

19TH DECEMBER 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 45:8

**Drop down the dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.**

THE COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
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 Micah

5:1-4

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 79:2-3,15-16,18-19.R.v4

**R) God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R)**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays
down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the
oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took
no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming
to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with
the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the
offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lk 1:38

**I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the
hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and
greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's
greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled
with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all
women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of
your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the
mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my
ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she
who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be
fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power the womb of the
Blessed Virgin Mary.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Is 7:14

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

19TH DECEMBER 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK 4/PROPER

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



*"How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of one who brings good
news!"* Mary's arrival at the house
of Zechariah and Elizabeth's
greeting, are the first public
moment of Jesus' life. The first

moment, through the inspiration
of the Holy Spirit, the first
announcement, of the amazing
fulfilment of the promises made
by God to his people, of a
Messiah, a Saviour. At the house
of Zechariah, who was slow to
believe, the Messiah is recognized
and greeted by two women who
have been faithful to the
traditions and teachings of their
people. They have been faithful in
mind and heart to all that has
been taught their people through
the centuries, since Abraham was
chosen. *"Blessed are you who*

believed!" is Elizabeth's cry to
Mary; a cry with which Mary
could have praised Elizabeth in
return. Belief, faith, in Jesus will
be a key issue throughout Jesus'
life and mission – and remains so
today! *"Blessed are those,"* Jesus
said, *"who hear the word of God
and keep it."*



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

58. The Book of Job sees our origin in
the one Creator as the basis of certain
common rights: "Did not he who made
me in the womb also make him? And
did not the same one fashion us in the
womb?" (Job 31:15). Many centuries
later, Saint Irenaeus would use the
image of a melody to make the same
point: "One who seeks the truth should
not concentrate on the differences
between one note and another, thinking
as if each was created separately and
apart from the others; instead, he
should realize that one and the same
person composed the entire melody".⁵⁴

[54] SAINT IRENAEUS OF LYONS, *Adversus Haereses*, II, 25, 2: PG 7/1, 798ff.



About committing sin



From the fire of love, such virtue and beauty are developed in us
that the righteous person would rather face torment than offend
God for even a moment. Nothing is more pleasing to God than
innocence. Wanting to please him is everything. Better to endure
hardships than be enticed away from doing what is right, for God
chastises those who do good and those who do evil alike.

If we notice how grain is threshed, we understand something of
God's ways. When grain is being threshed, chaff is also flailed.
But when the grain is winnowed, the chaff is thrown out while
the grain is carefully collected for human consumption. If
everyone lived a good life there would surely be peace and quiet
and no war; but evil people are many and good people few. This
means that evil easily comes into its own and touches the good as
well as the bad because we are all living together and affect one
another.

If we are righteous, it is for us to accept discipline, for we live on
earth which is a valley of tears, not a pleasure garden. Remember
Christ and his apostles. They suffered – so why should we expect
to move easily from one joy to another in this life? It just cannot
be done! Let the fire of love burn up the dross in us during our
life on earth, then we will be fit to fly straight to heaven after we
die. Don't be led astray by the temptations inherent in soft living.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE



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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

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
		2.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	Carol Service
Mon	20th	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	21st	10.00am	St George's -	The Carter Family
Wed	22nd	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Teresa Palmer Intention from all friends in Parish
Thurs	23rd	10.00am	St George's -	Michael Archer RIP
Fri	24th	5.30pm	St Wilfrid's -	Christmas Eve Family Mass
				Parish Communities' Intention
Sat	25th	9.30am	St George's -	The Nativity of the Lord, Teresa Bradley Int.
			The Holy Family	
Sun	26th	9.00am	St George's -	Margaret & Charles Piegrome's Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention

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, Juliette 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:

Last Sunday was Gaudete Sunday - "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice". So to repeat from last Sunday "thanks be to God". Returning to the first Sunday of Advent with its focus upon hope. There is an expression "*hope springs eternally*" and even when times are very difficult "hope" is something we can always try to hold on to, and we are all the better for it. For these difficult times I have found this very helpful.

I have even found it remarkable for myself. At the beginning of each Sunday morning masses I really feel the affects of these times. By the time I have finished saying the masses I am in a much better place, so thanks be to God; and thank you all for being so helpful to me. Yes, you are two very helpful parishes.

This brings me back to what I have been sharing through Advent. From the fruits of last year, we must find the best seeds available. At the Deanery Meeting of the priests and deacons, which was by zoom, some would say doom! The recognition of a seed of hope, a window of opportunity offered by the Synod.

We need to begin with small groups that can share together and inspire together. Also for families, and for individual persons with particular interests. Truth to say I have not found much in the church that is inspiring and hold up my hand to say I have not managed to do anything very inspiring myself. This is so important that we must all turn to the Holy Spirit with heartfelt prayer and devotion. I just cannot get over that there is no real thought being given to the shortage of clergy, and with the seminaries closing what comes next?

The word of God, the scriptures and the eucharist are the food of life. These are gifts that will never be taken from us. We must return to baptism which is the key to the life of grace. A powerful moment in the celebration of the sacrament is when Parents and Godparents are given the child's baptismal candle with the words "This light is entrusted to you to be kept burning bright, this child of yours will be enlightened by Christ. The seed is sown, the seed is established.

To be continued



Deacon John Writes:

Holy God,
When angels visited the shepherds, they sang for peace on earth.
Yet as we look out on your world, we see that there is still much conflict, war, injustice and poverty.

Holy God,
When an angel visited Mary, he whispered to her not to be afraid.
Yet as we look out on our communities, we see much fear and anxiety, so much that is not as you would have it be, Lord God.

Holy God,
When you came, as a baby, to a refugee family 2000 years ago,
You showed the world that every human life matters,
That every person's potential can be fulfilled,
And that there is hope for a better kind of world.

Holy God,
Come to us again this Christmas, come and bring your hope.
In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

(From the Redemptorists)



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 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:

St Wilfrid's Christmas Lunch last Thursday 9th Dec. 25 of us got together on this happy occasion from both communities, plus we were honoured to have Fr Rory and Fr Kieran. The food and service was wonderful, three courses, homemade cooking plus tea/coffee and hot mince pies. It was great to hear the happy laughter and chat, the word COVID never entered our conversations. Our "new arrangement" for paying proved beneficial, everything went so smoothly, so in future I will ask for payment when booking please. Our next date is **Thursday 13th January 2022, 12noon at the Kings Head, Horsebridge**. Make a note in your new diaries and if we are still allowed under covid rules, happy to see you there. If you have never been before, do join us, you will be most welcome to our gatherings, which are always happy events to cheer us up in this gloomy old world. Transport can be arranged for you, so don't let that stand in your way.

Thursday 30th Dec, 2pm in our hall is the next date for afternoon tea and more. As this date is the day before New Years Eve we have decided to have a Pre New Years Eve Party!! Cost £5 per person. I would like to have numbers for catering purposes please on this special occasion, so please contact Joan on 07873390944. Anybody is invited, the whole idea is that we all get together once a month for good food and friendly chat, don't sit on your own at home, come and join us.

Warm clothes for the Homeless at Christmas: Well what a wonderful result, you have really answered the call. A representative from this marvellous organisation will come this Wednesday after Mass to collect 4 large bin bags. They were so overwhelmed with the result, St Wilfrid's is well and truly on the map. Well done to anyone who left clothes and necessities or money to make life a little more comfortable for these poor unfortunate people. As God said feed and clothe my people.

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>

I think we at St Wilfrid's would like to contribute to this very worthy and worthwhile cause. There will be a collection box in the porch after each Mass, please put some money into the pot. Thank you.

St Wilfrid's Church: There will be **no** teas/coffees after the 10.30am Mass this Sunday 19th December, as we have a Carol Service at 2pm.

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

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.

Heaven's Road Catholic Online Radio www.heavensroadfm.com is an online radio broadcasting features like prayers, interviews and music to appeal to a Catholic audience – they also have many podcasts and broadcast over 40 daily live Masses from 15 churches in England and Ireland from their website www.heavensroadfm.com.

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

Sunday 12th December 2021 St George's Attendances: 67 St Wilfrid's Attendances: TBC