

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Ps 65:4

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. 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

62:1-5

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 95:1-3,7-10.R.v3

R) Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R)

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. (R)

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. (R)

Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

12:4-11

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in

which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Cf. Jn 6:63,68
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 2:1-11

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

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from — only the servants who had drawn the water knew — the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 22:5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



"Do whatever he tells you." Our Lady's advice to the servants at the wedding feast is crucial advice for us all. She herself has set us an example, as her Son highlights. On the occasion when "his mother and brethren"

came asking for him, Jesus asked, "Who are my mother and brethren?" and himself replied, looking round at the crowd, "My mother and brethren are those who hear the word of God and put it into practise (or in another version, "keep it)." We are told of Mary, by St. Luke, that everything that happened to her, from the Annunciation on, she "kept in her heart"; not just in her mind, but in her loving and believing mind and in the living of her life. She believed who her Son was, the

Word of God made man, he through whom the world was made. She believed that he came on earth to open the gates of happiness to the human race; not just final happiness in Heaven, but interior peace, happiness and contentment in this life. That was why she said, "Do whatever he tells you."



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

60. In the New Testament, Hillel's precept was expressed in positive terms: "In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets" (Mt 7:12). This command is universal in scope, embracing everyone on the basis of our shared humanity, since the heavenly Father "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good" (Mt 5:45). Hence the summons to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36).

How love is the queen of the virtues

Love is what counts and what gives us a true inner beauty. Love wounds us and makes us long for God, beautifying us, gladdening us, and kindling a fire within us. Every virtue must be rooted in love if it is to count for anything. Doing lots of good things without the motivation of love is like throwing precious stones down a bottomless pit. Acting well outwardly when we have no love for God or others is useless for eternity. Holding on to riches or looking for worldly comfort, without making a total renunciation of all that is opposed to God, cannot help us attain perfection. Real love takes real work, not the approach of a dilettante.

We are told in Scripture that 'the way to life is narrow' (Mt. 7: 14), and yet we expect the way to be easy. Remember Christ himself 'had to suffer and so enter into glory' (Lk. 24: 26). If we want to love and follow Christ, we must become like him who 'though he was rich became poor for our sakes' (2 Cor. 8: 9). Christ was a servant to all and yet here we are wanting to lord it over other people!

It is obvious that our love, compared with the love and service of Christ, is weak and imperfect. In fact, some even become slaves of the devil rather than servants of God; for God wishes to be served in the person of our neighbour.



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	15th		St Wilfrid's	
		Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Collection for Pax Christi Today)		
Sun	16th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Bill O'Rourke RIP
Mon	17th	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	18th	10.00am	St George's -	
		11.00am	St George's -	Requiem Mass Edna Andrews RIP
Wed	19th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	George Barham RIP, John Barnes RIP
Thurs	20th	10.00am	St George's -	Bernadette Bikhov Intention
Fri	21st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Dulcina Noya Intention
Sat	22nd		St Wilfrid's -	
		Third Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Sun	23rd	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Encinas Family 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, Julliette Lusted, Jennifer Piskac, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne Holt, Margaret, Rosie Tuson, Dee Challis, Lillian Summers, Tom Woodrow-Spencer, Colleen, Chris Neyenhuizen, Letty Booth, Dulcina Noya, 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:

'God Knows'

That we are a work in progress; but to make that progress we rely upon His help. The coronavirus is a constant reminder that there is a Kingdom of darkness. It is constantly (indeed relentlessly) at work. Seeking to destroy, particularly families and family life. I recently heard from a priest, who was called to help one such family and it really is scary. Even much more scary than the virus which is bad enough. I have often heard of 'the dark web' but it was the first time I really realised how dangerous it is.

So returning to that constant need for prayer. When I was young I heard it said "it is the mass that matters". Our celebration of this in our lives, deserves to be a high priority. As part of this it is very important that we do our very best to progress 'for a Synodal Church', communion, participation and mission, Participants' Guide.

We made an excellent start when a 'core group' met in the presbytery on Tuesday evening. This important work calls for our best efforts and prayer. Again two things; where to begin? And how to do this. After that we continue to develop our response as the seasons and years go on. We have got off to a good start by giving the input this week your best attention, and also to bring it to the attention of anyone you know who would like to respond.

Fr Rory

SYNOD 2023 - Encouraging Participation

The Synod, initiated by Pope Francis, is a process in which the Church encourages its people (you) to listen and learn and a vessel by which we can communicate to the Pope what WE believe is needed for OUR future Church. This is an extremely important step and you, the parishioners of St Wilfrid and St George, are invited to take time to be part of it.

Our Bishop has been asked by the Pope to listen to your ideas, to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, bind up wounds, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will warm hearts and give strength to our hands.

Our Pope wants our Parish to listen and learn from everyone within it, young people who might have ideas on what the Church should do in the future, people who think that the Church ignores them, and from everyone on their faith journey.

YOU are invited to Speak Out

The Pope would like us to reflect on the following issues, and let him know our thoughts:-

Week 1 - Our Companions on the journey. **Communion.** Please see handout provided at Mass this week.

Week 2 - Listening - **Participation**, handout available from Sunday 23rd January

Week 3 - Speaking out, **Mission**, handout available from Sunday 30th January

Each week for the next three weeks so it is important we consider these issues, and respond as soon as possible for the Bishop.

Individual or Group responses can be handed in via the box at the back of Church - marked Synod. Or you could attend one of the meetings detailed below, if you prefer.

Further information:

www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod - this includes the 24 page document prepared by the Diocese and an online easy to use survey where private responses can be provided. Even if you do this survey though, which we wholly encourage, please also take time to respond to the Parish survey.

<https://www.synod.va/en/documents/english-version-of-the-preparatory-document.html>

Synod 2023 Week 1 - Our Companions on the journey. **Communion.**

All Parishioners are invited to consider this week's theme together at either or both of the following meetings.

Wednesday 19th January after 10am Mass – St Wilfrid's Hall

Saturday 22nd January 10am – St George's Hall

John Winter: It is with deep sadness that we learnt of the death of John Winter in December. John was primarily the organist for St George's but had played also at St Wilfrid's. John's funeral will take place on 25th January at 12 noon in Tunbridge. The family have left an open invitation to join them at the Mass and afterwards at the wake. Please contact Tim Winter on 07547 948067 if you are planning to attend. May he rest in peace.

Well Done to David McMeekin who has been given the Golden Jubilee Award by the Order of the Knights of St Columba in recognition for his work for the Church over the last 52 years. The Order started in 1919 and David joined the Eastbourne Knights in 1970.

Over 50's Activities:

I expect you read in your newsletter last week that we have cancelled our monthly lunch at the Kings Head on Thursday 13th January. Although the Kings Head love to have us and are very aware of what the COVID rules are, many of us are not ready to eat out at a restaurant just yet. We are hoping, please God, we can all meet up on Thursday 10th February, 12noon at the Kings Head, Horsebridge, more details nearer the time.

However, you cannot keep us 'oldies' down for long, so we are going ahead with our belated Party on Thursday 27th January, 2pm in our Hall. The cost will be £5 per person, which will include expensive crackers (no not with cheese!!), homemade large Christmas Cake, a chocolate raffle and all our usual eats and fun games. It will be your last chance to purchase any bargains from our Sales Table, as it is closing end of January unless anyone would like to take it over?

Please inform any of our friends who do not receive our newsletter, indeed anyone you feel will benefit from our afternoon teas, they are open to all, so long as you enjoy good company, good food, fun and laughter, you will be very welcome. Please contact me for catering purposes. Thank you, Joan - Tel: 07873390944.

St George's Church: Tea and coffee is now being served in our hall at St George's after Sunday Mass. Covid rules are being fully observed but it is wonderful to have a chance to meet again socially. Thank you to those serving and preparing the teas for us. Very much appreciated.

Masses: The Diocese has asked us to continue to sign in when we attend Mass and other events. Please use the NHS App and our QR code, the pre-booking system on the church website, or fully complete the form at the church entrance. Please give a contact phone number and ensure that your name is legible. You should continue to use the hand sanitiser and wear a face covering. The Parish will continue to open all doors and windows to ensure good ventilation, so do wear warm clothes especially in the coming cold weather.

St Wilfrid's Church: St Wilfrid's are looking for a volunteer to come forward to manage the running of the Hall. If you are interested please make yourself known to Fr Rory or contact the office on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings. [Tel:841504](tel:841504)

St George's Hall is used extensively during the week to fee paying hall hirers who have to comply with strict covid regulations. The hall or toilets must not be entered by parishioners when a session is taking place as this compromises their contract and their requirement to have names and contact details of all present. If you need to use the toilet before or after Mass, please speak to Angela or Cathy for permission to use the church toilet. Thank you for your co-operation.

Sunday 9th January 2022

St George's Attendances: 50 St Wilfrid's Attendances: 103