Roviano, 40 miles east of Rome. He said that sheep actually need a shepherd, because they have no natural hierarchy, no leader of the flock. "The sheep learn to trust the shepherd", Innocenzi said, "as they hear and understand the voice, the smell, the behaviour of the person who is looking after them every day". He said "a shepherd needs to be someone who is in tune with nature, decisive and willing to bear the long hours, inclement weather, hard work and sacrifice—and do it out of devotion to his flock. A good shepherd should not be afraid of anything."

Doesn't that describe Christ?

In the gospel for this Sunday Jesus says to us "I am the good shepherd, a good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." This Easter season, with the fragrance of Easter flowers still in the air and multiple alleluias we cannot forget the hard wood of Calvary. We cannot forget how this good shepherd laid down his life for us. He didn't do it because we have "fleece as white as snow." Far from it. We are as muddy and as ordinary and as unclean as those sheep in Jordan. We aren't always beautiful.

But the Good Shepherd, who is Christ, loves us anyway. He calls us to love one another as the shepherd does his sheep. This is our challenge. If we are to be imitators of Christ, we must be willing to be more than sheep. We must also be shepherds—good shepherds to each other and good shepherds of our faith. We must be unafraid, devoted, steadfast. We need to support those who are frail...nurture those who are weak...lead back those who are lost...comfort those who are afraid...love those who are covered with dust from the journey.

This is what a good shepherd does.

This is what Christ has done for us.

This is what we must do for each other.



Deacon John

Fr Rory Writes:

Last year my sister, Mary Harrington had her book 'A Mother's Love' published. I believe her book brings us great re-assurance, hope and comfort that God personally knows us and turns all things to our good. He is the divine author of life, so we can truly place our trust in Him. As her book reveals, it was from a place of great anguish, because of our mother's death, that she received a great grace.

As she expressed it, one month after Mam's death I was feeling pretty low. I had begun to come away to my own room for a quiet time to pray, now including praying to my guardian angel with more care and conviction. Then I would breathe in slowly and peacefully asking for heaven's help in dealing with my grief. On one such evening feeling rather bereft, I expressed a great desire to communicate with my guardian angel. What took place next was quite extraordinary, a really great grace. I had hoped that Mary would come and speak for herself, but the Coronavirus has prevented that. Please God, her visit will happen sooner rather than later. For all of us a great focus for all our prayer during this time of confinement, must be for a vaccine that will overcome this virus.

I often recall our family home where the Catholic faith was very much part of life, the daily Rosary and Sunday Mass were an essential part of this. This was also reflected in daily life. A visitor on entering the house with the words "God Bless the House" and with the response "God save all here" were normal greetings in life. Another particular expression coming with my maiden Auntie Mai coming with sad news ended, "no cross, no crown", if she turned up with good news "wasn't that providence, Maura".

Continued on our website.....

Fr Rory

Our Website

Please don't forget to explore our Church website to watch live Masses from across England, Ireland and Scotland, including Masses and Sermons from our very own Pope.

We also are showing photos of the activities our community have been doing whilst we are confined at home. If you would like to share any photos on our website, please send them into us using the church email, with a note saying that you consent to any photos that you have sent to us being displayed on the church website. Many thanks and stay safe.