

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

THE COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. 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 prophet Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father.
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity;
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you our potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 79:2-3.15-16.18-19. R. v4

**R) God of hosts bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit the vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R)**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! Ps 84:8

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from his home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below,
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 84:13

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield
its increase.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,
you teach us by them to love the things of heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



There is a story, maybe apocryphal, about Bing Crosby and Bob Hope. Bing was a very wealthy man, but one day, Bob said to him: "You know Bing, you can't take it with you." Bing replied: "If I can't take it with

me, I don't wanna go." We all know that we can't take it with us, and yet often we live as if we could. There is only one certainty in life: death. In today's Gospel Jesus warns his disciples of this certainty and of the fact that we never know when death will come. For this reason, it is advisable to 'stay awake'. What does Jesus mean by this expression? He means that we should live our lives in such a way that we are always

ready, spiritually, when death comes. The saints are people who thought frequently about death, not in a morbid way, but in a 'healthy' way. They lived so that whenever they were called from this life they were ready with their 'suitcase' packed, as it were. And what was in the suitcase? Not material goods, but all the acts of love and kindness they had done for their brothers and sisters in their life on earth.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



V. SPIRIT-FILLED EVANGELIZERS

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

260. In this final chapter, I do not intend to offer a synthesis of Christian spirituality, or to explore great themes like prayer, Eucharistic adoration or the liturgical celebration of the faith. For all these we already have valuable texts of the magisterium and celebrated writings by great authors. I do not claim to replace or improve upon these treasures. I simply wish to offer some thoughts about the spirit of the new evangelization.



The Sacrament of the Present Moment*

ME – A SAINT?

If I only sip from the water of God's life I will remain thirsty.
If I drink deeply, then my thirst will be quenched.

In the same way, if I just try to be a saint by doing a little here and a little there I won't get anywhere fast. If I abandon myself to God wholeheartedly and generously I shall soon attain holiness.

There is no other secret to learn, except that of complete abandonment to God moment by moment.

Learning to see God at work in my own life is far more profitable than just reading about God's presence and work in the lives of other people, no matter how holy.

Jesus speaks to each one of us. The Holy Spirit is always present to us.

We don't have to crave martyrdom. We can die for God or live for God by accepting all that God sends us, and accepting it with love here and now.

I too can be a saint!

*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	28th		St Wilfrid's -	
			First Sunday of Advent	
Sun	29th		St George's -	
			St Wilfrid's -	Dorothy Povey RIP
Mon	30th		St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Tue	1st		St George's -	Patrick O'Brian RIP
Wed	2nd		St Wilfrid's -	Creta O'Neill RIP
Thur	3rd	10.00am	St George's -	Wilfred Snowden RIP
Fri	4th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	5th		St Wilfrid's -	
			Second Sunday of Advent	
Sun	6th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Enza Riddiford RIP

St George's Church will re-open on Thursday 3rd December and St Wilfrid's will re-open on Friday 4th December.

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, Julliette Lusted, Jennifer Piskac, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne Holt, Margaret, Lilian Summers, Tom Woodrow-Spencer, Dorothy Hanlon, Angela & Michael Archer, Colleen, 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:

With the help of God we will see the beginning of the end for this pandemic with the coming of the new year. Christmas will be very much part of the experience for this year. So it is a very important time. Sin in its truest, deepest nature is recognised in the doctrine of original sin, otherwise expressed as the sin of Adam, when an evil fallen nature became part of our inheritance. Jesus gave us its focus, and a measuring point for our human behaviour "by their fruits you shall know them, good trees bear good fruit".

Recently, those in authority in the Catholic Church are trying to make renewed attempts to make atonement for the grave sins that were endemic in the church on account of the paedophiles, who were part of the establishment. Some Bishops have made public penance as an acknowledgement of the injury and damage done to the lives of the faithful. The slowness of the response adds to our grave difficulties.

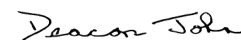
Now we are presented with a great challenge, and with the help of God's grace a new window of opportunity. We need to identify with Christ, when after the crucifixion he called upon His disciples as He tried to empower them for His mission to bring God's salvation. Forgiveness is a key component of His mission. When St Peter returned to his day job, after the shock of the crucifixion, they had fished all night and caught nothing. They were so confused and at odds with life; they did not recognise Him. After the miraculous catch of fish, Peter recovers and Jesus anoints him: "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church".

Today we return to Peter in the person of Pope Francis; his successor, and pray for him. Some have been very disappointed with him, especially with his visit to the church in Ireland, we must look forward to a new era in the life of the church. From morning prayer in the divine office today the scripture reading from Romans 8.35, 37 "Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking clothes or being attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of Him who loves us". As we begin the first week of Advent, let us sow the seed of hope and trust in our hearts. Let us be prepared for a new era with life in it, and it is only all of us together that can bring that life. Please God, bring us the grace to begin again.


Deacon John Writes:

The common theme of today's readings is that vigilant service prepares us for the coming of Christ as our Saviour during Christmas and as our judge and Lord at the end of the world. Advent is the season of special preparation for and expectation of the coming of Christ. It encourages us to examine our lives, to reflect on our need for God to enter our lives, and to prepare earnestly for, and eagerly await the coming of Christ. Take heed!" (Be on your guard) and "Watch!" (Be alert, stay awake, and don't grow careless) The new liturgical year begins by challenging us to pay attention to endings and new beginnings because the central human experience is one of transitions and progress, from past through the present to the future. Today's liturgy reminds us of what God has done in the past to encourage us to hope and work in the present for the final coming of the Lord to finish what he has begun. Hence Advent is not simply a waiting for someone who has not yet come. Instead, it is a period for enjoyment of the gift of Jesus who has come to save us; and who will come again to reward us. We begin a new liturgical year (Year B) and, with it, we shift from the Gospel of Matthew to the Gospel of Mark, the shortest and the first written gospel.

Continued on our website.



**Christmas Masses at St. George's Church: Christmas Eve Morning – 10.00am
Christmas Day 9.30 a m**

We have contacted as many parishioners as possible and these Masses are fully subscribed, but the Christmas Day Mass will be live streamed offering a wonderful opportunity for us all to share in the celebration of the Birth of our Lord. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, entrance to the church is **by ticket only**. Please do not come to the church unless you have the appropriate ticket. Stewards will also have a list of attendees for each day. I'm deeply sorry, but those who have not booked in will be turned away. This is to reduce the risk of spreading Covid 19 and is in line with government requirements regarding spacing.

Christmas Masses in other churches:

Our Lady of Ransom Christmas Eve - 6.00pm, 9.00pm and Midnight Mass at 12.00. Christmas Day - 9.15am, 11.30am

St Agnes Christmas Eve - 6.00pm and 8.00pm. Christmas Day – 8.00am (Mass in Latin) and 11.15am

St Gregory's Christmas Eve - 6.00pm. Christmas Day – 9.30am and 11am

Booking is essential for all Masses

Christmas Masses at St Wilfrid's Church: Christmas Eve - 4pm & 7pm

Please email ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com or Tel: 01323 841504 to put your name on the list, due to restrictions on numbers, a raffle will be drawn for you to be allocated a place and you will be duly notified if you have been allocated a seat. The last date to book will be **Wednesday 16th December**. Thank you.

Advent Workshop for Children: On **Sunday November 29th** we are going to hold an Advent Workshop for the children of the parish.

This will be held online from 2.30pm for approximately an hour.

There will be games, singing, prayers, crafts and friendship. Come and join us to celebrate the start of advent.

We will need you to sign up for the session so we can give you the log in details. Please register your interest by contacting Sandra on 07791627368, email sandraforte40@gmail.com or Teresa on 07951082592, email tpalmer2205@gmail.com