

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Lk 2:16

THE COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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 first book of Samuel

1:20-22.24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord'. There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 83:2-3.5-6.9-10.R.v5

R) They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. **(R)**

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you; they walk with ever growing strength. **(R)**

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob. Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, Look on the face of your anointed. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

3:1-2.21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Cf. Acts 16:14

Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

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

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bar 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Very little is told us about the childhood and youth of Jesus; today's story is the whole of it! And what do we see? Jesus aged twelve, the year before the Bar Mitzva, his coming of age, with his mind already set on doing the will of his Father. For

what else is the meaning of , "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house"? Or, in another translation, "I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" No wonder Mary and Joseph were mystified! Even with the best will in the world (and we can certainly grant them that!) how could they possibly know or understand Jesus' love for his Father? Even the human love of the boy is the eternal Love of the eternal Son for the eternal Father! Even without the crucifixion, his human life of love and one-ness with the

Father while offering himself in union with his fellow human beings, would have restored the human race to friendship and union with God. The entire life of Jesus, the Incarnate Son, is redemption for us! The crucifixion was the supreme offering, revealing the profound evil of sin, sanctifying human suffering.



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.



Becoming holy



These are the things that belong to holiness: Never to think, say or do what displeases God; rather, try to please God in everything. Do not pretend to be holier than you actually are, that is a foolish ambition. There are some things which are neither good nor bad in themselves. We can reverently see, hear, touch and taste many things. Everything depends on our intention.

Sin means doing something to harm our neighbour or harm one's self, and shows a contempt of God; whereas to be despised and treated as a fool helps us to rise to the joy of the angels.

So I pray:

Good Jesus, scourge me, wound me, slay me, burn me.

Do with me here and now whatever you in your goodness decide, so that in the days to come I may not feel evil but your love, and know it forever.

To be despised, rejected and insulted by everyone for your sake, is sweeter to me than being related to a king or queen and being honoured and praised by everyone on that account.

In this life, I would rather know misery as my portion wherever I am, so long as I might be spared in eternity.

I would suffer here and be made as you want me to be.

Christ, grant me this in the present, so that I may escape punishment in the future.



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	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
Mon	27th	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	28th	10.00am	St George's -	Christopher Parker Intention
Wed	29th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Waters Family Intention
Thurs	30th	10.00am	St George's -	Kitty Teasdale Intention
Fri	31st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Jack Tayler Intention
Sat	1st		St Wilfrid's -	
Second Sunday of Christmas				
Sun	2nd	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Private 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, 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:

With a very grateful heart, a great thanks to all who contribute so much to the life of our parish. Our two churches look great with all the work, care and attention including the decorations, they are second to none. This has been a very difficult time, with an unavoidable sense of stress, so special thanks are in order for those who help so much. Nothing easy, and with health issues, please God, we can look forward to a fresh new year (and because) this newsletter covers the New Year, best wishes for that.

Many, many thanks for your cards, gifts and donations, I am truly grateful. It is very important that we focus our attention upon the Feast that is celebrated, "A Saviour is Born" and though first celebrated over 2000 years ago it remains for each year and for each generation a great joy, especially in times of trials and afflictions, we have our saviours promise "these are the trials through which we now triumph by the power of Him who love us".

Deacon John and Tessa have asked to join with me as we offer you our Christmas Greetings and wishing you a Holy Happy and enjoyable Christmas, in the safety of your families.

Fr Rory

Deacon John



Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year



Sat	1st		St Wilfrid's -	
			Second Sunday of Christmas	
Sun	2nd	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Private Intention
Mon	3rd	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	4th	10.00am	St George's -	The McCann Family Intention
Wed	5th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Ephram & Lesley Crowe Intention
Thurs	6th	10.00am	St George's -	The Epiphany of the Lord , Cathy & Trevor Hollingdale Int
Fri	7th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Holy Souls' Intention
Sat	8th		St Wilfrid's -	.
			The Baptism of the Lord	
Sun	9th	9.00am	St George's -	Marylou Cockshoot Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Bridie Cleary 1st Anniversary RIP

Thank You:

I would like to thank all of my friends at St Wilfrid's for their care and compassion. I have been overwhelmed by your well wishes, gifts, mass offerings and prayers. Knowing that I am in your thoughts has been a great source of comfort and is helping me to make a good recovery. Happy Christmas everyone from Teresa Palmer xx

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).

Over 50's Activities:

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.

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.

Sunday 19th December 2021 St George's Attendances: 48 St Wilfrid's Attendances: 95

