

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

Ps 105:47

THE COLLECT

Grant us, Lord our God,
that we may honour you with all our mind,
and love everyone in truth of heart.
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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 94:1-2.6-9.R.v9

**R) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R)**

Come in; let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a

young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
**The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.**
Alleluia!

Mt 4.16

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, we bring to your altar
these offerings of our service:
be pleased to receive them, we pray,
and transform them
into the Sacrament of our redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 5:3-4

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,
we pray, O Lord,
that through this help to eternal salvation
true faith may ever increase.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



"He taught them as one who has authority and not as the scribes..."
The scribes taught from the Scriptures what God had taught through the prophets and through the history of their people. Now God teaches his people 'first hand', so to speak.

He Himself had come to teach them! As indeed he had promised that He would through the prophet Ezekiel. It seems that the evil spirits were more alert to what was happening – though clearly they did not fully understand – than were the approved teachers of the people. Long ago, through Ezekiel, God had condemned the leaders of his people for their neglect of his 'sheep', God says, *"Look, I myself shall take care of my flock and look after it ... I shall look for the lost one (Judas?) bring back the stray (Mary Magdalene?) bandage the injured (the lepers, the lame?) and make the sick strong (Jairus' daughter, the widow's*

son?). I shall watch over the fat and healthy (the disciples, the faithful women?)". The promise – or threat, in the understanding of the pharisees – was there in their Scriptures and Jesus claimed to fulfil it, *"I am the Good Shepherd, I know my own and my own know me.....and I lay down my life for my sheep".*



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



I. DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD THE END OF HISTORICAL CONSCIOUSNESS (CONT'D)

14. These are the new forms of cultural colonization. Let us not forget that peoples that abandon their tradition and, either from a craze to mimic others or to foment violence, or from unpardonable negligence or apathy, allow others to rob their very soul, end up losing not only their spiritual identity but also their moral consistency and, in the end, their intellectual, economic and political independence". One effective way to weaken historical consciousness, critical thinking, the struggle for justice and the processes of integration is to empty great words of their meaning or to manipulate them. Nowadays, what do certain words like democracy, freedom, justice or unity really mean? They have been bent and shaped to serve as tools for domination, as meaningless tags that can be used to justify any action.

St Teresa's Way of Perfection*

WHAT ABOUT EVIL?

In the book of Daniel we read of a monster statue made of gold, bronze, iron and clay. That is what the world sometimes seems like – a great amalgam of all sorts of evil. Each age has its own monsters and tyrants. There is war, disharmony, disunity... you name it, we have it! The root of evil is a rejection of the order that originates in God. Yet history shows that evil can never have the last word. People intent upon evildoing may think they are invincible, but they are mistaken. The monster of gold, bronze, iron and clay is ultimately nothing but a heap of glittering dust that the wind disperses in a moment.

Evil may try us, but if we trust in God it can never come out on top. Faith is our winning weapon in the fight. God brings good out of evil for those who trust, just as God builds the heavenly Jerusalem from the rubble of Babylon.

*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	30th		St Wilfrid's -	
			Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Sun	31st	9.00am	St George's -	Marek Buczkowscy RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	1st		St George's -	
Tue	2nd		St George's -	
Wed	3rd		St Wilfrid's -	Ada Mary Garna RIP
Thurs	4th		St George's -	
Fri	5th		St Wilfrid's -	
Sat	6th		St Wilfrid's -	
			Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Sun	7th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Harriet Fairchild RIP

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.

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:

There is a little phrase in Latin "Festina Lente" which expresses "hurry up, but slowly". This I think and hope echoes our present situation. Now with a number of people having received the vaccine it is becoming more real, but at the same time because of the amount of people catching and dying from the virus the situation remains very difficult. Even though the number of new incidents remains high, the need to return to normal life, especially for schools and indeed elderly people is becoming critical on account of the mental stress that is involved.

Safety remains a great concern. To safely return to a normal healthier life is also now important. So caution, adhering to wearing masks and social distancing is essential, and to avail of this as an important opportunity to live and learn, and please God, to gain a better quality of life in the future. This is much to be desired for our catholic Christian community. I have heard quite regularly of silver linings in the great dark cloud that is Covid 19. Silver linings may give us opportunities as we return to family and parish life and a good constructive challenge to our future.

I am taking a break this weekend, with Fr Kieran covering Masses for me. We will have plenty of time to recover and especially with the season of Lent approaching we can share and strive to live our faith together with confidence and trust. Then continuing on from last week, the message from Pope Francis, for the next couple of weeks can give us food for thought:-

"Being happy is not a fatality of destiny, but an achievement for those who can travel within themselves. To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become your destiny's author. It is to cross deserts, yet to be able to find an oasis in the depths of our soul. It is to thank God for every morning, for the miracle of life.

Being happy is not being afraid of our own feelings. It's to be able to talk about you. It is having the courage to hear a "no". It is confidence in the face of criticism, even when unjustified.

It is to kiss your children, pamper your parents, to live poetic moments with friends, even when they hurt us".



Deacon John Writes:

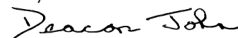
I invite you this week to imagine you are on a boat, perhaps a canoe, a sailing boat, a ferry or a great liner. Whichever you choose, think of yourself as on a long journey across the sea in the present time to an unknown destination called eternity. Throughout our lives we will all have a huge variety of experiences. Some of these may well be storms, some emotional and some physical, as well as spiritual storms. We will come face to face with sorrow of some kind - the loss of a loved one, a friend, a teacher, a pet - and we will turn to Jesus for help and peace of mind. He will always be there to accompany us in such times. We will have doubts that we are doing the right thing, worry about what the future will bring, temptations, worries. Give some time this week to imagine that you have overcome all the obstacles put in your way by circumstances that have arisen in your life and arrived at eternity, your ultimate destiny. What do you imagine it will be like? Will you meet your family who have gone before you? Your friends, teachers, companions? Those you have quarrelled with or just disliked? Will your surroundings be different? Will you be able to see your favourite places or perhaps the places you have longed to visit but been unable to do so. Will there be books to read?

I included a pet since there was a story this week about a little dog who followed the ambulance to the hospital where its master was being taken but was not allowed in. This dog went home each day, but returned every day for a week and remained outside during the day. It was wonderful to see both the dog's joy when his master came out of hospital and that of its master.

This week may be a good time to give thanks to all who have helped you at various times, throughout your lives. It is definitely a good time to give thanks to the Lord who has always been there to bring peace to our minds, whatever the problem. He will calm tempers and bring peace to all who seek him, dispel worries and help us find peace in troubled times.

Last Sunday's Psalm could be taken into our hearts and minds and acted upon at any time: "Lord, make me know your ways. Lord teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me; for you are my God, my saviour."

You can get a similar message from this coming Sunday's Psalm which starts: "O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts." And continues with "Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord." With my love and prayers.



Invited. Lent 2021 – The Mission Begins.

The Diocesan Formation Team is hosting a mission for you this Lent. It will be the first of five seasons of mission, helping you to explore God's *Invitation* to live your life with him.

What is a mission? An opportunity for everyone in the parish to sit back and reflect on the content provided. Season one is a series of programmes that help us to understand exactly how much we are loved by God, and features guest speakers such as David Wells, Eleanor Oliver and David Beresford. You will then be able to join a virtual conversation to meet like minded people and discuss what you have learnt. Visit www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited to find out more. You, are Invited.

Fr Jimmy Buckley - There will still be many at St George's who remember with great fondness Fr Jimmy from Esker Redemptorist Community in Galway. He used to come over to us every summer for several weeks. I found him on line this weekend celebrating Mass at Esker Monastery and wanted to share it with all those who remember him with great fondness. He still has a fabulous singing voice, good and strong! If you want to go on line you can find him if you google Esker Monastery. That will bring you to their website and you can see Mass live or recorded. He doesn't say every Mass but take a look at the recording for Sunday 24th January and you will see him there. Mass goes out live at 10.55 am. I have emailed him at Esker to let him know his friends at Polegate will be looking out for him! He will next stream Mass on 13th and 14th February.