

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Mt 3:16-17

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may also be well pleasing to you. 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**FIRST READING**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

55:1-11

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations.

See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts,

my ways are not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth

as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Is 12:2-6 R.3

R) With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **(R)**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name. **(R)**

Sing a psalm to the Lord

for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

5:1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;

this is what loving God is -

keeping his commandments;

and his commandments are not difficult,

because anyone who has been begotten by God

has already overcome the world;

this is the victory over the world - our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God:

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,

not with water only,

but with water and blood;

with the Spirit as another witness -

since the Spirit is the truth -

so that there are three witnesses,

the Spirit, the water and the blood,

and all three of them agree.

We accept the testimony of human witnesses,

but God's testimony is much greater,

and this is God's testimony,

given as evidence for his Son.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Stand*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Cf. Jn 1:29

John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:7-11

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist 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.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 1:32,34

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



"The Spirit of the Lord fills the world", we read in the Book of Wisdom. Jesus, we hear today, is filled with the Holy Spirit who comes down on him "like a dove". In the Spirit, Jesus goes out into the wilderness; in the Spirit, in the power of the creating

Spirit, he goes around the Holy Land bringing new life, physical and spiritual, to those who will accept it. They have reason to accept his claims to spiritual authority - "Go in peace, your sins are forgiven" - for he demonstrates in himself the power of the Creator over the physical world. He walks on the water, creates bread from nothing, raises the dead. St. Peter, years later, in his second letter to the churches, reminds the churches, "We had seen his majesty with our own eyes." Jesus' words as man are always effective; what he says will come about in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amazingly, the Baptist tells those listening to him:

Jesus will "baptise you with the Holy Spirit"! In other words, Jesus will give to those who follow him, his own intimacy with the Creating Spirit! In the Church's sacraments, in the Christian saints through the centuries, is clear evidence of the truth of that promise. The Word of God speaks through the Church and through the lives of those who are baptised.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



I. DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD

SHATTERED DREAMS (CONT'D)

11. Our own days, however, seem to be showing signs of a certain regression. Ancient conflicts thought long buried are breaking out anew, while instances of a myopic, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalism are on the rise. In some countries, a concept of popular and national unity influenced by various ideologies is creating new forms of selfishness and a loss of the social sense under the guise of defending national interests. Once more we are being reminded that "each new generation must take up the struggles and attainments of past generations, while setting its sights even higher. This is the path. Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day. It is not possible to settle for what was achieved in the past and complacently enjoy it, as if we could somehow disregard the fact that many of our brothers and sisters still endure situations that cry out for our attention".

St Teresa's Way of Perfection*

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.

*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

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	9th		St Wilfrid's -	
			The Baptism of the Lord	
Sun	10th		St George's -	
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	11th		St George's -	
Tue	12th		St George's -	
Wed	13th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Special Intention Margaret O'Donoghue
Thurs	14th		St George's -	
Fri	15th		St Wilfrid's -	
Sat	16th		St Wilfrid's -	
			Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Sun	17th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Patrick McKenna RIP

St George's Church hopes to re-open on the 17th January for Mass on Sundays.
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, Angela 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:

Here we go again, a New Year. In my homily on Sunday I presented what I thought were two powerful images. The darkest night following the shortest day, followed by the image when the tide has gone out to its furthest distance. Since then I was introduced by a friend to a more pertinent and purposeful image when he spoke of his garden. This has been very much confirmed with proper care and attention; already even in the harshest cold, new signs of life are ready to break forth. Even now the occasional flower is scattered throughout the emerging bulbs. Life is always getting ready for its opportunity to come to life and to bear fruit.

The Prime Minister spelt out the reality of the moment, with the virus and the numbers affected by it spiralling, with the instruction, stay safe and stay at home. That is central to our attention. At the same time we have essential needs, and shopping for food expresses one of our needs. Other needs surface as life has a multi purpose agenda to it, part of it work. For us in our Catholic faith there is also a wider agenda and spiritual nourishment is a true reality.

Unlike the spring lockdown, churches can remain open for worship and prayer. This has its risks and responsibilities, and a reality for me was having to isolate just when we were ready to celebrate our Christmas Masses. I really know what it is to be in the dark. Indeed quite a difficult dark year - but also receiving a lot of kindness, help and support. A last moment opportunity to stream a Christmas morning mass, and like the new buds, signs of life to come.

First, the challenge. We are very short of stewards and cleaners, and we have to really, really appeal for help. For us to return to our masses will not be easy, but with fresh help, like the buds, life gets ready to begin.

Please God, days lengthening, tides turning and new life in abundance will come again.



Deacon John Writes:

I noticed a headline on the internet about a Swedish Artist - Geert van der Vossen. He has created a floral tribute to Sweden's coronavirus patients. He has 'planted' over 6000 metal 'flowers', which he has created himself, in a field as a memorial to the victims of the virus in the area in which he lives. This has obviously given him a lot of personal satisfaction and a feeling that he is really doing something to remember those who have died.

Sunday, Jan 10th, is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord and reminds us of our identity. The liturgical season of Christmas is concluded with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. By Baptism, we become sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit. It is a day to thank God for the graces we have received in Baptism, to renew our Baptismal promises and to preach Christ's "Good News" by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service and forgiveness.

The Gospel today describes Jesus' baptism, and identifies with God's chosen people who in their turn became aware of their sinful lives and their need for God's forgiveness. The Baptism of the Lord Jesus is the great event celebrated by the Eastern churches on the feast of Epiphany because it is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the Holy Trinity, and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father. Today marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

Fr. Kadavil is a recently retired priest and is now chaplain of the Sacred Heart Nursing Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in the USA. He writes: "It is worth noting that neither John nor Jesus invented baptism. It had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent to our Confession. Until the fall of the Temple in 70 A.D., it was common for Jewish people to use a special pool called a Mikveh — literally a "collection of water" — as a means of spiritual cleansing, to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men took this bath weekly on the eve of the Sabbath, women, monthly. Converts were also expected to take this bath before entering Judaism. The Orthodox Jews still retain the rite. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah. Jesus transformed this continuing ritual into the one single, definitive act (receiving Baptism), by which we begin our life of faith.



Mass at St George's church. It is our hope to re-open for Mass on Sunday, the 17th January at the normal time of 9.00 am. To do this we need more help from people under the age of 70 years to be our stewards. Several wonderful people have already come forward to undertake this important task, but we do need more help. Please contact Margaret Piegrome 01323870990, email - mjpiegrome@btinternet.com if you can help us celebrate Mass together again.

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 your **free** place and receive the Zoom link, contact Rosie Read, Social Action Secretary, at rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk

Bed for Sale: 3ft Divan sleepzee, headboard, 5/7 years old, brand new mattress from Dreams, Free of Charge, would require your own transport to collect. If interested please email: ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com