

Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

23rd Sunday in OT (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Ps 118: 137, 124

**You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.**

FIRST READING:

Ezekiel 33:7-9

If you do not speak to the wicked man, I will hold you responsible for his death.

PSALM:

Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v8

R) O that today you would listen to his voice!

Harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R)

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R)

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' (R)

SECOND READING:

Romans 13:8-10

Love is the answer to every one of the commandments.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jn 17:17

**Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL:

Matthew 18:15-20

If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Cf. Ps 41: 2-3

**Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.**



GOSPEL REFLECTION



The very last line of today's Gospel is easy to gloss over or see as something purely symbolic. In fact, it is a huge gift which Jesus leaves - he is promising to be spiritually present in our midst. All that is required is for two or three (or more) to meet in his name. Until the Second Vatican Council, this promise of Jesus' presence had been largely overlooked. After Vatican II, the Church became more aware of Jesus' invitation to be united in his name, so as to have him present in our midst. The Council recognised the Church, not as just the hierarchy, but as the 'People of God'. What Pope Francis has been trying to do from the first day of his Papacy, is to reinforce the reality of the 'People of God', and the fact that many of the current problems in the Church are

due to the fact that the emphasis has been on the clergy. This has led to a culture of clericalism, a culture which Francis is trying, with great difficulty, to eradicate. The beauty of Jesus' promise to be in our midst, is that it for everyone, ordained and lay, male, female, old and young, Catholic and Protestant. The duty of all Christians is, first and foremost, to love each other. The more we are able to do that, with Jesus present in our midst, the problems of the Church will find a solution.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



IV. SOCIAL DIALOGUE AS A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE

RELATIONS WITH JUDAISM

247. We hold the Jewish people in special regard because their covenant with God has never been revoked, for "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable" (Rom 11:29). The Church, which shares with Jews an important part of the sacred Scriptures, looks upon the people of the covenant and their faith as one of the sacred roots of her own Christian identity (cf. Rom 11:16-18). As Christians, we cannot consider Judaism as a foreign religion; nor do we include the Jews among those called to turn from idols and to serve the true God (cf. 1 Thes 1:9). With them, we believe in the one God who acts in history, and with them we accept his revealed word.

St Teresa's Way of Perfection*

MENTAL PRAYER

Mental prayer has nothing to do with keeping the lips closed.

If I speak to God, consciously remembering I am in God's presence and thinking of the words I am saying, then I am praying mentally with mind and voice as one.

When you pray, think of the One you are addressing and think of who you yourself are. Don't take a merely casual approach. Use your minds! Couples who are in love want to know all they can about each other. If you love Jesus, then try to discover more about him. Don't speak to him when thinking about other things as if this didn't matter. Understand Jesus. Understand yourself.

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

Give God the time you have decided to give without reservation. Don't be like someone who offers a friend a gift and then tries to take it back. That's barefaced meanness. Time devoted to God is meant to be for God alone. Keep that intention firm.

If we fight with the same determination we shall get what we want in the end. In fact we think it will be hard when actually we experience joy and the gift of friendship along the way. God is good. Once we taste this goodness we find the courage to keep going, realising that Jesus has actually paid the price for us anyway. Even in this life we receive a hundredfold. We ask and are given what we ask for as Jesus promised.



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	5th		St Wilfrid's -	
		Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Sun	6th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Norman & Angela Wright
Mon	7th		St George's -	
Tue	8th	10.00am	St George's -	Pat Burke RIP
Wed	9th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Addy De Sousa RIP
Thur	10th	10.00am	St George's -	Harry Holt RIP
Fri	11th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	12th		St Wilfrid's -	
		Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Sun	13th	9.00am	St George's -	Rosina & Michael Wilson's Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention

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, Angela & Michael Archer, Chris Neyenhuizen, 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:

Our Way Ahead

Providence provided me with this prayer for it:-

Heavenly Father, give us the bravery of St George, to stand up for the truth and the glory of God
that we have seen in the face of Jesus Christ.
Give us the strength to overcome, in our lives and in the world,
all that is contrary to your rule of justice and love.
Help us to be good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind; Let the oppressed go free, and proclaim the good news of God's favour and Jubilee
Amen

The RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Many years ago there was some initiative to place this at the heart of Catholic Life in our parishes. Professor Fr Seamus Ryan was a great proponent of this when we were in our seminary, and in my early years as a priest this was a key focus for me; something very worthwhile to bring to the parish.

After my early years as a curate I was happy to be appointed to a parish team ministry in St Pauls Parish, Haywards Heath. But within a couple of years of that appointment, the diocese introduced the Renew Programme, which also clashed with a newly introduced endeavour to have a structured process in place to develop ecumenical dialogue, and to improve working relationships between the churches. Unfortunately the Renew Programme and process was very patchy at best. After a number of years it became very clear that we did not have the support of our Bishop, and so the team ministry sadly came to an end.

Please God, the coronavirus will come to an end and the situation that we will be left with will be very challenging indeed. In the wider context there is reason for real anxiety about how many will return to church, and at this time, there is an expectation that it will not be in the same numbers. I also believe in other situations the numbers will be larger..

Our way ahead is now what we might call "the new normal". Our children are back at school and many are very pleased to be back. The next horizon I would normally highlight is the Feast of Christ our King; the end of the church's year. In time I believe this will become a great Feast Day, but certainly not this year. So our next highlight will be Christmas. I do not expect that things will have recovered enough by then so that we will be able to gather together to celebrate Christmas. But I do think it presents us with an important opportunity to develop our liturgies so that they will become a greater blessing and help us to grow as communities of faith. In fact, please God, a real bonus, a fresh life line that may bring us great blessings in the future. The reality of the coronavirus guidelines has given great emphasis to being over seventy. This calls for a true sense of discernment and this must get mature positive consideration. The fruits of this discernment process, like all others is in the outcome. So with gratitude for all that the over seventies have contributed, which calls for a new generation, let us all bear great fruits; fruits that will last.

Returning to the sadness of the end of our priests' team ministry, which I had hoped would lead to great development in the life of our parish then, through a focus being placed upon eucharistic communities. As priests we had particular responsibilities. One of my responsibilities was for baptism. I visited the families who requested to have their child baptised. It soon became clear that for some their motive was to get their child into catholic schools. I tried to make clear the true nature of baptism with its need to nurture the life of the spirit, the life of faith, explaining that this was parallel with the natural daily nourishment that is needed for our physical bodies to develop and grow. This always raised the question of belief and the challenge that it brings. This remains at the heart of our life of faith.

I recently visited a lady who has just celebrated her 90th Birthday. Still with some lockdown limitations, it was the best birthday celebration of her life. Her more immediate family were able to gather, and one niece had made special arrangements so that family members from all over the world were able to greet her. They could all join together in singing Happy Birthday and sharing great greetings with one another. This is indicative of just a moment of inspiration that can be shared together for the future. Forty year ago; when I was a curate, I was given the responsibility for an outside church. We had developed preparation for the weekend Mass. We were especially blessed with a young mum who had a great gift to be a cantor. This helped greatly, and also the use of the new ministries of the eucharist and the word was very fruitful. Unfortunately I had to move on as a curate and the priests brought this preparation to an end. Four years after this, my next experience was the team ministry, so options and choices were getting scarce. Providence provided that I spent the next 10 years on an ecumenical project. Please God, we may all share a new project, that is very fit for purpose. For our time each Parish needs to become a "Community of faith".

Now we will pause with the question "How?"



A Huge Sincere Thank You To: Our beloved Fr Rory, Sophie, Lawrence, Loretta, Maeve, Jackie, Bob and to the magnificent Bagpiper, Ivan Brooks, Anna & Karen at C.P.J.Field Undertakers, and to everyone who sent cards and helped in giving my beautiful Mum a magnificent Requiem Mass send off at St Wilfrid's Church on Tuesday 25th August 2020. To celebrate my beautiful Mum, Mrs Margaret McLean Westcar, wonderful 90 years of her beautiful, happy fulfilled family life. Thank you xx and God bless you all xx love from Gary Westcar and his family xx