

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.**

Phil 4:4-5

**THE COLLECT**

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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

61:1-2.10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in a cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of all nations.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****PSALM**

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

**R) My soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R)**

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy is his name!

His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **(R)**

He has filled the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything—hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

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

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

**The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

John 1:6-8. 19-28

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So he said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the Prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal- strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. Is 35:4

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.****Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Advent is the season in the Church year when we prepare for the coming of Christ. It is therefore appropriate that today's Gospel tells of John the Baptist whose task was to prepare the Jews for the coming of Christ. John the Baptist is a somewhat

mysterious character who lives a very austere life and who is clearly not understood by many of his compatriots. In fact, it is John the Baptist who is the link between the Old and New Covenants. He precedes Jesus, announces his coming and then fades into the background. Like Jesus, he is regarded very suspiciously by the Pharisees, as we can see by the way they question him in this Gospel. He also precedes Jesus in that he loses his life because of his fearless proclamation of the truth.

But he makes it very clear that he is not the Messiah. It can happen to us that, if we are living a good Christian life, people are attracted to us and to what we say. This can be dangerous if we take this as our merit. We must, like John the Baptist, acknowledge that we are only servants of the Lord.



### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



### V. SPIRIT-FILLED EVANGELIZERS

#### REASONS FOR A RENEWED MISSIONARY IMPULSE

262. Spirit-filled evangelizers are evangelizers who pray and work. Mystical notions without a solid social and missionary outreach are of no help to evangelization, nor are dissertations or social or pastoral practices which lack a spirituality which can change hearts. These unilateral and incomplete proposals only reach a few groups and prove incapable of radiating beyond them because they curtail the Gospel. What is needed is the ability to cultivate an interior space which

can give a Christian meaning to commitment and activity. Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulties, and our fervour dies out.



### 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

## 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	12th		St Wilfrid's -	
			<b>Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent</b>	
Sun	13th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	James Leslie & Margaret McLean Westcar RIP
Mon	14th	10.30am	St George's -	
Tue	15th	10.00am	St George's -	Betty Archard RIP
Wed	16th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Sister-in-law of Judy Davis
Thur	17th	10.00am	St George's -	Roland Camier & Reg Nuriela
Fri	18th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Giulio Salvi RIP
Sat	19th		St Wilfrid's -	
			<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent, O Clavis David'</b>	
Sun	20th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Edmund Ginn Anniversary Mass 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](http://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 Line .....Jean 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, 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](mailto: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:

In Ireland there was a well known poet, who was greatly loved and appreciated. He was blind and his name was "Rafferty an File". For the winter he used to move down into the south of Ireland, the prosperous part where I lived, but he really thought we were a lot of mean old people, but he much preferred to live with his own people out in the west of Ireland.

So he used to really look forward to his return there. He left us a great rich legacy. A poem in Gaelic. The words were "anois teacht an earraigh". Now with the coming of Spring I will raise up my sail and tar eis na feil Bride... and after the Feast of St Bridget - 1st February - he would take off for happier summer grounds. I very much identify with his sentiments. After this most difficult year, and we still have quite a time to go to survive, we can all look forward like Rafferty an File, we can also be prepared to lift up our hearts and re-launch our lives once again.

For the moment "grace and peace". May this holy season bless, strengthen and restore us. I am most grateful for all the help that I am getting in spite of or maybe on account of the difficulties that we have been going through.



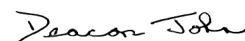
### Deacon John Writes:

Last Tuesday was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and should have been a Holy Day of Obligation when all Catholics should attend Mass. In the current situation this was impossible so I have included an attempt to lighten the situation which I found on the internet:

The Pharisees brought the woman, caught red-handed in adultery, before Jesus for judgment, and Jesus said, "Let the person who is without sin cast the first stone." They fell silent, and then, all of a sudden, a stone came flying from the crowd. Jesus looked up, surprised and amused, and then said, "Hold it, mother? I was trying to make a point, here.

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent and is called "Gaudete Sunday" because the Mass for today (in its original Latin text), begins with: "Gaudete in Domino semper" – which translates as "Rejoice in the Lord always." This is reminding us that we are getting ever nearer to the birth of Jesus which we celebrate at Christmas, so the rose candle in the Advent wreath is lit, and the priest and deacon may wear rose vestments. The common theme of the readings is one of joy and encouragement. They urge us to prepare ourselves in our hearts and lives as we await the rebirth of Jesus. Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present, and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.

Malcolm Muggeridge wrote the following: Through her ministry in Jesus' name, Mother Teresa brought untold blessings and joy to the poor who lay unattended and forgotten on our streets. When asked the source of her joy, Mother Teresa replied: "Joy is prayer — joy is strength — joy is love — joy is a net of love. . . A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love . . . loving as He loves, helping as He helps, giving as He gives, serving as He serves, rescuing as He rescues, being with Him twenty-four hours, touching Him in His distressing disguise."



### Justice & Peace Webinar 2021: How Should this Diocese Respond to the Food Poverty Crisis?

The number of people experiencing food insecurity has increased dramatically during the COVID-19 19 crisis, with families in our diocese under increasing pressure. Join our free Justice & Peace Webinar to find out what parishes can do to help on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021: 10 am to 12.30 pm**. To book your **free** place and receive the Zoom link, contact Rosie Read, Social Action Secretary, at [rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk)

### **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 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 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](mailto: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.