

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ez 36: 23-26

**When I prove my holiness among you,
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;
and I will pour clean water upon you
and cleanse you from all your impurities,
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.**

THE COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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 *Shorter form*

A reading from the book of Exodus 20:1-3. 7-8. 12-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

R) You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R)**

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **(R)**

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **(R)**

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. 1:22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an

obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Jn 3:16
**God loved the world so much that he his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.**
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

John 2:13-25

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,
may take care to forgive our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 83: 4-5

**The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in mystery
may come to true completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel recounts one occasion when Jesus really seems to 'lose it'. He makes a whip, scatters money and overturns tables. Some Christians use this to justify losing their own temper,

but often their anger has been roused by many things other than their love for God. Nevertheless, in the Gospel, Jesus shows that there is such a thing as 'justified' anger. WE cannot stand calmly by and ignore behaviour which is clearly wrong. When challenged by the Jews, Jesus gives a very mystical reply which they don't understand: 'Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up.' In fact, the various references that Jesus makes in the Gospels to his death and resurrection are not understood,

even by his closest disciples. This shouldn't surprise us because most of us tend not to be able grasp things which are expressed in a poetic or mystical way. In our own spiritual lives, we need to learn how to understand the underlying significance in things that happen to us.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



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

(CONTINUED)

19. A decline in the birthrate, which leads to the aging of the population, together with the relegation of the elderly to a sad and lonely existence, is a subtle way of stating that it is all about us, that our individual concerns are the only thing that matters. In this way, "what is thrown away are not only food and dispensable objects, but often human beings themselves". We have seen what happened with the elderly in certain places in our world as a result of the coronavirus. They did not have to die that way. Yet something similar had long been occurring during heat waves and in other situations: older people found themselves cruelly abandoned. We fail to realize that, by isolating the elderly and leaving them in the care of others without the closeness and concern of family members, we disfigure and impoverish the family itself. We also end up depriving young people of a necessary connection to their roots and a wisdom that the young cannot achieve on their own.

St Teresa's Way of Perfection*

JESUS STILL LIVES

Jesus lives and works among us from the beginning of our lives until the end. Jesus lived on earth and still lives. The life of Jesus continues to this day in the lives of the saints and in our own poor lives too.

The good news of the gospel is made present in us. It gives Christ a thousand different faces, a thousand different ways of being. Our family history helps us to understand something of our personal heritage; and in the same way, the story of salvation history helps us to understand more about who Jesus is and the promises he came to fulfil. The Spirit must now write the life of Jesus in our own lives and the lives of those about us. The ink is still wet, the writing in progress. But the writing is in a language we do not understand, and the paper is darker than the ink!

Twenty-six letters of the alphabet make words of astonishing variety. They express feelings, thoughts, actions... They fill volumes. In the same way God is writing numerous books, each one different, each one with its own meaning and story. But only faith enables us to open them and read what God is writing.

*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	6th		St Wilfrid's -	
		Third Sunday of Lent		
Sun	7th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Pauline Wainwright RIP
Mon	8th		St George's -	
Tue	9th	10.00am	St George's -	Donor's Intention
Wed	10th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Sophie Wake, In-Thanksgiving
Thurs	11th		St George's -	
Fri	12th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Requiem Mass for Hannah Hoad RIP
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

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

Deacon John Writes:

Sometime in Lent I invite us all to pray for forgiveness for those sins which we know we have committed during the difficult times we have been through with the coronavirus pandemic. During Lent, we are given another chance to repent and return to our Heavenly Father's love. Below is one suggestion for carrying this out on one's own, or as a family, based on an idea I found on the internet. (*I leave it to individuals to adjust the words "We, us, our, I etc., as appropriate"*)

This reading from 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 serves as an introduction: *So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, Who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake, He made Him to be sin Who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. The word of the Lord. R: Thanks be to God*

(Prayer) Lord Jesus, we ask Your pardon and forgiveness for not bearing witness to you by our lives, spreading through our words, deeds, and attitudes Your love, mercy, kindness, spirit of forgiveness and service to those around us. We pray to the Lord. "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Now call to mind the goodness of God our Father, and acknowledge our sins, so that we may receive His merciful forgiveness. "I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God."

(Prayer) My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You Whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

(Concluding prayer) O Lord our God, look upon our weakness with compassion and forgiveness that we might be made whole again. Cleanse us of our sins, and free us from the prison of guilt, that we may live in the promised joy of Your salvation. May God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit Who gives life to all, grant us grace and mercy, now and forever, Amen.

Deacon John

Booking of Masses

While we are all welcome to return to church on Sunday and for the Holy Week Services, it is necessary to book your place at Mass through the parish office on 841504 or email ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com.

The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus. "We adore thee O Christ and we praise thee, because by your Holy Cross".

So often I say two things: The consolation that this station brings to Jesus, the help that is given to Him is also a great consolation for us. On the way of the cross at the Second Station where I pondered that I knew "I should do better", giving way to the forgiveness that Jesus brings. Now the realisation "we can all do better". After the lockdown when we will return to "the life of the church", then we will genuinely seek to do better. This involves us believing and sharing together in a life of faith with the fruits of this in our experiencing what was the outcome for the early Christian community - "see how they love one another".

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

The Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Last week Deacon John presented us with the dramatic story presented on the internet by Dr Peggy Hartshom, about a woman who glimpsed the mystery of her unborn child. Circumstances had brought about this dramatic encounter. She was amazed to see the perfectly formed boy, the tiny legs and arms moving in her womb. All of a sudden, Dr Hartshom'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 on 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. We see this in a very special way when His sacred face was revealed to her "Veronica wipes the face of Jesus".

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

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

Back down to earth with a bang. The seventh station often has this reference to our lives. Following moments of grace is a reality in life that very often we are again confronted with the ordinary, the normal, the difficulties of life. On the horizon now is the most special season of Holy Week. Please God, this is coinciding with our thoughts of returning to church. This has been helped by the roll out of vaccines, and while very much to be welcomed alongside the return of our children to school, this highlights the circumstances that we are living under and that there may be a spike in the number of people catching it. So again; Firstly, it is good to be back, and welcome. So as parish priest that is to all our parishioners. Secondly, the great necessity to adhere to the guidelines for the safeguarding of our services. So it will be essential for all to apply through the Parish Office to book a place at Masses during Holy Week. We may have to have a draw for places, because stewarding is an essential requirement and I am responsible for this. Just as Jesus, because he is human, again falls under the weight of the cross. So the weight of the cross has been heavy in our journey.

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

Jx Rory