

Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

17th Sunday in OT (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Cf. Ps 67: 6-7, 36

**God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his
house;
he himself gives might and strength to
his people.**

FIRST READING:

I Kings 3:5-12

*You have asked for a discerning judgement
for yourself.*

PSALM:

Ps 118:57.72.76-77.127-130. R.v97

R) Lord how I love your law!

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.

The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **(R)**

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.

Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **(R)**

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.

That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **(R)**

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.

The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **(R)**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:28-30

*God intended us to become true images of
his Son.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jn 15:15
**I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Ps 102: 2

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.**



GOSPEL REFLECTION



spiritual truths. Treasure in a field, pearls, are of great immediate value – yet they point beyond themselves to “the pearl” of eternal value, to treasure in Heaven. Not that our bodies are ever to be cast off as redundant; no, we are what we are and as ‘rational angels’ we shall finally enjoy with the angels “a new Heaven and a new earth”.

A traditional description of the kind of beings we humans are, is that we are ‘rational (ie.thinking) animals’. However, Bishop William Bernard Ullathorne OSB, the first bishop of Birmingham at the restoration of the hierarchy in 1850, considered otherwise. He thought we could more accurately be described as ‘rational angels’; that is, spiritual intelligent beings that, unlike the angels, gain their knowledge of God and of spiritual realities by means of reasoning from the bodily, material, animal, realities of our universe. These material realities can, of course, because of sin, come to seem like the **ONLY REALITY**. Therefore God, in his mercy, became man and by his teaching, by his parables, draws us back by means of bodily things to

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



IV. SOCIAL DIALOGUE AS A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE

DIALOGUE BETWEEN FAITH, REASON AND SCIENCE

243. The Church has no wish to hold back the marvellous progress of science. On the contrary, she rejoices and even delights in acknowledging the enormous potential that God has given to the human mind. Whenever the sciences – rigorously focused on their specific field of inquiry – arrive at a conclusion which reason cannot refute, faith does not contradict it. Neither can believers claim that a scientific opinion which is attractive but not sufficiently verified has the same weight as a dogma of faith...



St Teresa's Way of Perfection*



DETACHMENT

Detachment means the freedom to love God above all, without caring unduly about the other things that so often take up our time and our energy – such as thoughts of what we own or want to own, the state of our health, our food, our leisure . . . all the many ‘nothings’ that keep us entangled in pursuits of no lasting value.

However, freedom from material things is only a first step. When it comes down to it what really matters is detaching ourselves from ourselves – and that's no easy matter. It's fine to talk about or write about, but putting it into practice is far more difficult.

What about the way we get entangled in all the business of our extended families? ... God is perfectly able to take care of them and, in any case, they may prefer to manage their own affairs without our help! I don't count parents, brothers and sisters in this stricture. We are bound to them and they to us by ties of blood that demand our attention and care. Apart from that, let us love those God gives us as our life-companions, whoever they may be, and not meddle with the affairs of everyone who is only slightly related and who won't thank us for our busy-bodying.

*St Teresa's Way of Perfection for Everyone by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. ISBN: 978-0-904287-78-3 www.newcity.co.uk



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE



Eastbourne Road
Polegate

Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JG
Tel: (01323) 841504 or Deacon John (01323) 486280
(Answerphone service available on both numbers)
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

Sat	25th		St Wilfrid's -	
			Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Sun	26th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Mass in Honour of Our Lady for Ella O'Donoghue
Mon	27th		St George's -	
Tue	28th	10.00am	St George's -	Joan Lodrick RIP
Wed	29th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Madeleine Waters Intention
Thur	30th	10.00am	St George's -	Mr & Mrs Sweeney RIP
Fri	31st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Marianne Patel RIP
Sat	1st		St Wilfrid's -	
			Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Sun	2nd	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Harry Holt RIP

Booking for St George's Church: Please ring 07808 175455 for Sunday, 870990 for Tuesday & 504753 for Thursday.

Booking for St Wilfrid's Church: Go to our website www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk, click the link "Book a Mass" on the righthand side of the front page, select your Mass and follow the instructions, or contact the office on 841504.

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

Fr Rory Writes:

Truly important is social distancing. Whether we express this as the new normal, it is an essential part of keeping safe. While the virus is a constant threat, we must be on our guard and carefully adhere to safety. Be alert, or as I would prefer, be responsible. For me to be responsible addresses the situation better. The great gift, the great good is our faith. A very important moment within this is - "the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom". Note the beginning because fear can be a great gift. But it is also important to acknowledge and recognise evil. Evil can use fear and then truly abuse it. Lives can be destroyed by fear, and fear can create situations which cause great suffering, affliction and sometimes death.

We have reached an important moment in living with the coronavirus. Please God, there may be light appearing at the end of the tunnel, with the gift of a vaccine that would be a great help. There is no guarantee of this, so living with the present situation is now a great priority and may be a great opportunity. Lockdown was such an experience for me and for all of us. It will certainly influence, please God, in a good way for the remainder of life. The memory of spring watch; thank God for its blessing and please God, it will have a good influence in the future of our planet.

This is a time of great challenge for our church and please God, a great opportunity, or the church will grind to a halt. The last deanery meetings, the aged profile of the clergy, the funding of the Diocese, are real causes for concern. What will be the future for our church?

For it to be bright and good, first it is not the church but our church. For a long time now there has been a crying need for a new generation in the life of the church. In the coming months and years we will provide a new generation. As we celebrate the liturgy and as we continue to skype and locate other sources of nurture for our faith we are beginning to build. Our website is a very important instrument and please God, with care and attention it will become very fit for purpose. A very special thank you to Sophie for all that she is doing to lead the way. The life of the children's liturgy is also an important new beginning that needs to develop to grow and blossom.

Fr Rory

Some thoughts about life after death by Cardinal Leo Suenens:

"If nothing was to be expected after death, for me life would have lost sense and meaning. I cannot understand either suffering or love if I cannot see both in the light of eternity. Suffering cannot be without meaning. Suffering cannot be just nonsense. Let us imagine a child in the womb of his mother. Let us suppose for a moment that that unborn child should become conscious before birth. What a chaos of impressions that child would have. It would all seem so meaningless. But all that apparent nonsense receives a meaning on the day the little child is born, and sees the sunlight. Then it appears clearly that every moment of his growing was a novitiate for life, preparation for the future.

If life here on earth is a preparation, then I come out of darkness, and see a ray of sunshine in all that happens to me. In the same way, I cannot understand real love without the perspective of eternity. True love involves, in the heart of each of us, that love will last for ever and ever. Every song of love will have some way of expressing that 'I will love you always'.

But, of course, we wish to have at least a glimpse of that future, and to get some idea about where we go from here.

The question was put to a philosopher when he was dying: 'what do you feel now?' His answer was: 'An immense curiosity.'

I hope my answer will be: 'An immense confidence in God's love.' I meditate very often upon the words of Saint Theresa: 'in Heaven everybody will smile at each other.' Think of that. Go into the streets of any city, go to any airport or any railway station, and look for a while at the faces of the people running through those places. Look at the faces. It is so rare to see a smile. Everybody is in a hurry.

Everybody is busy with his own business. Nobody has time to really look at each other. We are millions who live in the same city or the same street, but without any human communication.

Life after death, for a Christian, means rest and peace with God, rest and peace with all our brothers and sisters, known and unknown".

Joke of the Week:

The rich businessman Raymond goes to meet his new son-in-law to be, Ben. He says to Ben, "So, tell me Ben, my boy, what you do?" "I study Theology," he replies. "But Ben, you are going to marry my daughter! How are going to feed and house her?" "No problem," says Ben, "I study Theology, and it says God will provide." "But you will have children! How will you educate them?" asks Raymond. "No problem," says Ben, "I study Theology, and it says God will provide." When Raymond returns home, his wife anxiously asks him what Ben is like. "Well," says Raymond, "he's a lovely boy. I only just met him, and he already thinks I'm God."

CAFOD - DEC CORONAVIRUS APPEAL:

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched a nationwide Coronavirus appeal on Tuesday 14 July. CAFOD is an active member of the Committee and are currently giving support to communities in 26 countries with the £1.6 million they have raised so far, to help prevent the spread of the virus and limit the impact of hunger that lockdowns have caused.

The need is immense, particularly in countries where there is conflict and displacement of whole communities.

If you would like to know more about the response to coronavirus that they are making globally on behalf of the Catholic community please visit <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>.