

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**These are the ones who, living in the flesh,
planted the Church with their blood;
they drank the chalice of the Lord
and became the friends of God.**

THE COLLECT

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion. 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

12:1-11

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' - and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true,' he said, 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps 33:2-9. R.v5

R) From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R)**

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R)**

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R)**

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

4:6-8. 17-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

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

Mt 16:18

You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.**And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.****Alleluia!****GOSPEL**

Matthew 16:13-19

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord,
accompany the sacrificial gift
that we present to your name for consecration,
and may their intercession make us devoted to you
in celebration of the sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Mt 16:16,18

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church..****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant us, O Lord,
who have been renewed by this Sacrament,
so to live in the Church,
that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread
and in the teaching of the Apostles,
we may be one heart and one soul,
made steadfast in your love.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Strange as it may seem to us today, knowing what we know about Jesus, the Apostles did not immediately recognise Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." They were attracted by this amazing man; they felt loved by

him and wanted to follow him, but it took a long time for the penny to drop regarding exactly who Jesus was. In today's Gospel, Simon Peter, speaks up and identifies Jesus for who he really is. Jesus also knows that Peter can only have known this through divine revelation – through the Father. And it is because the Father has revealed to Peter the true identity of Jesus that, there and then, Jesus gives him the "keys of the kingdom of heaven." From a purely human point of view, Peter would not seem to be the ideal candidate to be the head of the newly-founded

Church. He is impulsive and, what is worse, denies Jesus, despite having promised he never do so. The fact that Jesus chose someone like that to lead the new-born community and to invest so much "power" in such a flawed person, shows how much Jesus sees the inner heart of the person rather than his external appearance.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EVANGELIZATION IV. SOCIAL DIALOGUE AS A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE

239 (Cont'd) In a culture which privileges dialogue as a form of encounter, it is time to devise a means for building consensus and agreement while seeking the goal of a just, responsive and inclusive society. The principal author, the historic subject of this process, is the people as a whole and their culture, and not a single class, minority, group or elite. We do not need plans drawn up by a few for the few, or an enlightened or outspoken minority which claims to speak for everyone. It is about agreeing to live together, a social and cultural pact.



The Sacrament of the Present Moment*



HEAVENLY FOOD FOR HEAVENLY PEOPLE

It is useless to stuff ourselves greedily with accounts of the lives of the saints, tomes of spirituality, God-talk and so on, if we neglect the present moment in which is all the nourishment we need.

Other things can only be useful if they are according to God's present will. They are a means to an end, not an end in themselves.

Whatever God gives is what we must want to have.

Manna from heaven comes only a day at a time. Let us feed upon the will of God moment by moment and we shall not need to seek out other food of our own choosing.

Holiness is integral to belonging to God. If we want to be holy we must accept all that God sees fit to give us without tiring our minds with subtle reasoning.

What food can we eat if the food God gives seems tasteless? Do we know better than God what will nourish us? Surely not!

Revere God present in your heart NOW. You have all you need if you only trust in God's leading and feeding.

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

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	27th	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles	
Sun	28th	St George's -	Billy & Alan O'Rourke RIP
		St Wilfrid's -	
Mon	29th	St George's -	John & Nellie O'Neil RIP
Tue	30th	St George's -	Margaret Boots Intention
Wed	1st	St Wilfrid's -	Bridie Ginn's Intention
Thur	2nd	St George's -	In Thanksgiving
Fri	3rd	St Wilfrid's -	Holy Souls'
Sat	4th	St Wilfrid's -	Agnes Chetwynd RIP
		Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Sun	5th	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 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, 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:

Last Sunday was Fathers' Day and I found in a little book of daily prayer this prayer for Fathers:

Creator of All Life, as we honour the good, righteous and untiring efforts of fathers, we pray for the men who gave us life and those who served as father figures, extending their love to us. We thank you for fathers who have served as examples of how to live the faith, and we pray also for fathers who have left this earthly life, that they may dwell in heaven with you forever. Amen. (Terence Hegarty)

The common theme of today's readings is the work God gives us to do as the followers of Jesus and can be summed up through our love of God and for our brothers and sisters through hospitality, generosity, commitment, and charity.

In the first reading, we see, the welcome given to the prophet Elijah by an elderly, childless woman and her husband who lived in Shunem. Shunem or Shunaam was a small village mentioned in the Bible in the possession of the Tribe of Issachar. It was located near the Jezreel Valley, north of Mount Gilboa. Shunaam is where the Philistines camped when they fought Saul, the first king of Israel. It was the hometown of Abishag, King David's companion in his old age.

In the Gospel Jesus assures his disciples that whoever shows them hospitality will be blessed. Those who receive Jesus receive the One who sent him. Also, those who help the "little ones," (believers) and the poor, the sick, and the needy will be amply rewarded. We, as individuals and as a community, should actively look for opportunities to be hospitable. Maybe hospitality is offered through a kind word to a stranger – or even a smile. A kind smile or a "hello" to someone waiting with us in a supermarket queue may be the only kindness that person encounters all day. We become fully alive as Christians through the generous giving of ourselves. The most important action we can do is that of giving of ourselves to people, first and foremost, in the way we think about them, for from that will flow the ways we speak to them and about them, forgive their failings, encourage them, show them respect, console them, and offer them help. Such generosity reflects warmth radiating from the very love of God.

The following story is adapted from a story found on the Internet at snopes.com.

The special joy of nature-loving boy Howard Kelly was hiking great distances and studying animals in the wild. On a walking trip, up through Northern Pennsylvania one spring, young Kelly stopped by a small farmhouse for a drink of cool spring water. A little girl answered his knock at the door, and instead of water, she brought him a glass of fresh milk. He thanked her profusely and went on his way. After years of medical studies, he became Dr. Kelly. Dr. Howard Kelly (1858-1943) was a distinguished physician who was one of the four founding doctors of Johns Hopkins, the first medical research university in the U.S. and, arguably, one of the finest hospitals anywhere. In 1895, he established in that school the department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics. Over the course of his career, Doctor Kelly advanced the sciences of gynaecology and surgery, both as a teacher and as a practitioner. Some years later, that same little girl from Northern Pennsylvania who had given him that glass of milk years ago, came to him for an operation. Just before she left for home, fearful of a huge bill, her bill was brought into the room and across its face was written in a bold hand, "Paid in full for one glass of milk." That was Dr. Kelly's style of showing gratitude and hospitality. While he charged the rich patients substantial fees, he provided his services free-of-charge to the less fortunate. By his conservative estimate, in 75% of his cases he neither sought nor received a fee.

The Scriptures this weekend challenge us all to practice hospitality by seeing Christ in others.

Deacon John

Fr Rory Writes:

Having plenty of time each day to hear the word of God, and to celebrate the Mass knowing that it is "The Lord's Supper", bringing home in a vivid way that "On the night Jesus was betrayed, He carried out this action to be a memorial forever for our salvation".

The greeting from the Gospel "Alleluia Alleluia" accepts the message for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking "Alleluia". From the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5.12-15 - we know sin entered the world and spread through the whole human race. If it is certain that through one man's fault, so many have died; it is now more certain that divine grace coming through one man, Jesus Christ came to so many as an abundant free gift.

On Saturday morning, a meeting with one of our parishioners as part of planning preparation for opening our churches, was an expression of our experience of this time on account of the coronavirus. As in the larger world of business, or for our daily world of life, there are two important elements:

Survive, survive, survive.

To prepare for a fresh start, a new beginning.

So first it is important to isolate, to protect, to safeguard, to be responsible. Secondly, prepare for a future that will be different. So many things have changed everywhere, and people will have more options and choices. It will be important to appreciate the great gift that our faith brings. The opening of our churches for prayer gives us an important focus. Jesus present in the Holy eucharist in the tabernacle waiting to welcome us back, always present, waiting for us and our attention. To listen to our prayers and to hear our afflictions. So please God, this will begin, and as time goes on, we can adapt to our circumstances. So far anything to do with churches and schools has been slowly, slowly. By necessity as the business world resumes, yes problems may increase, but the need to return to work is essential. I have had my first enquiry about a wedding and a baptism and the question of First Holy Communions, a welcome change from funerals.

Fr Rory