

Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

18th Sunday in OT (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Ps 69: 2, 6

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-3

Come and eat.

PSALM: Ps 144:8-9.15-18. R.v16

**R) You open wide your hand, O Lord,
you grant our desires.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R)**

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **(R)**

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R)**

SECOND READING:

Romans: 8:35.37-39

*No created thing can ever come between us
and the love of God made visible in Christ.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Mt 4:4
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

They all ate as much as they wanted.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Wis 16: 20

**You have given us, O Lord, bread from
heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness
in every taste.**



GOSPEL REFLECTION



At the shock of the murder of John the Baptist, Jesus and his disciples try to escape from the crowds and find time by themselves; as we hear, they fail: the crowds are there on the far shore to greet them. Someone other than Jesus might have turned the boat and headed away; but not Jesus. Jesus' compassionate heart will not allow him to do so; he stays, heals their sick and teaches. This same compassionate heart is the heart of their Creator: the Son of the One who brought them into being and created the world, the universe, to be their home, to provide them with the necessities of their bodily lives, sustenance for their pilgrimage to

their Heavenly homeland. So now, the Son who has come on earth precisely to enable the fulfilment of that pilgrimage, uses their temporary bodily hunger to increase their faith in him. He makes his first symbolic promise that he will give them his life, his very self, as eternal food, making himself totally their 'way' to the Father.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



IV. SOCIAL DIALOGUE AS A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE

ECUMENICAL DIALOGUE

244. Commitment to ecumenism responds to the prayer of the Lord Jesus that "they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). The credibility of the Christian message would be much greater if Christians could overcome their divisions and the Church could realize "the fullness of catholicity proper to her in those of her children who, though joined to her by baptism, are yet separated from full communion with her".¹⁹² We must never forget that we are pilgrims journeying alongside one another.

192 Second Vatican Council, Decree on Ecumenism Unitatis Redintegratio, 4.



St Teresa's Way of Perfection*

HUMILITY



Detachment from persons is one level of detachment from self. The next level is even more difficult and it is inseparable from humility. How can we attain the freedom we need to serve God when our first concern is ourselves: our health, our self-image, our worries about what other people think of us?

As for penance . . . Spectacular feats of renunciation are not what count. The daily round, quietly and regularly embraced with love, yields plenty to be going on with.

Even so, we need to be careful about over-indulging ourselves. You know what the body is like - give it an inch and it takes a mile! . . . Learn to suffer a

little without broadcasting the fact to all and sundry. If we practice silence in this way, we will gradually gain the mastery over ourselves and be ready to offer our whole lives to God. But, as I've already said, it isn't the exterior thing that is the most important - the interior is what counts. Watch your thoughts as well as your actions, . . . Think about the passion of Christ. Did Jesus deserve what he got? Never! And you want to be his follower only when things go your way? Forget it! As for excusing yourself by saying 'I'm no angel' or 'I'm no saint' - too true! But that's not an excuse that holds water. You are called to holiness along with everyone else, called to be a saint. So get down to it in earnest.

*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	1st		St Wilfrid's -	
			Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Sun	2nd	9.00am	St George's -	Tim Piegrome 27th Anniversary RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	3rd		St George's -	
Tue	4th	10.00am	St George's -	Chris Browne RIP
Wed	5th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Billy & Alan O'Rourke RIP
Thur	6th	10.00am	St George's -	Deacon John & Tessa's Intention
Fri	7th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	In Thanksgiving JKD
Sat	8th		St Wilfrid's -	
			Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Sun	9th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Patrick McKeon 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:

With the help of God:

Yes, please God:

As we move forward after lockdown; yes, to keep safe is a very important priority, but not the only one. The words "By their fruits you shall know them" comes from the mouth of Jesus. One of the great fruits of lockdown for me was "Spring Watch" and its offshoots, a carbon freer world, less plastic in the rivers and seas, a litany could be underway, with please God, a better outlook for the future of the planet.

The life of our church, this too cries out for a response in our time. Here personally I feel a real affliction as I recall the early stages of my journey and the hope that was there at the beginning. The time of lockdown has given me plenty of time to reflect, and it has brought home to me deep rooted failures and weaknesses, which will not disappear from me by any magic thinking. So, back to the beginning with the help of God, I will change and grow up.

With our two churches we have many a great challenge before us. Our first response it that we are two communities, and please God, we will become two sides to the same coin. I have always tried to help this, with an awareness that a body is best when made up of many parts working together for the good of all. When the virus sprung we were struck with the same weakness of most. Our age profile meant that there was a great shortage of help, and so many of the old reliable's were rendered out of action. A great thank you to those who are stepping up to the mark as we return to church. This is just one small step in the right direction.

It is now very important to establish these small steps. Many of our elderly parishioners are refraining from returning to our church at the moment, as they receive nourishment for their faith in many ways, especially Mass on T.V. and Skype. If we had young ministers of Holy Communion to take them communion, this would be one of the steps in the right direction. I also want to encourage them to make arrangements with me, so that I could take Holy Communion to them.

A suggestion some time ago now, when garden centres were first opening, was a visit to our Garden of Remembrance. This had some very special moment of grace. Our First Holy Communion preparation has been among the casualties and needs special attention. A meeting of our Parish Finance Committee will take place, please God, next Thursday evening, and please lots of prayers for this very important event. With the help of God we may have a fresh lease of life.



Deacon John Writes:

Recently we have had several readings from the prophet Jeremiah. On Tuesday he talked about the destruction around him including dead bodies, starving people and sin. We see plenty of this nowadays in the world and like us he weeps but at the same time he does not despair. He turns to God. The psalm on Tuesday when the psalmist sings "O Lord, deliver us" must be our prayer too. We have all seen the news and heard our friends describing one tragedy or sad story from their world. These cause much pain and distress to us and to others and we should all heed Jeremiah's advice and turn to God. In doing this we are accepting in ourselves our need for God. If we listen we might get a message from Him telling us not to cry tears but instead to carry out some acts of love and kindness to someone in need.

The next day we were reminded in Luke's story of Martha and Mary to keep things in balance, to play our part in what we do and not look down on those who don't appear to be doing anything. On Friday we heard of three stories of rejection, which was appropriate for the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola as he repeatedly told those around him to "find God in all things" - In beauty as well as in loss and rejection. Let us pray that we will listen to God speaking to us through everything we do and say, thereby speaking His word to all. Next Sunday we hear Paul answer the question "What will separate us from the love of Christ?" The answer is, of course - "Nothing". The same statement that is, of course, true for everyone - saint and sinner alike - and we must love them all.

With my love for you all.



Poem:

Saint George's church is open now for masses to be said, (Weeks of planning had occurred before this went ahead !)
Let's hope parishioners realise the work by parish teams. To get the church open again (not as easy as it seems)
Please listen to the ushers then and hope we'll all keep clear. Advice and sense should help us all, the VIRUS maybe near!!
So let us thank the volunteers who've kept the church on track, and maybe soon with Gods dear help ,the FAMILY will be back

Rosalie Burke
Poet Laureate Polegate!

Hailsham Foodbank:

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the foodbank team in Hailsham. The role is part-time (15 hours a week) looking after the operations side of the foodbank. If you would like to find out more please find the application pack on our website
<https://hailsham.foodbank.org.uk/news/>