

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Lk 2:16

THE COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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 first book of Samuel

1:20-22.24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps. 83:2-3.5-6.9-10.R.v5

R) They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. **(R)**

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you; they walk with ever growing strength. **(R)**

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, Look on the face of your anointed. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

3:1-2.21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

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

Cf. Acts 16:14

Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

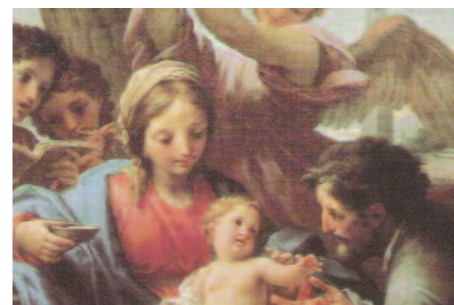
Bar 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



And the Child was "filled with wisdom". Wisdom that he gives to us with the gift of his Spirit. Wisdom has two aspects. On the one hand, it is obedience to reason; on the other, it is obedience to the movement, the inspiration, of the Holy Spirit, obedience to God. Wisdom is the source of peace, the

peace that we all long for, and St. Augustine says that "*Peace is the tranquillity of order*". If we look at the adult life of the Child "filled with wisdom", we will notice that he lives both according to reason (his parables are full of examples) and, even more so, in obedience to God his Father (the work he does in the power of the Holy Spirit). We will see with what tranquillity he lived, even amongst those who constantly opposed him; with what tranquillity he died: "Father, into your hands" By his gift to us of his Spirit, he enables us, invites us, to share in that tranquillity, that

peace, to gain true wisdom. Sadly, it does not follow that all accept the Gift. There are many, as we know, who, like the Pharisees and possibly for the same reason, jealousy, violently oppose, rather than accept. Nevertheless, it remains true that this Child of God, "filled with wisdom" as he is, is the source of peace for all the world.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



"The following pages do not claim to offer a complete teaching on fraternal love, but rather to consider its universal scope, its openness to every man and woman. I offer this social Encyclical as a modest contribution to continued reflection, in the hope that in the face of present-day attempts to eliminate or ignore others, we may prove capable of responding with a new vision of fraternity and social friendship that will not remain at the level of words. Although I have written it from the Christian convictions that inspire and sustain me, I have sought to make this reflection an invitation to dialogue among all people of good will."

St Teresa's Way of Perfection*

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!

*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

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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878

WEEKLY SERVICES

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
Mon	28th	10.30am	St George's -	
Tue	29th	10.00am	St George's -	Anne Bowe's Intention
Wed	30th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Special Intention Mary O'Donoghue
Thurs	31st	10.00am	St George's -	Margaret & Charles Piegrome Intention
Fri	1st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Harry Holt RIP
Sat	2nd		St Wilfrid's -	
		Second Sunday of Christmas		
Sun	3rd	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	David & Lulu Curtis 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, 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:

Let us celebrate the Feast of Christmas this year, with the fruits of our journey through Advent.

Christmas comes just after the shortest, darkest and sometimes bleakest days of the year. It celebrates God's salvation, which has come into our world. The coronavirus at this time has a particularly powerful hold on us, and does represent an awareness of the greater kingdom of evil that Jesus came down from heaven to redeem and save us from. It is always important to keep our attention on the amount of goodness and people of great goodwill who are always at work among us.

At the moment life is very challenging and difficult. So a simple, "thank God", for the vaccine with the hope that it brings light at the end of the tunnel. I remain with my old faults of communication, and particular difficulty with visiting in place, so I ask for patience and understanding.

I am grateful for all the help that is provided to our parish, helping with our celebration of Mass, providing the essential service of our parish, and help with streaming, which remains a particular challenge. Thanks be to God and to you all that financially and administratively our parish is functioning very well. I am very grateful to you for your gifts, greetings and donations to me this Christmas.

So sincerely, thanks be to God for Christmas and for salvation, for the fruits of our journey through the Sundays' Advent Prayers. The First Sunday with its focus upon 'hope', the second 'peace', the third 'joy' and last Sunday 'love'. Let them be the fruits of our Christmas and Bishop Richard has presented us with a vision and a challenge for the next few years, so let us give it our full attention when we return in the new year.

Fr Rory

Deacon John Writes:

I recently found this prayer from Saint John Henry Newman which speaks of the real grace we receive in the miracle of Christmas.

"Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance wherever I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly, that my life may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus! Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from you; none of it will be mine. It will be you, shining on others through me. Let me thus praise you the way you love best, by shining on those around me. Let me preach you without preaching, not by words but by my example, by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to you. Amen."

May the Light that is Christ shine upon you, and the peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas. Fr Rory and I, wish you all a happy and holy Christmas, and may God bless everyone, your families and your friends. Amen.

Deacon John

WISHING YOU A HAPPY
AND HOLY CHRISTMAS

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 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 16th January 2021: 10 am to 12.30 pm**. To book you **free** place and receive the Zoom link, contact Rosie Read, Social Action Secretary, at rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk

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.