

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 118:137,124

**You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.**

THE COLLECT

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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 prophet Isaiah

35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 145:7-10. R.v1

R) My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. **(R)**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best

seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Cf. Mt 4:23

**Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom,
and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 7:31-37

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that, through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 8:12

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The stories of Jesus in Palestine, though they happened in particular places, long ago, with particular individuals, nevertheless have a timeless significance. Today's Gospel story is, we could say, a particularly bodily story. Jesus *"puts his fingers into the man's ears*

and touches his tongue with spittle". What an important part the body plays in the story of our salvation! Through the crucifixion of his body, Our Lord won us entrance into Heaven; through our union with his body, through receiving his flesh and blood in Communion, we make that salvation ours. All the gifts of Grace come to us in bodily form: by water poured on us in Baptism; forgiveness of personal sins, by means of words spoken by the priest; the gift of the Holy Spirit through anointing with oil; today's story of the deaf man can remind us of the anointing of the sick. The Son of God came and

made a human body his own, so that we, who live so thoroughly in the body, should have it renewed and made a source of eternal life! St. Paul reminds us, *"Do you not realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you and whom you received from God? You are not your own property, then; you have been bought at a price. So use your body for the glory of God."*



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



SHAMELESS AGGRESSION

44. Even as individuals maintain their comfortable consumerist isolation, they can choose a form of constant and febrile bonding that encourages remarkable hostility, insults, abuse, defamation and verbal violence destructive of others, and this with a lack of restraint that could not exist in physical contact without tearing us all apart. Social aggression has found unparalleled room for expansion through computers and mobile devices.

St Teresa's Way of Perfection* GOD IS ALWAYS GOOD

'How good God is to Israel.' That is, good to the upright of heart. But to the perverse he will appear perverse. And in another psalm it says: 'With the holy you will be holy, and with the innocent you will be innocent, and with the perverse you will be perverse'.

Perverse people think that others are being perverse. But God cannot really be like this, far from it: he is what he is. It is just as when the sun's rays are gentle on healthy and clear eyes but strike bloodshot eyes like sharp spears: in both cases the sun is the same, but the person looking at it is different. So when you begin to be perverse, and God appears perverse to you, it is you who have changed, not God. What good people experience as a joy will be the torments of punishment to you.

Recalling this, then, the psalmist says: 'How good God is to Israel, to those who are upright of heart'.

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



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

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Polegate



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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	4th		St Wilfrid's	
Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Next Sunday, Collection for the Catholic Education Service)				
Sun	5th	9.00am	St George's -	Jenni Duder-Rumsey RIP 4th Anniversary
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	6th	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	7th	10.00am	St George's -	Eliza D'Souza RIP
Wed	8th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Bridie Ginn's Intention
Thurs	9th	10.00am	St George's -	John McKenna RIP
Fri	10th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	John & Margaret Forde's Intention
Sat	11th		St Wilfrid's -	
Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Collection for the Catholic Education Service) (Next Sunday, Collection for the Home Missions)				
Sun	12th	9.00am	St George's -	Margaret Gearing 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. **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, Julliette Lusted, Jennifer Piskac, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne Holt, Margaret, Rosie Tuson, 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:

A very special memory; a lovely event.

Last Sunday at St George's Church we celebrated the baptism of "Jamie-Leigh". Please God, it will continue on the trajectory that it was launched on. She established contact with us when the coronavirus had first afflicted us, with the limitations that were established to provide the safety that was needed to counter the effects of the virus. She began to tell her story and we recognised a great point of connection. She was a carer for our Mary Parhon and still is. We have really missed Mary every Sunday from our morning mass at St George's. When I met Mary in her home during lockdown, she was as lovely as ever - and as ever she was not going to allow the virus to cause her to change her behaviour, she insisted upon greeting me with a big hug, no social distancing for Mary, and as a consequence her carers have to modify her outings. She is a great witness for the value of screening services as she too chooses her Sunday morning services.

As part of our preparation for Jamie-Leigh's baptism that had to be modified, very rewarding and seeds for a new generation. It highlights our faith and what is at the heart of it, how we share it and how we renew it. Our faith, how we live it - How we believe it - How we renew it and when choosing the best reading from scripture for her to read at her service of baptism. One suggested was a reading from the first moments of St John's letter, and like the first moments of His gospel - compelling.

John 1-4

The Incarnate Word

Something which has existed since the beginning, that we have heard,
and we have seen with our own eyes; that we have watched
and touched with our hands: the Word, who is life —
this is our subject. That life was made visible;
we saw it and we are giving our testimony, telling you of the eternal life
which was with the Father and has been made visible to us.
What we have seen and heard we are telling you
so that you too may be in union with us, as we are in union
with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
We are writing this to you to make our own joy complete.

We are now really looking forward to our special event on Sunday 26th at St George's.
Please God, we will step out as a new generation looking forward to sharing our lives with hope.



Deacon John Writes:

Following on from last week:-

Where was the father? - the second instalment of last week's story..

The father was about thirty feet away from the boy all through the night. He was in the forest, next to trees that sheltered him, and he watched his son, but he would not leave his son, because he knew the great danger and he knew that his boy could really have been destroyed by the wild animals in the forest.

But he stayed with him, but the boy never knew it, never thought of it.

And so, when the little boy came home, he bragged to his brothers and sisters, "Yes, I have done this wonderful thing and it's my honour and now I am a man in the tribe." And they gave him a sword and they gave him a shield and everything.

Why do I tell that story?

What saved that little boy?

The presence of his father. The presence of his father shielded him, took care of him, without him even knowing it.

But if it wasn't for the presence of the father, terrible things could have happened to that child, and yet he himself never knew it.

Now, if you think of that, you must remember that this is the presence of God among us. God is hidden, in a way, but not hidden. He is always there when we open our hearts to Him and ask.

But it is we who must search and we who must find and we who must strive with great honour and fall into the arms of a God who has always, always, taken care of us and will continue to take care of us all our lives.

Those are just two little examples. And what does it mean?

It means that we are not alone, that God is with us and it is the presence of God that is with us.

And then, one day in the not too distant future, Jesus will give us a sign and symbol that will be the best of all.

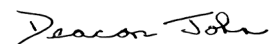
And he will bring them, his little disciples, into the room and he will bless the bread and say, "This is me. This is myself. I give it to you. Take it and eat it."

And he will bless the wine and say, "This is my blood poured out for your healing and your salvation.

"Never again must you be afraid of the darkness. Never again must you walk away from what is your responsibility. Never again.

"Why?

"Because I am with you all days, even to the end of the world."



St George's Teas and Coffees after mass – we would like to start this again from Sunday 5th September. We need help to run this weekly, two people are needed each week. If you would like to do this with a friend or be paired with another parishioner please let Sandra know as soon as possible.

St George's Food Bank donations – we are asking all parishioners to continue to support our local foodbank by bringing donations and leaving in the basket at the back of Church. The September offerings will be taken away following Harvest Sunday on 26th September and we hope to have plenty to give. Items urgently required are: Tinned Meats/Fish, Jam, custard/rice pudding, Tinned fruit (not peaches), Crisps and Shampoo/Conditioner.

St George's Celebration of Life and Faith – Sunday 26th September 9am Mass, will be a special Mass of remembrance of those we have lost, especially those lost during the Covid-19 pandemic, but it will also be a celebration as our community returns to be together again. We hope as many parishioners as possible will be able to attend. After mass we will all gather in the remembrance garden where Father will bless the recently planted rose bushes in memory of all those whose lives we have celebrated during the service. This will follow with a celebratory breakfast, raffle and tombola.

Don't let the celebrations end there - our children and their families are hoping you will join them to spend the rest of the morning and afternoon enjoying family games, bingo, quiz, and a lunch. More info to follow but please do put the date in the diary and let others know. All are welcome.

Please RSVP – For catering purposes we would benefit from knowing numbers so please RSVP via the list at the back of church or call/text Sandra on 07791 627368.

St Wilfrid's First Communion Preparation:

St Wilfrid's is now inviting parents to enrol their children in our First Holy Communion Programme for 2021. In our Diocese, the usual age for receiving this Sacrament for the first time is 8 years of age (children in Year 3 or above.) There will be an introductory meeting for parents and children on September 29th at 6.30pm in the church hall, with a view to starting lessons in October.

Please contact Annette Wake 07839571916, annette@awakefamily.plus.com or Teresa Palmer on 07951082592, tpalmer2205@gmail.com before September 22nd to reserve your child's place.

St Wilfrid's Children's Liturgy will commence weekly from 5th September, we are very happy to welcome two new catechists, Angie and Dawn as well as welcoming back Teresa and Annette, we would still love to have help with this rewarding aspect of our parish, as the youth are our future and have a lot to give and to learn. we are also commencing our family masses once a month at the end of the month. The first will be the very popular Harvest Mass.

Harvest Family Mass - is on 26th September at 10.30. Our main projects are for Cafod and the Hailsham Food Bank.

St George's Remembrance Book - especially for the Celebration of Life and Faith mass, we will have a remembrance book available in Church from Sunday September 5th. If you or someone you know would like to have names added to the book please write them in or email the details to sandraforte40@gmail.com.

St George's Children's Liturgy will resume on Sunday 12th September in the hall during mass. All children primary age are welcome and parent/carers are welcome to stay with younger children if they wish.

St Wilfrid's Church - Notices at Mass on Sunday.

If you need a notice read out after Mass please email or phone Jean by Saturday mornings. jeanbarham21@gmail.com Tel: 842824.

We are starting back with our over 50's Afternoon Tea, 2pm - 4pm or 5pm: Thursday 30th September and thereafter the last Thursday of every month. Another opportunity to meet your fellow parishioners socially. Our sales table will be up and running from that date, bargains galore. If you have any suitable gifts for a table, please leave them in our church porch, labelled "Sales Table" or contact Joan on 07873 390844. Thank you.

Of course both of the above two events are open to our friends at St George's, as Fr Rory says, "we must get together more".

Lunch at the Kings Head - Horsebridge, 12noon, Thursday 9th September: Time is moving on till we have to give in our numbers, I must have final numbers by Monday 6th September please, tel: Joan 07873 390944. Thank you. This is a very good opportunity to meet your fellow parishioners socially. The menu at the Kings Head caters more for other dietary requirements, so hopefully more of you will join us.

Parliament in Your Parish - Fri 17 Sep 11-1 pm Parish Hall

We are delighted that our MP, **Maria Caulfield**, has agreed to come to **St Thomas More Seaford on Friday 17 September** to engage with us as Christians from the Lewes constituency on issues such as **the causes of poverty, inequality and the climate emergency** in anticipation of the COP 26 meeting in Glasgow in November.

Parliament in Your Parish is a CAFOD initiative responding to Pope Francis's challenge in *Fratelli tutti* (2020) to Christians to 'rethink the future of our common home' in light of the global Covid pandemic. Members of Seaford, Lewes and Polegate parishes and other churches are also invited to come along. A Parliament in Your Parish meeting has taken place or is planned with MPs from over half the 26 constituencies in Arundel & Brighton diocese so far.

Please do put the date in your diaries -- Fri 17 September, 11 am - 1 pm -- and come along. Full briefing notes will be provided and non-verbal presence and support is welcomed along with those happy to ask questions or engage in discussion! Please let Vicky Cosstick know on seafordvicky@yahoo.com or 07798 803410 if you would like to come.