

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.**

Ps 105:47

THE COLLECT

Grant us, Lord our God,
that we may honour you with all our mind,
and love everyone in truth of heart.
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 Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19
In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.
So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them
all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence,
or in their presence I will make you dismayed.
I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land:
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priests and the country people.
They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
for I am with you to deliver you —
it is the Lord who speaks.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 70:1-6.15.17.R.v15

R) My lips will tell of your help.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. **(R)**

Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. **(R)**

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother’s womb you have been my help. **(R)**

My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 13:4-13

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people’s sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to

excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.
Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge — for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.
In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life,
says the Lord;
no one can come to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!** Jn 14:5

GOSPEL

Luke 4:21-30

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

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’ And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, ‘This is Joseph’s son, surely?’ But he replied, ‘No doubt you will quote me the saying, “Physician, heal yourself” and tell me, “We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside.”’ And he went on, ‘I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

‘There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah’s day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these; he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha’s time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.’

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, we bring to your altar these offerings of our service: be pleased to receive them, we pray, and transform them into the Sacrament of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 30:17-18

**Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we pray, O Lord, that through this help to eternal salvation true faith may ever increase. Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The people of Nazareth are “astonished” at Jesus’ teaching, while at the same time they admire it. Their astonishment overcomes their admiration: this is Joseph the carpenter’s son; someone they all know well. Jesus has read to them

Isaiah’s prophecy, “*The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for He has anointed me. He has sent me.*” No! this is Joseph’s son; we know him; he cannot be ‘sent’, be anyone special. The ‘ordinary’ has become their measure of truth, even though they are the people of the Covenant, of the prophets, of God’s guidance; a people whose national history is full of the interventions of God in the ‘ordinary’! When Jesus points to the spiritually open minds of Naaman (or Naaman’s servants!) and the widow of

Sarephath, pagans and gentiles, he appears to be deliberately stirring up the anger of the people. In fact, his purpose is, to stir their consciences. He wished to remind them of who they are, of their nation’s history, of God’s interventions and miracles: to open their closed minds and lead them to salvation.



**EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)**



**A STRANGER
ON THE ROAD**

61 Cont’d. The call to fraternal love echoes throughout the New Testament:

“*For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’*” (Gal 5:14).

“*Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness*” (1 Jn 2:10-11).

“*We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death*” (1 Jn 3:14).

“*Those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen*” (1 Jn 4:20).

**The purging effects
of the fire of love**

When the fire of love has taken hold of us, it enables us to put away all vice, all that is trivial and unnecessary, and creates beauty in every virtue. The tendency to small sins may remain, yet the fire of love will eventually burn up even sins of which we are unaware.
We have to be ready to give up everything that does not lead us to God, for God will have nothing to do with a divided heart.
Loving God and delighting in him enables us to delight in the present world as well. For what is more delightful than praising Jesus, nothing more delectable than hearing him. We can rejoice therefore as if saying: We are wanting your honour and glory.
We are rejoicing in your delights. The pleasures of mere vanity have been put away.
And although we cannot yet see your face our longing is still so ardent that, were we to live for ever like this, we would seek no other object of our love. The longer we live, the more fervently we want you.
For the soul that truly loves you, Jesus, would rather die the most awful death than consent to even the smallest sin.
A person with a true love of Christ is not afraid of anyone else and sees themselves as beneath others, who seem to them more gifted and virtuous. In this state, we long for the kiss of love from the mouth of the beloved (Song 1: 1). We long only for Jesus, and keep in our minds a picture of his wounds and his cross as we sigh for the vision of his most glorious purity.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

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ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



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

WEEKLY SERVICES

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
Mon	31st	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	1st		St George's -	No Mass
Wed	2nd	10.00am	St George's -	Mrs Philomena Wright RIP
Thurs	3rd	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Feast of St Blaise - Throats blessed during Mass Margaret Madams RIP
Fri	4th		St Wilfrid's -	No Mass
Sat	5th		St Wilfrid's -	
		Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
		(Collection for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund, Next Sunday)		
Sun	6th	9.00am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Hannah Hoad 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, 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

Deacon John Writes:

The central theme of the readings this weekend is that we should have, and show in our communities, the courage of our Christian convictions in our Faith and in its practice.

The first reading tells us how God called Jeremiah as His prophet and gave him the material to face opposition and rejection. In doing this he encountered both rejection and persecution. The Psalm provides us with a prayer to help us in times of persecution together with a knowledge of our trust in God. In the second reading, we hear Paul speaking with the courage of his Christian convictions in correcting the Corinthian Christian community where the exercise of God's gifts was causing competition, jealousy, and divisiveness. He presents them with a scheme which surpasses all others, namely, the way of love, and tells them that they must exercise their gifts with love. Today's Gospel shows us how Jesus faced doubts and criticism with the courage of the prophets. Jeremiah said:(1:4-5): "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; ... I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." He went on to say:(1:17-19) "Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them." Like Jeremiah, Paul, and Jesus believed that they were commissioned by God to proclaim a prophetic message which in those days was disturbing to those who heard it. It is important to note that no matter how strong the opposition, they had the conviction that God was with them and we too must have the strength and courage that those three prophets had.

Deacon John

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 – Speaking out, Mission

This week we focus on Speaking Out, **Mission** for our Parish discussions surrounding the important worldwide focus on Synod 2023. Our third of four questionnaires is being given out at Mass this Sunday and we are inviting everyone to respond either individually, as a group or during the whole parish group sessions, detailed below.

If you missed either or both of the first two weeks' questionnaires, there are spare copies at the back of Church. You can also request a copy by calling Jackie on 01323 841504 or email ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com.

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.

First we concentrated on: Companions on the journey; **Communion**. Last week we discussed and responded to the focus on: Listening; **Participation**. We are grateful to all who have taken part in these discussions and taken time to respond directly and/or on the Diocese website. 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 3 – Our Mission

Once again, as well as providing Private Individual or Group responses to this week's questionnaire, Week 3 - Speaking out, **Mission**, you are also invited and very welcome to attend either or both of the following group sessions being held for the Parish.

Thursday 3rd February after 10am Mass – St Wilfrid's Church

Saturday 5th February 10am – St George's Hall

Zoom – for those unable to attend our discussion groups weekly, we could organise a Zoom group. Please contact Bob Waters on rhwaters@hotmail.com if you would be interested and like to take part in this, day/time to be confirmed.

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>

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

St George's - new and nearly new items needed for St George's table sale in the hall. Please leave donations clearly marked 'Table Sale' at the back of church. Money raised is being used for social events and charity fundraising in our parish.

St George's Tea and Coffee after mass on Sunday (10am). Please do try to join us even if only once monthly. Also do you know anyone that doesn't attend mass but would like to join us, all are welcome to this lovely social time every Sunday morning.

St George's suggestion box, located at the back of church, please use it to offer suggestions and/or offers of help to support our Church and enjoy more prayerful and social time together.

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.

Children with Cancer Friendship Group are holding an informal meeting at St. Wilfrid's Church, 90, Broad Road, Lower Willingdon BN20 9RA, on 7th February from 2.30pm to 4.00pm., where there will be hymns, a Bible Reading, talk and refreshments. All are welcome

The Bishops of England & Wales have issued the following guidance following the new Covid Virus announcement by the Government:

1. Please continue to wear a face covering in church.
2. Social distancing is now optional.
3. Hymn books and missals, etc can now be used.
4. Continue to sanitise hands.
5. Holy water stoups can now be refilled (but water must be changed weekly).
6. Church cleaning can return to normal.
7. The sign of peace can be reinstated.
8. Holy Communion continues to be given in one kind only.
9. If you feel unwell, please stay at home.

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.

Lenten Reflection for Young Adults (18-35)

Facilitated by the House of Prayer team, this day will provide a time of quiet reflection during this season of renewal. Based on Ignation spirituality, we will explore prayer and scripture in a new and profound way.

Saturday 12th March 10am-4pm House of Prayer East Molesey Cost £25 email lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for details.

Confirmation Catechist Reflection & Formation Day

Join us for a day of Lenten reflection led by The Catholic Bible School. You will have the opportunity to stop, pray, and spend time with the Lord during this season of renewal. You will also discover new and exciting ways to help young people connect to their faith.

Saturday 26th March 10am-3.30pm St John the Evangelist Horsham Cost £5 email lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for details.

Sunday 23rd January 2022

St George's Attendances: 60 St Wilfrid's Attendances: 85