

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

## THE COLLECT

O God, who teach us that you abide  
in hearts that are just and true,  
grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace  
as to become a dwelling 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.

## FIRST READING

Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

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

## PSALM

Ps 31:1-2.5.11.R.v7

**R) You are my refuge, O Lord;  
you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man to whom the Lord  
imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile. **(R)**

But now I have acknowledged my sins;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: 'I will confess  
my offence to the Lord.'  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin. **(R)**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. **(R)**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
10:31-11:1

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Lk 7:16  
**A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:40-45

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

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said, 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse and renew us  
and may it become for those who do your will  
the source of eternal reward.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 3:16

**God so loved the world  
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,  
so that all who believe in him may not perish,  
but may have eternal life.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that we may always long  
for that food by which we truly live.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



As in last Sunday's Gospel, we see Jesus healing, this time a leper, ordering him sternly to say nothing to anyone, apart from reporting to the local priest 'as evidence' of his recovery. Nevertheless, and also understandably, the man is so

delighted to have been miraculously cured, that he tells everyone he meets. Because of this Jesus tried to avoid the crowds by keeping away from populated areas. However, people still flocked to wherever he was. So, was Jesus a 'reluctant' healer? Surely he must have known that the former leper would blab and that people would seek him out. Jesus says many times that he had come to do the will of the Father, which was much more than being a faith healer. The Father had a plan for Jesus, just as he has for us, and he was determined to be faithful to it. If we are sincere in trying to fulfil

God's plan for us, sometimes it involves not doing the 'good' that immediately appeals to us. For example, a mother might wish to spend more time in prayer, something which is undoubtedly good. But the will of God for her is to devote that time to her children which, when done out of love, becomes prayer in action and pleases God immensely.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
**FRATELLI TUTTI**  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



## I. DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD LACKING A PLAN FOR EVERYONE (CONT'D)

16. Amid the fray of conflicting interests, where victory consists in eliminating one's opponents, how is it possible to raise our sights to recognize our neighbours or to help those who have fallen along the way? A plan that would set great goals for the development of our entire human family nowadays sounds like madness. We are growing ever more distant from one another, while the slow and demanding march towards an increasingly united and just world is suffering a new and dramatic setback.

## St Teresa's Way of Perfection\*

### GOD HOLDS US SAFELY

When we are clear about the way to go then it is easy to walk as those who walk in the brightness of day. But there are also times when the way is dark and obscure because God hides in the darkness of faith.

We have no cause to be afraid of the dark night of faith. Indeed, even though good and virtuous actions can seem, and are, worthwhile, the heart at this stage is more attracted to darkness and mystery, knowing that God is present in it. We must therefore surrender ourselves totally into the hands of God. We will be carried if God makes the path too dangerous and obscure for walking.

Don't be afraid! God will never desert you. Do what you have to do. Avoid all sin. Nothing more is asked. Beyond the shadows the light shines. Reasoning isn't any help. Only faith. At this point we are led as if from behind. God is there holding us and urging us on, but we cannot see God's face and it is useless to try. We find the way by losing ourselves and welcoming the difficulties that come from life. Difficulties and darkness teach us things that we cannot learn in the light.

\*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

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## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



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

### WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	13th		St Wilfrid's -	
		<b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Collection for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund Today)</b>		
Sun	14th	9.00am	St George's -	Cicily Mathew RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	15th		St George's -	
Tue	16th	11.30am	St George's -	Requiem Mass for Mr Ronald & Mrs Ellen Monica Williams RIP
Wed	17th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> , Loui Broadbent RIP
Wed	17th	12.00pm	St George's -	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> , Winifred Snowden RIP
Thurs	18th		St George's -	
Fri	19th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Tommy Mitchell RIP
Sat	20th		St Wilfrid's -	
		<b>First Sunday of Lent (Collection for CAFOD Next Sunday)</b>		
Sun	21st	9.00am	St George's -	Deceased Benefactors of St George's Church
		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](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.

**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, 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](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

**To continue:**

Last week I highlighted the coming of Spring. New life and a fresh window of opportunity. To begin with it is a challenge; a challenge of the highest order because of the current climate. There is no magic process to be called upon.

So it is most appropriate that we are presented in the life of the church with the season of Lent. The Stations of the Cross have traditionally been an important part of Lenten preparation and devotions. A memory in my life, is one of my dad doing the Stations of the Cross all the way through Lent. Because he was very crippled by arthritis, suffering great pain, it was a powerful witness to his faith and the strength that he received from it.

In the wider picture the coronavirus is very crippling, a source of suffering and affliction, many isolated in their sufferings, and people left feeling powerless and not sure what to do for the best. The constant feedback from the media and also from the immediate environment is anything but helpful. Normally we could turn to the church for strength and support, but our celebration of funerals highlights the reality of our time. There have been good moments, and streaming services, meetings and Masses have been a welcome introduction. But the immediate circumstances of our life means that we cannot satisfactorily feel that what was achieved was good enough, or indeed very helpful. At the same time they do provide moments of grace and a sense of "the best we can do in the circumstances".

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, and so it leaves us with immediate decision, thanks be to God. The vaccination programme with its successful roll out is going very well. I am grateful to have received my first vaccination and I am very at ease and pleased with the protection that it has given me. My ears are also full of its limitations that I do not deny. But with options and choices remaining "stay safe and protect each other", I am ready to move on within its limitations. So the ashes which were part and parcel of my childhood school. The headmaster from when we were five or six year olds distributing them to the whole school. "Remember, man, that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return", repeated and repeated, "Remember, man, that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return", until everyone in the school was done, and then it was the question, who got the biggest daub?

So here we are today. For many of us who could avail of the great gift of streaming Spiritual Communion has become an important focus. So our Mass for Ash Wednesday sets the stage for our spiritual process and please God, with one step at a time we will return to near normal circumstances.

*Fr. Kerry*

**Deacon John Writes:**

Since this coming Sunday is Valentine Day I thought I would delve into the Internet to see what I could find about St. Valentine. The following is a summary of what I found.

Valentine of Rome was a widely recognised 3rd-century Roman saint, commemorated in Christianity on February 14. Since around the 10th century his Saint's Day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love. Around this time it was believed that birds paired in mid-February and this was then associated with the romance of Valentine. Although these legends differ, Valentine's Day is widely recognised as a day for romance and devotion. Relics of him were kept in the Church and Catacombs of San Valentino in Rome, which "remained an important pilgrim site throughout the Middle Ages until the relics of St. Valentine were transferred to the church of Santa Prassede during the pontificate of Nicholas IV". His skull, crowned with flowers, is exhibited in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome; other relics of him were taken to Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church in Dublin, Ireland, where they remain; this church continues to be a popular place of pilgrimage, especially on Saint Valentine's Day, for those seeking love.

St. Valentine is included in the Roman Martyrology of the Church and February 14th was celebrated as a Feast day in the liturgy on this date until 1955 when Pope Pius XII reduced it to a commemoration within another celebration. 14 years later there was a major revision of the church calendar when it was removed completely except for a small number of places where there was a special reason for inclusion, such as a church dedicated to St. Valentine. With my love and prayers.

*Deacon John*

**Pastoral Letter:** for the 14th February 2021 (6th Sunday in Ordinary Time) can be found on our website [www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk) under News & Events.

**2021**

It's now two thousand and twenty one, we know the virus still hasn't gone  
 But nearly a year has passed us by, we cope with it all with a great big sigh  
 We wear our masks and stay at home, even though we would love to roam  
 Keeping to rules and keeping apart sometimes it feels it will break your heart  
 But progress is happening, that's really fab! Vaccines on offer so go for you're jab!  
 We look to the future with positive air, and bless NH staff who give us such care  
 We will not be beaten, we'll stay really, really brave, clearing out cupboards (what shall we save!)  
 Contact each other by email and phone, so nobody feels that they are alone  
 Lockdown is staying, no doubt about that, lazing around we might put on fat!  
 But what does it matter with friends all around, looking out for each other with feet on the ground

*By Ross*

**Fr Jimmy Buckley**, who spent many summers covering St George's will be streaming Mass from Esker Monastery on Saturday 13th February at 10am and Sunday 14th February at 11am. He knows many of you will be watching. Google Esker Monastery, Galway and you will find him there.