

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

Ps 94:6-7

THE COLLECT

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,
they may be defended always by your protection.
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

Job 7:1-4.6-7

Job began to speak:
Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 146:1-6.R.v3

R) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. (R)

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and bring back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. (R)

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
9:16-19. 22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which
has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach
it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for
it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into
my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my
preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not
insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.
So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself
the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the
weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men
in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the
sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
He took our sicknesses away,
and carried our diseases for us.
Alleluia!

Mt 8:17

GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

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

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John
straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's
mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him
about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand
and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait
on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were
sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town
came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were
suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out
many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because
they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the
house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon
and his companions set out in search of him, and when they
found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He
answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country
towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I
came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their
synagogues and casting out devils.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord our God,
who once established these created things
to sustain us in our frailty,
grant, we pray,
that they may become for us now
the Sacrament of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 5:5-6

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be
consoled.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they shall have their fill.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who have willed that we be partakers
in the one Bread and the one Chalice,
grant us, we pray, so to live
that, made one in Christ,
we may joyfully bear fruit
for the salvation of the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel sees Jesus carrying out healing on a grand scale, starting with Simon's mother-in-law. We are told that the fever left her and she 'began to wait on them'. This may seem like a

strange observation and even an unfair one. The poor woman has just recovered from a fever and she immediately sets to work serving the men! But perhaps it is also saying that she had recovered so fully that she was able to do some physical work straightaway without the need to convalesce.

Another interesting thing about this Gospel is that Jesus cast out many devils 'but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was'. So, it was the devils who knew who Jesus was, not the good people! But why did

Jesus not want them to let others know who he was? Jesus was healing people because he has genuine compassion for them, not so that they would follow him. As we see in other parts of the Gospels, Jesus wants people to follow him by taking up their cross and not by becoming 'camp-followers' of a faith healer.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

I. DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD LACKING A PLAN FOR EVERYONE

15. The best way to dominate and gain control over people is to spread despair and discouragement, even under the guise of defending certain values. Today, in many countries, hyperbole, extremism and polarization have become political tools. Employing a strategy of ridicule, suspicion and relentless criticism, in a variety of ways one denies the right of others to exist or to have an opinion. Their share of the truth and their values are rejected and, as a result, the life of society is impoverished and subjected to the hubris of the powerful. Political life no longer has to do with healthy debates about long-term plans to improve people's lives and to advance the common good, but only with slick marketing techniques primarily aimed at discrediting others. In this craven exchange of charges and counter-charges, debate degenerates into a permanent state of disagreement and confrontation.

St Teresa's Way of Perfection*

A PURE HEART

A pure heart finds God where God was thought to be absent.
Faith gives us light to see with the eyes of God rather than our own limited vision.
The chaos of evil cannot replace the order of God.
Carry on regardless of all else. Cling to God's will. Do what you have to do. Be humble and gentle. Then the truth will enlighten you and you will see with the eyes of God.
Beneath the outward appearance of an ordinary life the Virgin Mary shed over all things a shining, but invisible, glory. So shall we if, like her, we surrender to God through thick and thin, maintaining our peace and joy in all that befalls us.

*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	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
Mon	8th		St Wilfrid's -	Requiem Mass for Bridget Kate Cleary RIP
Tue	9th		St George's -	
Wed	10th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Creta O'Neill RIP
Thurs	11th		St George's -	
Fri	12th		St Wilfrid's -	
Sat	13th		St Wilfrid's -	Margaret & Harry Wright & Fr Eric Wright RIP
			Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Sun	14th	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, 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:

"O that today you would listen to His voice, harden not your hearts".

This was the response to last Sundays psalm "O that today you would listen to His voice, harden not your hearts".

Having said this over and over, I hope this truly registered with me. What a dreadful year it has been and right now there is no let up. We had the Deanery Meeting of the priests and deacons, and I could not get over how stressed they were. It really is a stressful time.

To begin with the message "Listen to His voice, yes to His voice", and then to the messages coming from health and safety. From the beginning of the pandemic, because it is malign and evil, the most potent emotion is fear. Because of this the importance of the message of Jesus. "By their fruits you shall know them, good trees bare good fruit".

Now that we have passed "La le Bride" St Brigid's Day, spring is on its way. The days are a cock step longer. Real progress is being made with the vaccinations and please God, before we know it we will be on our way again. This is a most important opportunity and let us treat it as a fresh start, with the hope of living, learning and celebrating again.

Okay, the message still remains - keep safe, "Festina Lente", hurry up, but slowly, and this week I am once again expecting Fr Kieran to give me a break, but most important is the message of Pope Francis for 2021:-

"To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us free, joyful and simple. It is to have maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes". It is to have the courage to say "I am sorry". It is to have the sensitivity to say, "I need you". It is to have the ability to say "I love you". May your life become a garden of opportunity for happiness..... That in spring may it be a lover of joy. In winter a lover of wisdom. And when you make a mistake, start all over again. For only then will you be in love with life.

You will find that to be happy is not to have a perfect life. But use the tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your losses to train patience. Use your mistakes to sculptor serenity. Use pain to plaster pleasure. Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence. Never give up Never give up on people who love you. Never give up on happiness, for life is an incredible show".

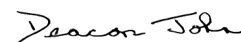


Deacon John Writes:

The readings this weekend challenge us to avoid Job's pessimistic and desperate view of life. He was really low in spirit when he regarded life as all pain and suffering. We must try to accept life with hope and optimism as a precious gift from God, be cheerful, use our lives to do good for others and spend our time, talents and lives for others as Jesus did and as St. Paul did. The second reading describes Paul to us as a true follower of Jesus, moved as Jesus was by concern for the lost which led him to preach the Gospel without cost to the people, and to serve them with Jesus' love and fidelity.

The Gospel teaches us that true discipleship means giving selfless, loving service to others. Mark shows Jesus teaching with authority, exorcising a demon, healing Simon's mother-in-law and, after sunset curing "many who were sick with various diseases, and [driving] out many demons" The following day Jesus rises early and goes off "to a deserted place" to pray, in order to think about what he has been doing and to recharge his spiritual batteries.

The message for us is quite simple: Bringing healing and wholeness is Jesus' ministry even today. We all need healing for our minds, our memories, and our broken relationships. Nowadays Jesus is also using counsellors, doctors, friends, or even strangers to carry out his healing ministry. Let us ask for the ordinary healing we need in our own lives. When we are healed, do not forget to thank Jesus for his goodness, mercy, and compassion by turning to serve others in our turn. Our own healing is fulfilled only when we are ready to help others in their needs and to focus on things outside ourselves. Jesus found time for prayer, time for healing, and time for reconciliation so we, too, can take up this challenge by sharing love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness with others.



Seasonal Workshop for Children

On **Saturday , February 13th**, we are inviting the children to join us for a Seasonal Workshop. This will be held online from 2.30pm for approximately an hour.

There will be games, prayers, activities and friendship. Come and join us as we celebrate the start of Lent.

Children and their families will need to sign up for the session in order to receive the log in details. We will also need an address so we can deliver a pack of helpful materials for the session. Please register your interest by contacting Sandra on 07791627368, email sandraforte40@gmail.com or Teresa on 07951082592 , email tpalmer2205@gmail.com

The Knights of St Columba:

Due to the pandemic, and not being able to attend church, many people have found themselves not being able to access streamed masses on the internet. The Knights of St Columba have arranged for anyone to use a telephone to hear mass, at only the cost of a local call. The number to call is - 01642 130 120.