

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.

Cf. Is 30:19,30

**THE COLLECT**

Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company.  
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

40:1-5.9-11

‘Console my people, console them,’  
says your God.  
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger of Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
Joyful messenger of Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah,  
‘Here is your God.’  
Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps. 84:9-14. R. v8

**R) Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R)**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. **(R)**

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow in carrying out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but is he being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

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

Lk 3:4.6

**Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Mark 1:1-8

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.  
A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,  
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,  
come, we pray, to our rescue  
with the protection of your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Bar 5:5;4:36

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,  
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,  
that, through our partaking in this mystery,  
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth  
and hold firm to the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today’s Gospel is not easy for a 21st century mentality to understand. Why? Probably because it starts off by talking about the forgiveness of sins. It says: *“and as they were baptised by him [John the Baptist] in the*

*River Jordan they confessed their sins”*. Pope John Paul II said on various occasion that society nowadays has lost a sense of sin. What did he mean by that? He meant that we had lost sight of the fact that in front of God we are all sinners. If we refuse to acknowledge this, then we put humankind as the arbiter of right and wrong. When we do this as a society we reap the fruits of it. We will have a society where the most important things

are not people, but profit, not the sacredness of human life, but disregard for the perceived ‘unproductive’ members of society – the old, the disabled, the poor. Jesus’ repeated message is to ‘repent’ and believe in the Gospel.



### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



## V. SPIRIT-FILLED EVANGELIZERS

### INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

261. Whenever we say that something is “spirited”, it usually refers to some interior impulse which encourages, motivates, nourishes and gives meaning to our individual and communal activity.

Spirit-filled evangelization is not the same as a set of tasks dutifully carried out despite one’s longing to find the right words to stir up enthusiasm for a new chapter of evangelization full of fervour, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction! Yet I realize that no words of encouragement will be enough unless the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in our hearts. A spirit-filled

evangelization is one guided by the Holy Spirit, for he is the soul of the Church called to proclaim the Gospel. Before offering some spiritual motivations and suggestions, I once more invoke the Holy Spirit. I implore him to come and renew the Church, to stir and impel her to go forth boldly to evangelize all peoples.

## The Sacrament of the Present Moment\*

### GOD’S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

God’s grace is ever present in all that happens. It penetrates and pervades every pore of our being. It carries us along like a deep flowing current to which we have only to surrender ourselves.

Come, all who want God, learned or simple, and discover the map of the spiritual journey. Don’t worry how others are walking.

Trust the way you yourself are called to follow and walk in it with confidence. God’s grace will not fail you.

Each one of us can bring God’s message to others like the prophets of old. It is we who continue to write the book of God’s words and works in the present day.

God doesn’t put down the pen just because the official Scriptures are finished! We are the living books of the Holy Spirit still in the making.

\*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



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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 -	
			<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	
Sun	6th	9.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St George's -	Enza Riddiford RIP
Mon	7th	10.30am	St George's -	
Tue	8th		St George's -	Yvonne Lodrick's Intention
Wed	9th		St Wilfrid's -	Honor Green's Intention
Thur	10th	10.00am	St George's -	Angela Webber's Tragic Death RIP
Fri	11th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Roland Cormier & Joy Rebellows Intention
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

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:

"These are the trials by which we triumph through the power of Him who loves us". I am receiving help to prepare a letter from some persons from our leaven group at St George's. This will be sent out to members of our parish. This gives me a chance to say thank you to them and to all who have helped me through the years. Also to acknowledge how reliant I am upon receiving that help. One of the fruits from the pandemic, is a deeper awareness of the solid foundation that our faith is built upon.

Returning to our first lockdown in March, when a stringent isolation process helped me to focus clearing upon our churches liturgy. From the end of Lent, giving the Holy Season my fullest attention; on through Holy Week, then the celebration of the Ascension and the great promise of Pentecost. This promise "I am with you always", this was so well echoed by Springwatch. The great challenge that will be ours, when we climb our way out from the grief caused by the pandemic, there will be a great challenge from global warming that will be the consequences of human greed and exploitation. For our church this may be more drastic, as we have experienced a great loss of credibility.

I keep returning to a privileged time when I was in the seminary in the late sixties. The second Vatican Council had ended and one professor in particular, together with all of us in the seminary, was inspired with the spirit of the council. It reflected a time of great hope, but the seeds for the opposite to happen were deeply ingrained. So the fact that the seminaries have emptied is a very important consideration and sets the scene for life following on from the coronavirus.

Again, the great assurance "I am with you always". We are deeply and unconditionally loved by the living God. Our sure hope, our sure foundation, and our sure point of reference as we continue our journey of faith. Let us have love one for another.

*Fr Rory*

### Deacon John Writes:

The second Sunday of Advent has readings based on the theme of "Homecoming". They focus on how essential it is for us to prepare for Christ to come home into our hearts and lives through repentance, making good anything that has gone wrong in our lives, prayer and the determination and effort needed to renew our lives. God has a saving plan for every one of us through our attendance at Mass, through the Scriptures and through the community life of prayer and thanksgiving.

Isaiah tells us about the Babylonian exiles coming home to their native country, Judah, and their holy city, Jerusalem. He assures them that the Lord promises them that it will be a grand procession and he will take care of them as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This is then reflected in the Psalm with the promise of peace when the Lord comes.

The Gospel tells us that during our preparation for Christmas we need to allow Jesus to be reborn in our lives. People around us should recognise this happening in our lives by the way we share our love around us, by unconditional forgiveness, with a compassionate and merciful heart and a spirit of humble and committed service. So let us all accept John's challenge to turn this Advent season into a real spiritual "homecoming" by making the necessary preparations for the fresh arrival of Jesus into our hearts and lives at Christmas.

*Deacon John*

### LOVE IN A BOX 2020:

Thank you to all the members of both parishes who have been able to contribute to this year's Love in a Box event. Despite the difficulties and restrictions we have all faced this year, you have been able to contribute 17 boxes filled with gifts, 35 cosy blankets and over £80 towards transportation costs. It's wonderful to know that the obstacles posed by COVID 19 have not stopped us from supporting this worthwhile cause

### 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](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.