



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

THE COLLECT

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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 Zephaniah

Phil 4:4-5

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia! Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

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

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord

Ps. 12:2-6.R.v6

PSALM

R) Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (R)

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. (R)

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R)

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Just as John the Baptist baptized with water, so are Christians baptized with water. Where does the difference lie? John tells us: Jesus is "someone who is more powerful than I am". As Jesus tells us himself, "The Son of man has authority

on earth". The Son of man, who is the Son of God, demonstrates this power and authority many times during his mission on earth: curing illness, walking on the water, calming storms. Jesus is the Son of the Creator of all things; indeed, he is "the Word through whom all things came into being". He has the power, he has the ultimate authority, to change, to alter, to adapt, the laws of nature. For us he is the source, through the pouring of water in baptism, of our

receiving the Holy Spirit and being reborn as children of God. Baptism brings about in us a real change: what is called an 'ontological change', a change of being. We receive through the power and authority of Christ, the life of grace, the life of God, for our sanctification and salvation.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

57. This parable has to do with an age-old problem. Shortly after its account of the creation of the world and of man, the Bible takes up the issue of human relationships. Cain kills his brother Abel and then hears God ask: "Where is your brother Abel?" (Gen 4:9). His answer is one that we ourselves all too often give: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (ibid.). By the very question he asks, God leaves no room for an appeal to determinism or fatalism as a justification for our own indifference. Instead, he encourages us to create a different culture, in which we resolve our conflicts and care for one another.

Love rather than knowledge

Loving is more important than talking and discussing things. Love delights us and sweetens our conscience because it draws us away from lesser pleasures and the pursuit of our own glory. We have to be strong and ready to take on hard things for God, glowing with the fires of wisdom and love. Like St Paul we must cry out: 'For me to live is Christ and to die is gain' (Phil. 1: 21).

Those who really love God show it by the way they live. To be expelled from attaining the bliss of heaven, rather than knowing Jesus in joy and jubilation, is folly. On the other hand, people who are poor in this world, but seek Jesus, will know unending happiness. They sing together with the heavenly choir in rich melody.

People who have loved God on earth can die without regrets and enter into eternal praise. But too many are anxious for knowledge and discussion. Shame on them! An old woman can be a greater expert in the love of God than the professional theologian. To pursue learning so as to gain a reputation or get an official Church position doesn't merit anyone the title of 'Doctor' but rather of 'Fool!'



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



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(Answerphone service available on both numbers)
Email: ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com
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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	11th	10-11am	St Wilfrid's	Confessions - Church will be open
				Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent
Sun	12th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Nancy Wareing RIP
				James Leslie and Margaret McLean Westcar RIP
Mon	13th	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	14th	10.00am	St George's -	Margaret Rose O'Brien RIP
Wed	15th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	The Ball Family
Thurs	16th	10.00am	St George's -	Tom McCann RIP
Fri	17th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	The Towell Family
Sat	18th	10-11am	St Wilfrid's -	Confessions - Church will be open
				Fourth Sunday of Advent, 'O Radix Jesse'
Sun	19th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Noelle Fitzsimmons-Older RIP

Confessions on request at anytime or before and after Masses at St Wilfrid's and St George's Church

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 Gerry Palmer
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: Anne Bowe Tel: 07808 175455
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, Dee Challis, Lilian Summers, Tom Woodrow-Spencer, Colleen, Chris Neyenhuizen, Letty Booth, Michael Copper, Peter Standen and Richard Stimpson.

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 9am-1pm & Friday 9am-12.30pm

Fr Rory Writes:

Again, thanks be to God.

We had a lovely, lovely evening which took place at St George's church last Saturday. The Southdown Singers presented us with very enjoyable singing, music and stories most appropriate to the Advent Season. Also, they left us with a beautifully decorated church to enhance our worship prayer and commitment. After the long term effects of covid, windows of opportunity for enjoyment are much appreciated. We have a baptism here at St George's this Saturday and for all of us this weekend the sacrament of reconciliation; an opportunity to experience one of God's most special gifts – His forgiveness, His pardon and His peace.

Repetition has a great value in leaning, so I return to the idea of sowing new seeds. Please, please God, we will really sow some new seeds. So that is why I mention "co er" groups. I suggest that you give some thought to this and say we could form a "co er" group. As the pandemic has had a major influence on our actions, the opportunity that this "Synod" is of the greatest importance. A real challenge confronts us in the life of our church.

In response to this, various groups should give it the care and attention that it deserves. Again, these two questions:-
Why do we need it? And what is the best outcome for the future, for the life and witness for the catholic church?
This could be a tick box exercise in futility, on a memorable opportunity in the life of our church.

When I left the seminary almost fifty years ago as a young priest, I had hopes of a new Pentecost, and while some aspired to it, the church in general allowed itself to be laden and overburdened - so no great fruits. The challenge always goes on; and people always try to accept a challenge. We had in our time an excellent effort from the Liverpool Diocese and with Cardinal Hume providing his authority, more was expected of it. To outer eyes it was shelved, and here we are like St Peter; who has fished all night and caught nothing. With the inspiration of Jesus..... St Peter was prepared to set out once again with the message of salvation, that he had received from His master. In keeping with what he said we set out once more in obedience with the words "I have come to save the lost".


Deacon John Writes:

Last Sunday we lit the 2nd Advent candle. This candle can remind us that spending time in prayer is one way to prepare for Christmas. Some people find that what is known as 'The Prayer of the Hand' or 'The five finger prayer' can help us to pray.

Thumb: This is the nearest to me, and can remind me to pray for those who are closest to me, my family and friends.

Index Finger: This is used for pointing, and can remind me to pray for all teachers and those from whom I learn.

Middle Finger: This is the tallest and biggest, and can remind me to pray for those who have a special responsibility, for doctors and nurses, those in the rescue services, and anyone who has to take decisions that effect how we live our lives.

Third Finger: This is the weakest finger, as I'm told any piano player will tell you, and can remind me to pray for anyone who is ill or in trouble.

Little Finger: This is the smallest and least important, and can remind me to pray for myself, as I recall the words of Jesus who said we must love our neighbours as ourselves.

Finally, a Danish Proverb that's worth remembering: **Pray to God in the storm, but keep on rowing.**



St Wilfrid's Church: Advent Penitential Service and First Confession for our 7 candidates on Saturday 11th December at 5 pm.
Rehearsal for Nativity Mime at Christmas Eve Mass will be Saturday 18th December at 2pm, Children from St Wilfrid's and St George's are all welcome to take part in this special part of the Mass.

St Wilfrid's Church, Broad Road, Willingdon - A Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12 December at 4.00pm.

St Wilfrid's would like to invite you to a special event to remember loved ones who have died. During this event we will name each person and light a candle in their memory. We wish also to remember those who never saw the light of day, but who died before birth. If you would like us to name your loved one, please let us know beforehand, if possible, by contacting: **01323 482088** or email **minister@stwilfs.org**.

Empty Shoe Boxes - If anyone has any empty shoe boxes at home, could they please bring them into St. George's, and we will start covering them for next year's "Love in a Box!" Thank you Anne Bowe.

Hello, my name is Kelly Richards, and I am the Safeguarding Rep for St George's

Christmas is fast approaching and it is a joyful time, but can also be a lonely time for those that may not have family or friends that they can spend this Holy time with. Safeguarding is not only there to help and support families, or children that may be of concern regarding any issues, but also for older people in our community in need of help. If you feel that anyone is in a situation of concern please do contact me Merry Christmas Kelly (07967562110).

St George's Church: Christmas cards are now on sale at the back of the church.

St Wilfrid's Church - Notices at Mass on Sunday. If you require a notice read out after Mass please email Alan by Saturday mornings. alanjozwik@gmail.com

Over 50's Activities:

Will comment in next weeks newsletter regarding our Parish Christmas Lunch last Thursday. Our next event is **Thursday 30th December, 2pm in our Hall for Afternoon Tea**, when we will have a **pre New Years Eve Party**. The cost for this will be £5 each. Anyone who would like to join us is very welcome, plus any friends who are non Catholics and St George's friends of course. The idea of getting together on the last Thursday of the month is to bring a little fun and happiness to anyone who would like to join us. Please contact Joan 07873390944 as this is a party we need to know numbers please. Thank you.

Our collection for the "**Lourdes Fund**" in honour of our Hannah amounted to £140. David and Ann, Hannah's parents wish to thank everyone who so generously contributed.

This year at our **Christmas Party, Sunday 19th December**, after our **Carol Service** in the Hall, we have decided not to have a large raffle, but instead a large tombola with many prizes. So if you have a suitable prize you would like to contribute, please leave in our church porch. Thank you.

There will also be a "Children's Tombola", 50p a go, prize for everyone. Father Christmas will be far too busy to visit, so each child will take home a "Goodie Bag", please put your name on the list on the Notice Board in the church porch. No Name, No Goody Bag.

Don't forget our **Christmas Sales Table**. It is there all the time now because the many organisations hiring our hall have requested it and the money is flowing! You may have noticed the chair in our porch overflowing with warm goods for "The Homeless at Christmas".

Please bring items suitable so we can help the homeless to keep warm this winter. We have an organisation who will collect these goods and distribute them for us. There is also a collection pot. Let us show them we feel for them at St Wilfrid's.

HAILSHAM FOODBANK COMMUNITY FRIDGE We are currently Crowdfunding to purchase a Community Fridge (and Freezer) which will be supplied by end of day food from local supermarkets and businesses. This will give the opportunity to offer fresh items and help eliminate food waste locally. We were able to secure match funding for this project but need a minimum of 30 supporters. If you could help us reach this target we would be extremely grateful. Even £1 could make all the difference to us receiving an extra £1000. Thank you. <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/hailsham-community-fridge>

Justice & Peace Assembly Webinar: 'To a Safer Shore?: 15th January, from 9.45 am for 10 am to 1 pm, will now take place online. More details and to book at [To a Safer Shore? Spotlights refugees, highlighting what we can do to help. | Arundel & Brighton Catholic Diocese \(abdiocese.org.uk\)](#) or contact Tessa Ricketts at Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

Las Posadas: Saturday 18th December, 4-6pm in St George's Hall. St George's Church invites all from St George's and St Wilfrid's Church to join them for their Las Posadas Celebration.

Thank You: Anne & David would like to thank Joan and all who contributed to the very generous gift of £140.00 in memory of Hannah. The funds will be donated to HCPT group 71 based in Haywards Heath and will go towards helping to pay for a child, with special needs, to go on pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter, as well as offer some respite for their families. Hannah loved going to Lourdes and went on 5 separate occasions. All the children who have been have such a fantastic time often they don't want to come home. With all our thanks and best wishes for a wonderful Advent and Christmas season, Anne & David Hoad.

St Wilfrid's Carol Service: Sunday 19th December, 2pm in St Wilfrid's Church, followed by our Christmas Party in the Church Hall. All invited from St Wilfrid's and St George's Church.

Bidding Prayer Rota: We are currently looking for more people to help with the Bidding Prayers for Mass at the weekends. If this is something you would like to do, please email Jackie on ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com and I will add you to the next rota which will start in February 2022.

St Wilfrid's Teas/Coffees After Mass on Wednesdays: Hurrah! All the covid rules and regulations have been put in place, so now we can offer tea/coffee in our hall after Wednesday Mass as well as Sunday. Please do take advantage of this service and pop in and have a cuppa and natter with us. You will be most welcome. If you feel you could help us getting tables ready, making the tea/coffee or cleaning up afterwards, please give your name to Joan on 07873390944. Thank you.

South Down Singers: The South Downs Singers, Community choir performed a concert, "Christmas Melodies" at St George's last Saturday, which was a sell out. Last week was the first time the concert has been held at St George's, and what a fitting venue it was. The church had the most warm, welcoming atmosphere, and the acoustics were excellent. The choir have been formed for many years, and we produce two concerts a year in aid of local charities. We were under the musical direction of James Aburn from Bede's, who is the most talented of young directors whose enthusiasm shines through in our performances. Our piano accompanist, as always, was Robert Scamardella, a most achieved musician, who is the director of music at Bede's. It was heart warming to see so many of the parish in the audience, and to have Shirley McCann, Anne Bowe and myself singing in the choir, felt a bit like being at home among friends. I would like to thank Shirley and Anne for all the support they gave to organise the afternoon. Finally a very big thank you to our Father Rory for giving his permission for us to use St George's so many thanks Father. The feed back from the audience has been overwhelming, and we are all so pleased that the concert was a great success...

Merry Christmas one and all...and God Bless us all in 2022. Kelly Richards (Chair of the South Downs Singers)

Sunday 28th November 2021 St George's Attendances: 42 St Wilfrid's Attendances: 87

Sunday 5th December 2021 St George's Attendances: 42 St Wilfrid's Attendances: 102