

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 45:8

**Drop down the dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.**

THE COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
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 second book of Samuel

7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night, the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps 88.2-5. 27. 29. R. cf v2

R) I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R)**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R)**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall endure. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

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

Lk 1:38

I am the handmade of the Lord:**let what you have said be done to me.****Alleluia!****GOSPEL**

Luke 1:26-38

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed
Virgin Mary.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Is 7:14

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



We are so familiar with this passage from the Gospel that it is easy not to take in its immensity. Like the Christmas story it can come across as a beautiful 'fairy tale'. It is worth reading slowly through this Gospel and reflecting on its significance in human history. The fact that God

chose a young woman to give birth to his Son is almost unbelievable. In fact, it requires the gift of faith to truly comprehend it. In saying her 'yes' to God, Mary becomes an integral part in the story of salvation. It is often said that Mary is a model for all Christians. Why? Because her yes, allows Jesus to be born into the world. When we say our yes to God and set ourselves to do his will, we too can, in a sense, 'give birth' to Christ in the midst of our contemporary world. The most powerful way in which we

can do this is by loving one another as Jesus commanded us. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus says that where two or more are gathered in his name he is in their midst. Wherever we put this mutual love into practice we are doing what Mary did – we are giving Jesus to the world.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



V. SPIRIT-FILLED EVANGELIZERS

REASONS FOR A RENEWED MISSIONARY IMPULSE

262 Cont'd. The Church urgently needs the deep breath of prayer, and to my great joy groups devoted to prayer and intercession, the prayerful reading of God's word and the perpetual adoration of the Eucharist are growing at every level of ecclesial life. Even so, "we must reject the temptation to offer a privatized and individualistic spirituality which ill accords with the demands of charity, to say nothing of the implications of the incarnation".²⁰⁶ There is always the risk that some moments of prayer can become an excuse for not offering one's life in mission; a privatized lifestyle can lead Christians to take refuge in some false forms of spirituality.

206 John Paul II, Apostolic Letter Novo Millennio Ineunte (6 January 2001), 52: AAS 93 (2001), 304.

The Sacrament of the Present Moment*

ALL IS WELL

Surrender to the will of God and you will be able to say in every circumstance 'It is the Lord!'

Faith tells us that God is tender and merciful. But God is also one who turns us like a potter turns clay on a wheel.

We must submit to all that happens knowing that ultimately 'All will be well.' We will be fashioned in the divine likeness if we surrender generously to God's working. Using another image – be simple, straightforward, trusting, and God will bring the ship of your life into port.

Sail securely on the waves of God's will. Let God fill the wind in your sails. The Spirit takes over lives that are totally given to God in faith.

'Blessed are the pure in heart.' Have a heart that is attuned to God's will and you cannot go wrong, for God makes the Divine will known to us moment by moment, no matter what is happening in our lives.

*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	19th		St Wilfrid's -	
		Fourth Sunday of Advent, O Clavis David'		
Sun	20th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Edmund Ginn Anniversary Mass RIP
Mon	21st	10.30am	St George's -	Special Intention
Tue	22nd	10.00am	St George's -	McCann Family Intention
Wed	23rd	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Brian Winter RIP
	Christmas Eve	10.00am	St George's -	Rosina & Michael Wilson's Intention
		4.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	Benefactors of St Wilfrid's
		7.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
	The Nativity of the Lord	9.30am	St George's -	Benefactors of St George's
Sat	26th		St Wilfrid's -	
		The Holy Family		
Sun	27th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Ed Morton 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, 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:

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat, please put a penny in the old man's hat. If you have not a penny a halfpenny will do. If you have not a halfpenny, well God bless you.

I just realised that in nearly seventy years I had not heard or said this rhyme coming up to Christmas. When growing up as a child it was part of Christmas. This Christmas is so different in many ways, **but its reality is much more important**. For us to realise that salvation is coming into our world, and all the children's plays at Christmas are about this most important message. "A Saviour is born, this day in Bethlehem". The Gospel with its message is what should never be lost. Reality the world over, from the reaction to the American Presidential Election, to the advice that is given on how to respond to the virus, the human response remains the same. Jesus addressed this by "their fruits you shall know them".

Family is a great blessing to life. I have a nephew who is returning from Japan and a niece returning from France for Christmas. Obviously they have taken into consideration the requirements to isolate and parents and family are happy with it. The outcome will be the key factor when the final verdict is in place. Certainly the challenge that the virus has presented, with the benefit of what hindsight will bring through the validation of decisions will give greater guidance for our future. How to be more prepared, how to give appropriate value to human dignity. How to care for those most vulnerable, the care for children, and the different needs of the young, people with mental issues and the importance of health and wellbeing are all very important factors in life.

What about us in the life of the church? Please God, this has presented us with a learning curve. The challenge for us is great, confronted with our age profile, many would say it is impossible. With the age requirements that were needed to facilitate the use of our churches for prayer, masses and sacraments, we were very short of volunteers. Exposing a failure which is ours. What can we do about it is our only hope. What I see as a two fold failure of those in authority in the church. First, the importance of baptism with its meaning for our lives, without it, it is like trying to build houses without foundations. The second is ministry within the church. What the ministry of the eucharist, readers, cantors and other ministries can bring. How a body made of many parts working together, is the key to our future in the life of our church.

Jr Rory

Deacon John Writes:

The readings for the fourth Sunday of Advent concentrate on events leading up to the first coming of Jesus. The Gospel, in particular, relates the key role of Mary. It is full of surprises as are the other readings.

The first reading surprises us by telling of God's promise to David that he would have a long line of royal descendants culminating in a final King, Jesus Christ. In the Responsorial Psalm the Psalmist recalls all of God's promises and surprises us, describing God's promise to David and his descendants in terms of a Covenant.

The second reading surprises us with Paul's explanation of the unveiling of God's plan for our salvation through Jesus.

In the Gospel, the Angel Gabriel surprises Mary with seven announcements.

- 1) Even as a virgin betrothed to Joseph, she will become a mother.
- 2) She will become a mother through "the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the Power of the Most High will overshadow you."
- 3) The angel continues, "Therefore, the Child to be born will be called Holy, the Son of God."
- 4) She is to "name the child Jesus," which means Saviour.
- 5) God will make Him a King and, as a descendant in the line of David,
- 6) "He will rule over the House of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end."
- 7) As a Divine sign, Elizabeth, Mary's aged barren cousin is six months pregnant, "for," says Gabriel, "nothing shall be impossible with God!

The Gospel also surprises us by reminding us that God's promise is best fulfilled not in buildings, or even in great kings like Solomon, but rather in humble souls like Mary who trusted in God's promise. We must learn and understand that we are not here to do things for God, but to reflect and build on what God is doing for, and through us. That is our task for this week!

Deacon John

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

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

Foodbanks:

You are still able to donate non-perishable food and money to the foodbanks over the coming months. There are opportunities to donate online, or our website to make this easier for people. Immediate food needs will probably change week to week. For more updates visit www.hailsham.foodbank.org.uk or www.eastbourne.foodbank.org.uk. Thank you.