

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 24:6,2,22

**Remember your compassion, O Lord,  
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.  
Let not our enemies exult over us.  
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.**

## THE COLLECT

O God, who have commanded us  
to listen to your beloved Son,  
be pleased, we pray,  
to nourish us inwardly by your word,  
that, with spiritual sight made pure,  
we may rejoice to behold your glory.  
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

A reading from the book of Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

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

## PSALM

Ps 115:10. 15-19 R. Ps 114:9

**R) I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted.'  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. **(R)**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name. **(R)**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R)**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:  
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!'  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

## GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-10

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse us of our faults  
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind  
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 17: 5

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries,  
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,  
for allowing us while still on earth  
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



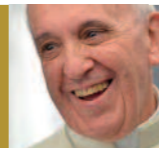
At first glance it seems rather strange that the Gospel recounting the experience of the Transfiguration should be read during Lent, but on reflection it is actually very appropriate. Jesus is revealed in glory

to the amazement and also the fear of Peter, James and John. It seems like a very brief event during which the apostles were told by the Father to listen to his Son. They must have been feeling very confused as they found themselves going back down the mountain with Jesus. They see Jesus transformed into glory and then he is talking about rising from the dead. Jesus makes various attempts to explain to the Apostles that he will be condemned to death and will rise again, and they simply don't get it. Maybe they don't want to 'get it'. And in fact, even when

Jesus does rise from the dead, they don't immediately 'get it'. Those of us who have the benefit of hindsight know all about Jesus and his mission, his dying and rising, but often we live as if it hadn't happened. Today's Gospel is one of hope and comfort to all for this life is marked by suffering.



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



## I. DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD A "THROWAWAY" WORLD

18. Some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence. Ultimately, "persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor and disabled, 'not yet useful' – like the unborn, or 'no longer needed' – like the elderly. We have grown indifferent to all kinds of wastefulness, starting with the waste of food, which is deplorable in the extreme".

## St Teresa's Way of Perfection\*

### WALKING THE WAY

Some people think that they have to do nothing. God will do it all for them. They are badly mistaken if they reason in this manner.

In the Bible people weren't always serene and happy. They had to face pain and suffering. They had to cope with a God who seemed sometimes to lead them along difficult and unpredictable paths. We have to surrender to a guide who takes us through unknown territory. No use consulting maps or asking others the way! We just have to trust our guide. Each one of us is unique, no one is a carbon copy of anyone else, and the life and actions of each cannot be duplicated. We are asked to incarnate the life of Jesus in our own life. But no one will do it in quite the same way. We are each a new testament of Jesus living again in the world, just as in a garden each flower in a border is unlike any other. The only similarity is in the flowers' submission to the hand and design of the gardener.

'God's will be done.' That is the universal law we must follow. Doing God's will means acting at the right time and surrendering in darkness at other times. Obedience is the key. Faith is the watchword. 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

\*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](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk)

## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



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

### WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	27th		St Wilfrid's - <b>Second, 'Transfiguration' Sunday of Lent</b> (Collection for CAFOD Today)	
Sun	28th	9.00am	St George's -	Chris Browne RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	1st		St George's -	
Tue	2nd		St George's -	
Wed	3rd	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Grace Verrell RIP
Thurs	4th		St George's -	
Fri	5th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Dorothy Blake's Intention
Sat	6th		St Wilfrid's -	
			<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	
Sun	7th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Pauline Wainwright RIP

**St George's Church** will be celebrating Mass every Sunday at 9am. **Booking is essential - ring 01323 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

**Continued:**

The Second Station: Jesus receives the Cross. "We adore thee O Christ and we praise thee, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the World".

The agony of Jesus in the garden is a very important focus for our attention. Christ's agony, the Stations of the Cross and the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary provide a constant opportunity for us to contemplate Christ's presence in the world, and above all the salvation He brings.

Last week in 'Deacon John Writes' he had a very important, clear message. In it he said "Lent began last Wednesday, and we were reminded that there is no better time than the present to turn to God for forgiveness and to forgive others". My moments in the garden are frequently focused upon my awareness that I should do better. It becomes a constant refrain in my mind "you should do better". Then because Satan the devil is the accused of the brethren, and as St Peter highlighted, he sits on our shoulder and accosts us night and day. In fact, never lets up. Jesus has put a stop to this by becoming the instrument of God's forgiveness. This is the mission of His life - and for this He lays down His life.

One our Father, one Hail Mary, one Glory be to the Father.

The Third Station: Jesus falls the first time. "We adore thee O Christ and we praise thee, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the World".

He became like us in all things but sin. He knows our weaknesses. The implication of His forgiveness is that it is final, complete. It is His gift that He will never take back. As he completely forgives He has forgiven me, it is essential that I too forgive myself. Through God's grace, if only I can take hold of this, it becomes a real gift. If we take hold of this, the peace, then the strength and hope that it will bring to our life begins to bear fruit - fruit that will last. The implication for the good of our world is that, as He forgives me, so I forgive others.

One our Father, one Hail Mary, one Glory be to the Father.

The Fourth Station: Jesus meets His mother. "We adore thee O Christ and we praise thee, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the World".

The family home is so important in the journey of life, and yet more and more it is becoming absent to our world. This is why in our Catholic church the role of Mary has such an important place. As we realise this, then we become aware of the life of orphans who for no fault of their own have this great affliction to contend with. And so the promise "I will not leave you orphans as so many now are". This should become a major part of our prayers and Lenten preparation for the most important week - The one we call Holy Week, so that the life of Christ may truly find a home in us.

One our Father, one Hail Mary, one Glory be to the Father.

*Fr. Kory*

**CAFOD:** The work of CAFOD is most important in the life of the church, so they deserve not only our gratitude but our financial support because they are serving us so well in doing something that should be most important in our lives. Donate online at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) or by using one of our envelopes. Thank you.

**Deacon John Writes:**

In the gospel for the second Sunday of Lent we hear the Transfiguration story where Jesus is revealed in His Heavenly glory. We encounter transformation every time we receive a sacrament. Baptism transforms us into children of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation transforms us to be brave witnesses of and warriors for Christ. Reconciliation transforms sinners to saints. In every Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar are transformed into the crucified and risen, living body and blood of Jesus. Every Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against temptations, and renew us during Lent. Our Communion with the living Jesus should be the source of our daily "transfiguration," transforming our minds and hearts so that we may do more good, through service to others. The transfiguration gives us a message of encouragement and hope in times of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, pain and suffering. The thought of our future transformation in Heaven will surely help us to reach out to God and to listen to His words: "This is my beloved son." During this Lent let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to the Lord so that through the acceptance of our daily crosses, we may grow closer to him in his suffering, may share in the carrying of his cross and finally may share the glory of his second "transfiguration," namely, his Resurrection.

I found the following material on the internet about a Dr. Peggy Hartshorn who tells a dramatic story about a woman who glimpsed the mystery of her unborn child. The young woman was seeking an abortion. She simply could not handle having a baby at this time. But she agreed to an ultrasound. When the baby appeared on the screen, the woman was amazed to see the perfectly formed body, the tiny legs and arms moving inside her womb. But the woman kept saying, "No, no, I have to have an abortion." Dr. Hartshorn knew that seventy-five percent of women who see an ultrasound decide to keep their baby - but that a quarter, nevertheless, still have the abortion. It seemed like this woman would be in that twenty-five percent. All of sudden, Dr. Hartshorn's assistant said, "Reach out and take your baby's hand." The woman raised her hand and touched the monitor. As if by some divine cue, the baby stretched out his arm to the exact place of his mom's hand. On the screen his tiny fingers met hers. The woman underwent a transformation and kept her baby. Surely we recognise that there is a mystery inside each one of us - the mystery of the image of God.

*Deacon John*

**Pauline Wainwright RIP:** sadly passed away recently, details on the funeral to follow.