

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

Cf. Ps 95:1,6

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. 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 book of Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people — since he stood higher than all the people — Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah — His Excellency — and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 18:8-10,15.R.Jn 6:63

R) Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R)**

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **(R)**

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R)**

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:12-14.27

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Lk 4:18

The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and in sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring us to new life, we may always glory in your gift. Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



St. Luke was not a disciple of Jesus while Jesus lived on earth; he is a 'second generation' disciple. Therefore he is anxious to set before 'Theophilus' a factual and reliable account of Jesus' mission; an account is based on

the reports of those who were "eye-witnesses and ministers of the Word." The prophet Isaiah speaks more than once of the signs by which the Messiah will be recognized; recognized as doing the works of God. Psalm 146 declares, "Yaweh restores the sight of the blind, Yaweh straightens the bent, Yaweh protects the stranger, he keeps the orphan and widow." The people in the synagogue in Nazara were the inheritors of the prophets; people who had been prepared by their history to recognize Isaiah's words, to

accept, and to believe. St. Luke is saying to later generations, 'What I am writing is no fabricated tale. It has its roots in history, the signs promised there were fulfilled in Jesus. As Jesus himself says of the text of Isaiah he has just read aloud in the synagogue, "This text (of Isaiah) is being fulfilled today even as you listen."'



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

61. In the oldest texts of the Bible, we find a reason why our hearts should expand to embrace the foreigner. It derives from the enduring memory of the Jewish people that they themselves had once lived as foreigners in Egypt:

"You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex 22:21).

"You shall not oppress a stranger; you know the heart of a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex 23:9).

"When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Lev 19:33-34).

"When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the sojourner, the orphan, and the widow. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt" (Deut 24:21-22).

Becoming a contemplative

Reaching contemplation does not happen overnight. First of all, our heart must be set on fire with the torch of eternal love. Tasting the sweetness and feeling the warmth of contemplation we can almost die from the excess of love we feel within ourselves, for we are held tightly in the embrace of eternal love.

However, we are still able to sin, for only in heaven will we be confirmed in sinlessness. Certainly, we can be tempted and feel the pull of sin. Nevertheless, I think that those who are on the way to perfection and continue to make an effort to overcome sinful desires and actions can see heaven as it were with their inward eye.

If we take a hold of this closeness to heaven, we can live by its sweetness and glory in jubilant song. Only those who reach this state can know its sweetness and die in safety.

To attain stability of mind and heart, prayer is a great help. Christ gave us a true example of prayer when we read in the Gospels that he went up the mountain to pray and spent the whole night in prayer. We are to ask, seek, knock, so that we will receive likewise (cf Lk. 18: 1).

Prayer kindles the fire of love within us. The prophet says: 'Are not my words as a burning fire, and as a hammer for breaking stones? (Jer. 23: 29) And the psalmist adds: 'Your promise is refined in the fire' (Ps. 119: 140).



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	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
Mon	24th	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	25th	10.00am	St George's -	Pavel & Bernadette Birkhov Intention
Wed	26th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Margaret Doyle & Michael Redmond Intention
Thurs	27th		St George's -	No Mass
Fri	28th		St Wilfrid's -	No Mass
Sat	29th		St Wilfrid's -	
		Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Sun	30th	9.00am	St George's -	John Winter RIP
		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, 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:

'Going Home'

I am expecting to go home next week and I am looking forward to it. Like everything during this coronavirus pandemic, apprehensive about it. From our days in the seminary, a very helpful idea that has stayed with me. These things are a) life is a journey; b) telling our story on this journey. As in any journey life has its beginning and an ending. A very important emphasis in the seminary was preparation for the end of that journey. I know there is very much more to life than can be captured by these two images, as highlighted by the virus for the last two years, with life really stalled.

At St George's church on Tuesday we had a very memorable Requiem Mass for Edna Andrews RIP. She was 98 years old, so close to her 100th birthday. It would have been lovely to celebrate this, but it would be second to the celebration of her Requiem Mass. The celebration of this mass brings home to us profoundly "Our true home is in heaven and that is where we are going". Thanks be to God. Growing up in Ireland, this felt very real to us, and with the wake house made a huge contribution to a life of faith.

Please God, faith will continue to contribute greatly to our lives in the future.



Important Mass Changes at St George's and St Wilfrid's

Tuesday 1st February - No Mass at St George's

Wednesday 2nd February - 10am Mass at St George's

Thursday 3rd February - 10am Mass at St Wilfrid's (Feast Day of St Blaise) Throats will be blessed during the Mass

SYNOD 2023 – Listening and Participating

After the successful launch of our Parishes focus on Synod 2023 we are now delighted to start work on hand out two, which you will receive this morning.

To recap, 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.

Last week we worked on answering questions relating to Our Companions on the journey. **Communion**. Some of you hopefully undertook this as individuals, families, or smaller groups. We are also delighted that many of you chose to be part of it in one or both of our meetings that we held on Wednesday and Saturday. All these responses will be passed to the Bishop. They will also be used to help us as a Parish consider what is needed for us to unite further on our journey in faith.

Week 2 - YOU are invited to Speak Out Some more...

This week, as requested by Our Pope, we are invited to reflect on the following issue, and let him know our thoughts:-
Week 2 - Listening - **Participation**, handout available today at mass.

Private, Individual or Group responses can be handed in via the box at the back of Church - marked Synod. You are also encouraged and very welcome to attend either or both of the following meetings being held for the Parish:-

Wednesday 26th January after 10am Mass – St Wilfrid's Hall

Saturday 29th January 10am – St George's Hall

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

Further information:

www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod - this includes the Diocese document and an online easy to use survey. Even if you undertake 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>

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.

Bereavement Group: will be meeting up again on Friday 28th January 2022 at 11am in St Wilfrid's Church Hall. All welcome.

Linking Lives Eastbourne provides a befriending service for lonely and isolated people, who would benefit from a home visit by a trained volunteer.

It is a registered charity with local trustees. If you would like to offer your time as a volunteer, please contact Marylou Cockshoot at admin@linkingliveseastbourne.com or phone 01323 406242. Also, feel free to speak to Anne Bowe on 07808 175455 or [email annebowe@btinternet.com](mailto:annebowe@btinternet.com) to have a chat about volunteering for this vital organisation. Thank you.

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.

Our Party on Thursday 27th January, 2pm in our Hall has had to be **cancelled** until further notice. Please inform any of our friends who do not receive our newsletter. Thank you.

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 16th January 2022

St George's Attendances: 60 St Wilfrid's Attendances: 105