

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 30:19,30

**O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.**

THE COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
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 Baruch

5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has
remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 125. R.v 3

**R) What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **(R)**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **(R)**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **(R)**

They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

1:4-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how
you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first
heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One
who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when
the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss
you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that
your love for each other may increase more and more and never
stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception
so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you
to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of
Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus
Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

Lk 3:4-6

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

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

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius
Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his
brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis,
Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and
Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the
wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bar 5:5;4:36

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



St. Luke places the start of John the Baptist's preaching very firmly in its historical context. This is important. John the

Baptist's mission is the culmination - being 'crowned', so to speak' by the advent of the Messiah - of a very long, detailed historical progression; the preparation of the Jews, the 'Chosen People'. The Jews were not a 'people' at all, until God chose Abraham and through his descendants built Himself a people. They were to be God's people who would carry through the centuries the 'good news' that God would be sending on earth a man who would save every people from the effects of the fall from grace of their first

ancestor; a man who would offer them holiness and immortality. During this time of preparation, many men and women were chosen, taught, trained: prophets and prophetesses, not always well received, but sent by God to stir up anticipation, hope and love. John was the last and - as Our Lord himself has said - the greatest.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

56. Cont'd. *"Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.' But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"* (Lk 10:25-37).



Lovers of God are free

God chooses whomsoever God chooses. One is chosen for activity, another for solitude. Such people are often ignored and rated pretty low by others. They do no flashy miracles, but rather prefer to remain in interior solitude. Others are properly chosen to serve God in other people and they serve those under them with sensitivity.

Others may live lives of discipline that people know nothing about. God may make this known by 'signs' before they die, but not necessarily so. Signs can also come from those who are sinners and who are actually doing what they do for human acknowledgement and praise.

How the lovers of God and the lovers of the world differ. We cannot know the love of God unless we are seriously intent on longing continually for this love. Others are intent upon worldly pleasures which are passing and so do not know the reality of what is divine.

Loving the Trinity is loving God for Godself, and all else in relation to God. The sinner who purports to love God has no scruples about sin; but real lovers of God are free people, not slaves to what is sinful.

Those who love God never return evil for evil but accept whatever life brings with equanimity, rejoicing only in Christ. If they do this, they are gradually transformed into the divine likeness.

The love of God sets our hearts on fire so that they glow and burn and purge away all the foulness of sin. But while we are alive there is the possibility of sinning, so we must cheerfully put up with hardship and try to keep an appetite for spiritual food.

Thus, with Christ's consent, let us find consolation in songs of love which alone bring true inward joy.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JG
Tel: (01323) 841504 or Deacon John (01323) 486280
(Answerphone service available on both numbers)
Email: ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com
Website: www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

| | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------------|--|
| Sat | 4th | 10-11am | St Wilfrid's | Confessions - Church will be open |
| Second Sunday of Advent | | | | |
| Sun | 5th | 9.00am | St George's - | Parish Communities' Intention |
| | | 10.30am | St Wilfrid's - | Edmund Ginn 3rd Anniversary RIP |
| Mon | 6th | 2.30pm | St George's - | Rosary Group |
| Tue | 7th | 10.00am | St George's - | Margaret Madams RIP |
| Wed | 8th | 10.00am | St Wilfrid's - | Creta O'Neill RIP |
| Thurs | 9th | 10.00am | St George's - | Norman & Angela Wright RIP |
| Fri | 10th | 10.00am | St Wilfrid's - | Enza Riddiford RIP |
| Sat | 11th | 10-11am | St Wilfrid's - | Confessions - Church will be open |
| Sat | 11th | 5.00pm | St Wilfrid's - | Reconciliation Service |
| Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent | | | | |
| Sun | 12th | 9.00am | St George's - | Parish Communities' Intention |
| | | 10.30am | St Wilfrid's - | Nancy Wareing 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:

The Ministries of the Church

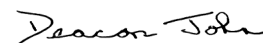
As a priest hearing confessions, this prayer has a deep hold in my life. "Through the ministry of the church God brings to you His pardon and peace and I absolve you" When I was first ordained I spent many hours in the confessional, especially approaching Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. As the year went on I noticed some who frequented the sacrament had developed scruples. After my own and shared experiences of others misadventures with the sacrament, the grace of the sacrament now receives my full attention.

Coming from a seminary that endorsed the 2nd Vatican Council, we were so inspired about the good things that were in store. It highlighted how much the ministries could grow, readers, cantors, ministers of the eucharist etc, but as time has gone on highlighting that these ministries have not developed to be as fruitful as they could.

So where are we? With so many seminaries closed, with generations lost i.e. not practicing their faith. My complete focus is once again on the grain of seed that falls upon the ground (as the eucharist bears witness) and dies. From this emerges new and abundant life, and like St Peter who had been fishing all night and caught nothing, with the promise of Jesus, it is time to set out to see and start fishing again.

**Deacon John Writes:**

There was once upon a time a young man. He was often sick as a baby. He was always small for his age. As a young man he was always frail and delicate. He was not able to play sports with the other boys his age. Eventually he entered the ministry. But his health was so fragile, he was unable to serve his growing congregation. However, he did not dwell on his troubles. In fact, his spirit soared. His only real complaint was the poor quality of the hymns of his day. He felt they did not convey hope and joy. Someone challenged him to write better ones. He did. He wrote over 600 hymns, most of them hymns of praise. When his health collapsed completely in 1748, he left one of the most remarkable collections of hymns the world has ever known. His name was Isaac Watts. – In a few weeks we may well be singing one of his most famous hymns, "Joy to the World!" Isaac Watts discovered joy in his life because he knew that God would never desert him. He was able to live his life with all sorts of health problems, feeling close to God and Jesus. He was someone who really did have joy deep in his heart.



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.

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).

We have an opening for a Parish Treasurer and this will involve around 5-8 hours work a month. Please contact Jackie at ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com for further details about the role and the application process. Closing date for applications will be Thursday 2nd December 2021.

Humour of the Week:

You may recall the story from America about an Officer in the Army. He was sitting at his desk in his brand new office when a Private soldier came to the door, and in an attempt to impress the soldier, the Officer said: "Come in soldier. I'll be right with you as soon as I've answered this phone call." Then, pretending there was someone on the other end of the phone, the Officer said loudly: "Well, General, it's good to hear your voice again, how can I help you?" He paused for a while, pretending to listen to the General, and then said: "That's fine, General, I'll speak to the President this morning."

Then he put the phone down, and asked the Private soldier what he wanted. The soldier was staring nervously at the floor, and without looking up, he said in a quiet and embarrassed voice: "Sir, the Sergeant told me to come in here and tell you that a man has arrived from the phone company to connect your phone."

St George's Suggestions box – there is a suggestions box in the porch where parishioners should give ideas of social activities they would like organised during 2022 and beyond. These may be activities/events we have run in the past or entirely new ideas, the more the merrier! Once we have the suggestions we will look to plan a programme of activities (probably 4-6 over the year). We do need help with events though so if you are happy to be involved as well as attend your suggested event please do indicate this on the suggestion form. Events can't run without helping hands.

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

Please make a note in your diaries of our over 50's Activities:

Christmas Lunch at Kings Head - Horsebridge: Thursday 9th December, in the function room, 12noon. We have had to close the list for people coming, as we have reached our maximum available. Sorry if you cannot join us for this Happy Event. We have a good interest in our monthly lunches so perhaps you would like to join us on our next date which will be Thursday 10th January, details to follow in the New Year. Of course our friends from St George's are invited to any of the events organised by us here at St Wilfrid's.

Thursday 30th December, 2pm in our Hall for Afternoon Tea: We have decided to make this a pre New Years Eve Party, homemade food, music, games suitable to our age group!! Crackers, goody bags and special raffle. The cost for this will be £5 and I can assure you it will be worth every penny - come on lets make it a jolly good party. 2-4pm, looking forward to seeing you there, make a New Years resolution.

All these events are open to St Wilfrid's and St George's plus any friends are most welcome of course. Please contact Joan 07873390944 or after Sunday and Wednesday Mass in the Hall.

"ENRICHING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH": a series of talks at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church, Eastbourne. A chance to enrich and deepen our understanding of our faith.

Monday, 6th December: 'Gaudete! and the gift of Christian Joy.' Speaker: Fr Tristan.

Tuesday, 14th December: 'COP 26 and its aftermath.' Speaker: Barbara Echlin.

Sessions will be in the Parish Centre (accessed from the church car park) from 7.30 – 8.30pm - with a break halfway for refreshments. All are welcome to all or any of the talks!

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.

Justice & Peace Assembly with Bishop Richard: 'To a Safer Shore?' Focussing on the challenges faced by people compelled to leave their homes and seek refuge in other countries. **Why must** and **how can we** respond to their needs, especially in light of Fratelli Tutti? Taking place on **Saturday 15th January**, at St Francis School, Southgate Drive, Crawley, RH10 6RP. Speakers, stalls, refreshments **Doors open 9.30 am.**

Event runs from **10 am until 1 pm.** Please wear **a mask, dress warmly**, and **bring your own mug or flask.** Seating spaced out, therefore places limited. [Book here for Justice & Peace Assembly](#) or E: Tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD:

Sign up for our daily Advent reflections: These reflections have been very popular and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Visit our [Interactive online Advent calendar | CAFOD](#) for more details. There are also free Advent children's liturgy resources that parish catechists may find useful. [Children's Liturgy | CAFOD](#)

"Like many women around the world, Garmah in Liberia had no legal rights to her home when her husband died. CAFOD worked with local experts to help her and now Garmah and her children live rightfully and happily together in their family home. "I feel safe, my children have a place to rest their head and I can make a garden to feed them and myself. God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy." **Thank you for your support** which enables hundreds of women like Garmah remain in their homes during times of struggle. Other examples of our work can be found in our World Gift catalogues or website worldgifts.cafod.org.uk. Have a wonderful Christmas.



CAFOD School Volunteers needed!

Looking for a new challenge?

Could you visit schools in your local area to deliver assemblies and workshops about CAFOD's work and encourage young people to take action, fundraise and pray with CAFOD?

No experience necessary. Full support, resources and regular training provided.

As well as using your skills to help the poorest people in the world volunteers are inspired by young people, it strengthens their faith, develops their communication and presentation skills, plus much more. If this of interest and you would like more information, please contact either: **Jenny Finlayson**, Community Participation Coordinator for Arundel and Brighton Diocese, email:

arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk Tel: 01483 898866 Mobile: 07710 094448 or **Mike Dean** Education Volunteer Coordinator for Arundel and Brighton Diocese email: mdean@cafod.org.uk

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

Sunday 28th November 2021

St George's Attendances: TBC St Wilfrid's Attendances: TBC