

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

THE COLLECT

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 second book of Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up." '

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 136. R. V6

**R) O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!**

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. **(R)**

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' **(R)**

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **(R)**

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him

Cf. Is 66: 10-11

and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3:16

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 121: 3-4

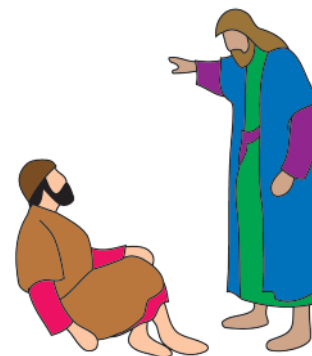
**Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



We tend not to hear very much now about the doctrine of original sin, and this brief reflection is no place to go into depth on the subject. However, we can all recognise, even in a

very small child, our tendency as human beings to want to do that which we know is not good for us. In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about us preferring darkness to light, which is another way of describing our tendency to choose the bad action rather than the good one. Often it is only when, like the Prodigal Son, we have hit rock bottom that we turn back to the Father and plead for his mercy. The Father never turns away from us or withholds his love from us. It is we who turn

away from him, thereby refusing his love. Sometimes, when we have turned away from God, our pride prevents us from asking for his mercy. But the moment we admit we have fallen and turn back to the Father the relationship with him is repaired.



St Teresa's Way of Perfection*

A PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING
THE BOOK OF LIFE

Teach me, Holy Spirit, to read rightly the book of my life. I will be your disciple and believe what I cannot see.

That God speaks at every moment is enough, the rest I take on trust.

Every letter written in the book of my life has meaning and purpose. I can only understand things dimly right now; later I will know with certainty.

May Jesus live in my life now at every moment, and let me recognize that truth by faith.

Write the book that is my life, Holy Spirit of God, make it a continuation of the holy Scriptures.

Everything is holy, everything finds a place in you.

Give me eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart that believes.

Amen.

*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	13th		St Wilfrid's -	
			Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent	
Sun	14th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Encinas Family Intention
Mon	15th		St George's -	
Tue	16th	10.00am	St George's -	Michael Bennett RIP
Wed	17th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Feast of St Patrick , Special Intention for Mary O'Donoghue
Thurs	18th		St George's -	
Fri	19th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Feast of St Joseph , Desmond McKenna RIP
Sat	20th		St Wilfrid's -	
			Fifth Sunday of Lent	
			(Collection for the White Flower Appeal)	
Sun	21st	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Betty Robinson RIP

St George's Church, Masses are now held on Tuesdays, at 10am and Sundays, 9am **Booking is essential - ring 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:

The Eighth Station: Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem. "We adore thee O Christ and we praise thee, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the World".

Jesus you came down from heaven to carry out the will of the Father which was, "that none should be lost". You have shared in our human experience and you know of our afflictions. Our journey through life is described in the Psalm 22 "Though I walk through the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. For you are there with your crook and your staff, with these you give us comfort". During these times we have dramatically experienced through the coronavirus the domain of darkness. Because of modern communication we are particularly aware of death as it is experienced by those who have died from the virus and so it rightly established fear.

This fear should generate within us the beginning of wisdom. So our adherence to good directions given to us is truly important. The fruits of wisdom presents us with the challenge of living through your grace, love and care for us in keeping with the dignity, gifts and challenges of life. With our children returning to school and the necessities of life that help us to embrace life in its fulness, we rely upon your presence with us. As we make the way of the Cross the mystery of suffering remains with us, but we ask you to give us the strength to carry our crosses, to surrender our lives to you, and to live our lives as fully as possible.

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

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

Does it ever let up? So often in life when it rains it pours. For one, the media are an embodiment of this. Up until the pandemic I was an enthusiast for Newsnight etc, though waning. After the first few weeks in isolation, it had gone off my agenda as indeed much of the media, a great thanks be to God for "Spring Watch".

The journey of Jesus to Calvary with its moments on the way; Simon of Cyrene, His Mother Mary, Veronica, the Women of Jerusalem, ultimately the Roman Soldiers, His falls along the way to the Cross and the Nails a litany beyond measure. As I look back on my journey of life with its many falls, I still try to speak of silver linings. Does it ever let up?, I truly hope so. I mentioned in the beginning, almost as a child recalling my dad doing the Stations of the Cross and the hours upon hours of pain that he suffered in his life. So I hope it imbues us with the spirit "those are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of His spirit living within us", and at this time part of my prayer goes out to the Queen and the Royal Family.

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



Booking of Masses for Holy Week:

St Wilfrid's Church

Palm Sunday	10.30am
Holy Thursday	5pm
Good Friday	3pm
Saturday Easter Vigil	8pm
Easter Sunday	10.30am

St George's Church

Palm Sunday	9am
Holy Thursday	7pm
Good Friday	3pm
Saturday Easter Vigil	6pm
Easter Sunday	9am

It is essential to book your place at Mass through the parish office on 841504 or email ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com for any of the above Masses. The deadline for booking is **Friday 19th March 2021**. We will try and accommodate everyone over this period to the best that we can during this difficult time, and will contact you by telephone or email to confirm your place.

Deacon John Writes:

I am sure you all know that this Sunday is Mothering Sunday. Mothers, we honour you this day and every day. We thank you, and we thank God for giving you to us and for endowing you with the spirit of giving, caring, nurturing, loving, and (when necessary) letting go.

There is a prayer which is one you can say at any time, but, it is very appropriate for Mothering Sunday, while quietly giving thanks for your own mother. "God our Mother and Father, rid our hearts and minds of all feelings and attitudes which do not reflect your loving kindness. Bless all mothers. Reward them for their sacrifice and their faithfulness to your image. We thank you for our mothers and for that part of you we have received through them. Finally, we pray that you will never let us forget how much our mothers and wives have given us. We ask this, emboldened by your Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen

