

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

THE COLLECT
O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING
A reading from the book of Joshua 24:1-2.15-18
Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God and serving other Gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Ps 33:2-3.16-23. R.v9
R) Taste and see that the Lord is good.
I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R)**
The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. **(R)**
They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **(R)**
Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. **(R)**

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **(R)**

SECOND READING
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5: 21-32
Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her

holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia! Cf. Jn 6:63.68
Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 6:60-69
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Jn 6:54
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life, says the Lord,
and I will raise him up on the last day.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



One might assume, after all the healing miracles that Jesus had done, everyone who had witnessed them or benefitted from them would automatically become a follower of his. But, as we learn

from today's Gospel reading, "many disciples left him and stopped going with him". Some may have gone away because they didn't like the things he had been saying about him being the bread of life, or having to eat his flesh and drink his blood. Others may have stopped following him when they realised that it involved a serious commitment which involved suffering and possibly even death. So many have abandoned him that Jesus even wonders if the Apostles, those closest to him, wanted to go away too. Peter takes the lead and

affirms what Jesus has told them about Jesus having the message of eternal life and being the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus asks us today the same question. "Do you want to go away too?" It is a question that we must ask ourselves. And if our answer is 'No', we need to decide what the choice to stay with him means.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL AN ABSENCE OF HUMAN DIGNITY ON THE BORDERS

42. Oddly enough, while closed and intolerant attitudes towards others are on the rise, distances are otherwise shrinking or disappearing to the point that the right to privacy scarcely exists. Everything has become a kind of spectacle to be examined and inspected, and people's lives are now under constant surveillance. Digital communication wants to bring everything out into the open; people's lives are combed over, laid bare and bandied about, often anonymously. Respect for others disintegrates, and even as we dismiss, ignore or keep others distant, we can shamelessly peer into every detail of their lives.

The Still Waters of Beauty* FIGHTING WICKEDNESS

'I set no wicked thing before my eyes.' What does this mean? It means that I did not love anything wicked. As you know, a lover is often said to 'keep the beloved before their eyes', and someone who is spurned might complain, 'He does not keep me before his eyes'. What does this mean, to have a person before one's eyes? It means to love them. And what is the absence of love? It is not to have someone in your heart. That is why the psalmist says: 'I set no wicked thing before my eyes', which means, I did not love anything wicked.

He goes on to explain the nature of this wickedness: 'I hated the workers of deception'. Listen, my brothers and sisters, if you walk with Christ in the midst of his house, that is, if you are at peace in your heart or are in the Church itself, making good progress along the path of purity, you should hate not only those liars you find outside its gates, but also any you find within. Who are these liars? They are those who hate the law of God, those who hear it and fail to keep it. These are the ones called liars. So hate the workers of deception. Drive them far way from you. But you ought only to hate them as liars, and not as human beings. A person who is a liar may be designated by two names, 'human' and 'liar'. God created their humanity. They turned themselves into liars.

Show love for that part of them which God has made. Hunt down what is their own creation, and when you have done so, kill the deception, so that what God has created will be set free.

*Augustine of Hippo Edited by Oliver Davies Published by New City



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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	21st	St Wilfrid's		
Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time				
Sun	22nd	9.00am	St George's -	Margaret Madams RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	23rd	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	24th	10.00am	St George's -	Fr Rory's Intention
Wed	25th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Donor's Intention
Thurs	26th	10.00am	St George's -	Holy Souls' Intention
Fri	27th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Joan Covey Birthday Intention
Sat	28th	St Wilfrid's -		
Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time				
Sun	29th	9.00am	St George's -	Joan Lodrick RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention

St George's Church, Masses are on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10am and Sundays, 9am. Weekly attendance is now possible; please notify Sandra, 07791627368 or sandraforte40@gmail.com if you are returning on Sundays to ensure social distancing can be in place if needed.

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, 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:

Well how did it go? You may ask "what go"? We had our celebration marking our return to church after the part that the coronavirus has played in recent times. It is good to say "very well indeed", as is the human situation, a sense that of course it could have been better. Certainly the heart of the event was in the right place. The liturgy for the Feast of the Assumption could not have suited our situation better. As Catholics, we have long memories of different events associated with this feast over the years. For us, when we were children it had particularly great memories, being the high point of the year. Again, even then the human element, it also marked thoughts of having to return to school, the passing year, bringing with it change.

This may be a key note for us, as we hold our post mortems. The liturgy of the mass is at the heart of our future and gives us great confidence that we have got something good to build on. The excellent work of Gary through the streaming of the pictures, gave us access to recall the "hearts of gold" that we have lost in recent times. They have left us with a very special legacy and with their deaths comes real sadness and great loss. The presentation ignited memories of these special people. We are greatly blessed, by the legacy that they have left.

The children's liturgy team gave us a special focus on what our lives as Catholics are all about. The Scripture, the teachings, the tools, that if we use we can develop and strengthen our faith. When I hear mention of the return of the word "obligation" to go to mass, I shudder. How can we get it so wrong? Of course I can hear of it as a mortal sin if you do not eat. If you never eat you will die. We need our food to nourish our bodies, and in the same way we need to nourish our spiritual lives. I accept that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and through God's providence He finds ways of looking after us in our own particular needs or circumstances. Ultimately it is our faithfulness to His will His way for us to serve Him.

It is a great sadness that here in Europe, and I do accept the great scandals in the Christian Churches and Institutions that have caused people to turn their backs upon them. The unfolding developments in our world, with Afghanistan at the moment, climate change, the danger that there will have to be large scale migration, turmoil, highlight our human existence. We can allow ourselves to be overwhelmed and lose our sense of purpose, but against all of that, God's great gift to us each Sunday - The promise that the Feast Day holds out for us, the resurrection of Our Lord and its promise for all of us. Yes, to the treasured memories of those gone before us marked with the sign of faith, yes to the teaching of our children's catechist, yes to our needs for help, especially for our music ministry, yes to the firm foundations to build upon as we go along.

Hard work that was done by a few, the hall was cleared, the seating beautifully prepared, and the food was second to none. My sense that I should have supported and sold it better, could be re-echoed, and our way forward is in working with this, understanding and supporting. A sense of thanks for the legacy that we have been left with, a sense of confidence that we can do better, and our two communities, but only with the reality of a new generation working for us. This truly highlights the essential gifts of modern means of communication, and the will to live and to learn together, with God's help, strength and protection.

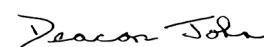


Deacon John Writes:

The following was written by Peter Riordan in 2008.

My life has been a good news story. I think of myself as having been extremely blessed. I grew up with the loving care and guidance of great parents and grandparents. My twin brother has always been my best friend, so there was always someone with whom to share the adventures of youth. The rest of my family are also precious to me and to one another. My parents sent me to great schools where I learned values and attitudes I cherish. I am married to a wonderful wife and have two terrific children, a son and a daughter who are also great friends to one another. I live in a prime location where my neighbours are also my friends. I count my blessings and thank God for them. My work is my chance to pay God back, to share the gift of God's love. At work I enjoy the loyal friendship of staff and the company of students whom I treat with respect and with sensitivity for their feelings. I try to call each by name so that I know each as a person. My parents were both teachers. I guess that was part of the reason I also felt called to teach. But does this mean there has never been, or never will be, upsets, problems, or disappointments? Of course not. No matter how blessed our lives may be there will always be challenges along the way.

What do we do about them? It seems to me we have a very clear choice. Either brood about them, and be angry, bitter, and resentful, or get on with life. Sadly, I meet people who do not cope well with 'knock-backs', and who seem to accumulate the baggage of bitterness and lingering hurt. So my attitude is never to fret about what went wrong, what I missed out on, what could have been. I can do without carrying the burden of past disappointments. It is far better to face each problem and either turn it into an opportunity or to look for the next opportunity. Look forward, not back. It is much easier to progress if we face where we want to go.



St George's is gently and carefully returning to normal. It is no longer necessary to book into the weekday Masses on Tuesday and Thursday. It is preferable to book Sunday, but not absolutely necessary anymore. For those who would like some space around them, this can be accommodated. Music has made a welcome return and singing, with a mask - which is perfectly possible - is positively encouraged. Every care is being taken to make our church a safe place for all. We look forward to welcoming everyone back into our parish family and have plans for a thanksgiving Mass and social in September - more details to follow.

St George's Church: It was lovely to see so many returning parishioners and welcome new members to our community at St George's on Sunday. We are almost back to normal but continue to tread with care in keeping everyone safe. So good to see Alan serving on the altar again and great to chat with everyone afterwards too. A thanksgiving and remembrance event is planned for September. Details to follow.

St Wilfrid's Celebration Mass and Visit to our Garden of Remembrance where we had a very moving service:

Thank you Father Rory for making this celebration so special, Teresa and Annette for the Altar display and everyone for joining in and singing, something we have missed in lockdown.

Then after Mass into our hall for refreshments, beautifully set out and organised by our excellent team. It was so good to get together at last and enjoy ourselves in the company of our fellow community members. The adult tombola was well stocked and great fun. The money taken went to funding the food. The children's tombola was great fun too, no profit was made as we had to pay for the prizes this time. Thank you everyone who contributed in anyway to our wonderful happy and successful day. Here's to the next one, now we are up and running, still observing the COVID rules of course.

Beginning Experience Weekend: October 8th – 10th, Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. For those who find themselves single again following divorce, separation or bereavement.

Beginning Experience is a weekend programme to help you move from the darkness of your grief into the light of a new beginning. More details at besouthofengland@gmail.com.

The Rosary group will re-start on Monday, 9 August 2021, at 2:30p.m. in St. George's hall. Parishioners from both churches are welcome. Please contact Martin 01323 485474.

Bereavement Mass, Sunday 22nd August at 3pm. We are looking forward to this taking place as it will be so helpful because for many there has been much sadness and indeed loss, so it is important to pray for one another and when we can to support each other.

Volunteers are needed at St Wilfrid's: There are forms being handed out after Mass and are available on the table in the church porch, listing the areas where we need your help. Please consider very carefully as to where you can contribute to the successful running of our church and community, Please return to the presbytery.

Joke of the Week: Miss Holycheek, the Catholic Sunday school teacher, had just finished explaining the feast of the Assumption to her class. "Now," she said, "let all those children who want to go to Heaven to see their Heavenly Mother raise their hands." All the children raised their hands except little Marie in the front row. "Don't you want to go to Heaven, Marie?" asked Miss Holycheek. "I can't," said Marie tearfully. "My mother told me to come straight home after Sunday school