

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.
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

Samuel 3:3-10. 19

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 39:2.4.7-10.R.vv8.9

R) Here I am, Lord!
I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. (R)

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. (R)

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. (R)

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. (R)

Ps 65:4

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
6:13-15. 17-20

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jn 1:41.17
We have found the Messiah – which means the Christ –
grace and truth have come through him.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 1:35-42

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' - which means Teacher - 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' - which means the Christ - and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' - meaning Rock.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that we may participate worthily in these mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

1 Jn 4:16

We have come to know and to believe
in the love that God has for us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,
and in your kindness
make those you have nourished
by this one heavenly Bread
one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



"The Lamb of God!" A strange title. But it has a very important and profound meaning in the context of the history of the Jewish people. John the Baptist stood in the line of that history. He is the culmination of it, in the sense that he was the final prophet of the Old Covenant,

leading to Jesus. Under the Old Covenant, as we know from our Easter celebrations, the 'paschal lamb', the sacrifice offered every year to celebrate and thank God for the escape of the Israelites from Egypt, was particularly significant in terms of prophecy. The blood of the lamb on the doorposts of the Israelite houses would save them from the destruction about to fall on the Egyptians. It was to be "a lamb without blemish". So now John, inspired by the Holy Spirit, recognises the One to whom the prophecies pointed and were leading. The disciples, too, having recognised John as a prophet, accept his word. These men, these

three disciples, are, like John, Israelites in the tradition of their fathers. They have listened to the Scriptures read in the synagogue every Sabbath; and they have believed! They have listened, they have believed, and now they recognise and accept "the Lamb of God". "We have found the Messiah!" they say.

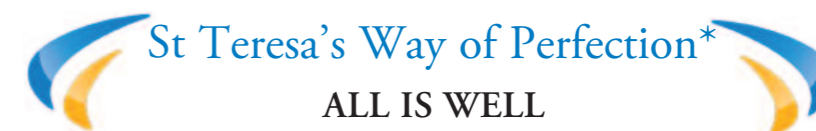


POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

I. DARK CLOUDS
OVER A CLOSED WORLD

SHATTERED DREAMS (CONT'D)

12. "Opening up to the world" is an expression that has been co-opted by the economic and financial sector and is now used exclusively of openness to foreign interests or to the freedom of economic powers to invest without obstacles or complications in all countries. Local conflicts and disregard for the common good are exploited by the global economy in order to impose a single cultural model. This culture unifies the world, but divides persons and nations, for "as society becomes ever more globalized, it makes us neighbours, but does not make us brothers" ... In this way, political life becomes increasingly fragile in the face of transnational economic powers that operate with the principle of "divide and conquer".



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.

*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	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
Mon	18th		St George's -	
Tue	19th		St George's -	
Wed	20th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	David & Lulu Curtis's Intention
Thurs	21st		St George's -	
Fri	22nd		St Wilfrid's -	
Sat	23rd		St Wilfrid's -	
		Third Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Sun	24th	9.00am	St George's -	Teresa Daly RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention

St George's Church will be open from the 17th January for Sunday Masses only. Booking essential, Tel: 870990.
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, Juliette 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:

"Every day as long as this today lasts, keep encouraging one another" Heb 3.13 from the divine office.

Last Sunday was the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus who was baptised in the river Jordan, by John the Baptist. This highlights an idea, "that actions speak louder than words". But words are so important, as they give meaning to the events. In this case, no sooner has Jesus come up out of the water, then 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". This gives us a clear picture of the Life in the Holy Trinity of God, which is at the heart of our faith.

Largely, because of the coronavirus, I have spent a lot of hours here in the church. At the moment, when life is dark and difficult for all of us, for me it is one of the silver linings in the dark clouds of the moment. Here in the church the sanctuary lamp stands out in the coming darkness. It is there as a powerful expression of what we hold to be true. The living presence of Jesus is the Holy Eucharist through His promise "The bread that I shall give you is my flesh for the life of the world". The sanctuary lamp and the stations of the cross have a very special memory for me. Brian Winter was so involved with the decision to bring them forward from the old church, they contribute to the beautiful atmosphere that is in the new church. A Sister who comes to holiday with us for a week each year, mentioned so firmly that she could spend the rest of her life here in this church. We are truly blest with it. So a thank you to Brian, Billy O'Rourke and the team that was with them - a lovely legacy.

A Christmas card made a strong memorable and lasting impression on me this year. It was a picture of Mary with her child sitting on an ass when Joseph as the scripture tells us "to escape, Herod had to take them down to Egypt". This grounds us in real life when there are so many refugees having to leave their homes. The idea that life is a journey of faith for everybody helps us with our present circumstances. When we were in the seminary, we were full of hope after the Second Vatican Council that a great opportunity was in store for us. Now I draw a lot of consolation from that Christmas card, and the nature of journeys. They tend to be down to earth. But inspiration and consolations are important, and highlights again and again that primarily we are a community of faith, and like Joseph and Mary, willing witnesses to our faith in the Christ child.



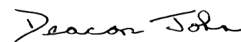
Deacon John Writes:

In last Sunday's gospel about the Baptism of Jesus, we hear that a voice from heaven says "You are my son, the Beloved". These words should remind us of one of the most important truths in the whole of the Christian message. In the words of Saint Augustine: "God loves each and every one of us".

William Barclay summed this up when he wrote: "*The gospels tell us of the width of the love of God. It was the world that God so loved. It was not a nation, it was not the good people, it was not only the people who loved him, it was the world. The unlovable and the unlovely, the lonely who have no one else to love them, the person who loves God, and the person who never thinks of God, the person who rests in the love of God, and the person who spurns it, all are included in the vast inclusive love of God.*"

Tessa and I wish to say a sincere thank you for the cards and gifts received this Christmas and New Year. We wish you all a Happy 2021. May you keep safe and you and your family keep well.. We are sure that we all hope that it will be a better year than 2020. God bless you all.

With our love and prayers. DJ & T



Mass at St George's church. Will 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.

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.

4 Weeks of Guided Prayer - Online Event

Sundays at 5:30pm beginning 17th January

- An opportunity to deepen your relationship with God through prayer.
- Learn new ways of praying, enjoy some input on prayer, discernment and spirituality.

Speak with a prayer guide each week for the four weeks.

More information: FCJCentreStHughs@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook