

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.**

Cf. Ps 30: 3-4

**THE COLLECT**

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. 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**

Jeremiah 17:5-8

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps. 1

**R) Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.**

Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked; nor lingers in the way of sinners nor sits in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the Lord and who ponders his law day and night. **(R)**

He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper. **(R)**

Not so are the wicked, not so! For they like winnowed chaff shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

I Corinthians 15:12. 16-20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom  
to mere children. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Luke 6:17. 20-26

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

' But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.'

' Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Jn 3:16

**God so loved the world  
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,  
so that all who believe in him may not perish,  
but may have eternal life.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, so that we may always long for that food by which we truly live. Through Christ our Lord.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



In the Book of Jeremiah, God bemoans the evil lives of his children and He asks, *“Is it really me they spite? Is it not in fact themselves, to their own confusion?”* God is the God of Love; when He is angry with his people, it is always on their

behalf. Why otherwise did He send His Son to be their Saviour? Our Saviour? In John's Gospel, Jesus tells us that he always speaks for his Father; he even says, *“It is not I who speak. My Father who lives in me speaks his Word.”* Often in the Old Testament God berates the rich for their wrong values – even the less rich or the poor, for setting as their goals the good things and pleasures of this life. Now His Son, speaking from the same level as his fellow creatures, emphasises his Father's teaching and

develops it. Not only is it riches that lead nowhere; even the things that human beings consider necessary for life, cannot provide true and lasting happiness. In his great love, the Father's Love, the Holy Spirit, the Word of the Father sets out in the Beatitudes the secret of, the way to, true and everlasting happiness.



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



### A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

63. Jesus tells the story of a man assaulted by thieves and lying injured on the wayside. Several persons passed him by, but failed to stop. These were people holding important social positions, yet lacking in real concern for the common good. They would not waste a couple of minutes caring for the injured man, or even in calling for help. Only one person stopped, approached the man and cared for him personally, even spending his own money to provide for his needs. He also gave him something that in our frenetic world we cling to tightly: he gave him his time. Certainly, he had his own plans for that day, his own needs, commitments and desires. Yet he was able to put all that aside when confronted with someone in need. Without even knowing the injured man, he saw him as deserving of his time and attention.

## Humility makes us love more ardently

When true humility has taken root in your mind, then whatever you do is done in praise of your maker, not in praise of yourself. So think of Jesus with a longing heart. Pray to him constantly. Seek him and desire to possess him alone. Love will enable you to conquer the world.

When we are crying out to Christ, we are not sitting around lazily. The mind is tireless in its seeking and so the body is involved too. Indeed, sometimes when our body is tired in the service of Christ, the mind is caught up in heavenly refreshment and even contemplation.

If we pray well, we do not have a heart which is distracted by wandering thoughts about worldly things. If we want to have what we pray for, we must pay careful attention to the subject matter of our prayer, to God whom we are addressing, and to the reason we are making our request. This shows that we love the one to whom we are praying and not vainly seeking some reward in this life.

The saints are so truly humble that they consider themselves to be nothing at all and below everyone else. In obedience to our Lord's command, they take the lowest place at the banquet but then receive the reward of praise and promotion. Humility should dispose us to do likewise.

Humility makes us love more ardently,  
serve more devotedly,  
praise more worthily.

And it produces a fuller degree of charity in us.

The more we humble ourselves the more we promote the praise of God. If we really persevere in loving God and others, and yet in humility reckon ourselves to be of no value and inferior to our neighbour, we will conquer our enemies, have confident hope in God's loving judgement, and be received by the angels into eternal glory when we die.



# 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)  
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## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



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

### WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	12th		St Wilfrid's	
			<b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
			(Collection for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund, Today)	
			(Collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice, Next Week)	
Sun	13th	9.00am	St George's -	Ann Eamer RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	14th	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	15th	10.00am	St George's -	Mr Zbigniew Mendera RIP
Wed	16th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Sioban & Anthony Kelly's Intention
Thurs	17th	10.00am	St George's -	S & C Lodrick RIP
Fri	18th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Phil Bourke RIP
Sat	19th		St Wilfrid's -	
			<b>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
			(Collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice, Today)	
Sun	20th	9.00am	St George's -	Marie Fogarty 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 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 Line .....Jean 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:

Do you believe the Bible? Recently this article appeared in a cutting sent to me from America; "Sometime before she died, someone had the audacity to ask St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa), "Why do you spend so much energy on the poor, the hungry, and the weeping of those in Calcutta?" She responded, "Jesus says the poor are the blessed ones. I take him at his word. I treat them as the royalty of God's kingdom, because they are." — To grow into becoming a Christian is, in no small part, to be converted into seeing the world as God sees it. It is to be given new eyes to look upon people and events from an eternally loving perspective. When that begins to happen, you begin to see that God has an opinion about how life should be lived, what Churches should be doing, and how people should act. You begin to see that the future belongs to those whom God blesses. They include the poor, the hungry, the hopeless, the damaged, and those whose only salvation is found in the God who comes to redeem.

*Deacon John*

### Lourdes Pilgrimage - Second Collection 13th February 2022

As you may know, the Pilgrimage manages our Diocesan Pilgrimage, and takes around 700 people each year to Lourdes, of whom around 140 are Assisted Pilgrims who are frail, elderly, disabled or sick. The Pilgrimage relies on the efforts of volunteers and generous donors to enable it to offer financial support to the Assisted Pilgrims who join us, and to some of those who will care for them whilst we are in Lourdes. If you would like to support this appeal on-line please follow the instructions below:-

Go to the Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage website using this link: [A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage Website](https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home) or the website address <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

Click on the donate button on the right-hand side of the screen. Please then click on the donate button in the middle of the page and follow the instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage Office, either by email on [lourdes.office@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes.office@abdiocese.org.uk) or call 01403 740110

### SYNOD 2023

#### Synod - Parish Response

Thank you so much to everyone who recently took part in the Synod consultations, we estimate that over a third of our Church attending parishioners have provided responses either in the boxes at the back of church or through attending one or more of the eight meetings we have now held.

All responses given in by 4th February have been submitted to the Diocese and those as well as all those provided after that date will be included in the Parish report to all Parishioners. We will provide a summary of responses as quickly as possible.

After that the more difficult work starts - What action do we have to take locally?

#### ASH WEDNESDAY and the ASHES

You probably know that the ashes to be used this year on Ash Wednesday on 2<sup>nd</sup> March actually come from the burning of the Palms given out at Palm Sunday last year. Please bring your palms to the church next week so we can prepare the ashes in plenty of time. Thank you.

The ashes of Edna Andrews will be buried in the Memorial Garden in St. George's after the 10am mass on Thursday February 17th.

#### Racial Justice Sunday 13th February:

We are encouraging everyone to mark the day by praying the words of Pope Francis taken from his encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti* - on *fraternity and social friendship*:

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,  
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,  
so that we may discover anew  
that all are important and all are necessary,  
different faces of the one humanity  
that God so loves.  
*Amen.*

#### Margaret & John Forde's Diamond Wedding Anniversary:

Mass at 11am on Thursday 24th February. They have requested no gifts please. If you would like to make a donation, there will be a box available for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you.

**Parish Meeting:** There will be a Parish Meeting Sunday 13th February (**Today**) after Mass in St Wilfrid's Church Hall. All welcome.

**Over 50's Activities:**

Our next Afternoon Tea will be Thursday 24th Feb at 2pm in our Hall. Everyone is welcome at this very friendly and happy occasion, bring your friends and invite anyone you think would benefit from a "Happy Social Event". The cost is £3 and you will be surprised at what you will be offered! Do come along and enjoy yourselves, don't let Covid win anymore!! Look forward to meeting up again, Joan.

**Vacancy:** We have an opening for a Facilities Officer who is able to carry out minor repairs and organise the process of obtaining quotes for more complex projects. If you are interested in undertaking this paid role please contact Jackie at [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com) providing brief details of your availability and experience in relevant trades. Closing date for initial responses is Friday 18th February. Interviews will be held shortly after this time.

**ENRICHING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH" - OUR LADY OF RANSOM (EASTBOURNE):** A series of talks to enrich and deepen our understanding of our faith. All are welcome to all or any of the talks.

- **Thursday, 17th Feb**. The simplicity of Prayer - speaker: John Kimberley
  - **Thursday, 3rd March** - Can War ever be Just? - speaker: Fr Kevin.
  - **Thursday, 17th March** - The Second Vatican Council (reasons for and consequences) - speaker: to be confirmed
  - **Thursday, 31st March** - Making use of scripture in prayer. - speaker: Caroline Rother.
- Sessions last an hour and start at 7.30pm in the Our Lady of Ransom Parish Hall (accessed via car park), - with a break halfway for refreshments.

**ALPHA 2022 - EASTBOURNE CATHOLIC CHURCHES:** We will be commencing our second parish **online Alpha Course** for 11 consecutive Wednesdays, **via Zoom**, on **Wednesday 9th March**. Alpha is an acclaimed international programme that explores the Christian faith and is aimed at anyone who wants to examine their faith more deeply and develop a closer personal relationship with Jesus. If you are interested and would like to know more please contact: [Alpha.OLR22@gmail.com](mailto:Alpha.OLR22@gmail.com) Before the first session you will need to set up Zoom (if not already done so) by going to [ZOOM.US/TEST](https://zoom.us/test) and joining a test meeting. All are welcome!

**Churches Together, Polegate Willingdon and Jevington - The Life Christian Centre** at 6 Oldfield Road, Willingdon Eastbourne BN20 9QE, will be meeting every Wednesday at 2.00pm, for refreshments, whilst relaxing and chatting. All are welcome!

**Walking on water:** Three ministers were out in a boat on a lake fishing one fine afternoon, a Protestant minister, an Episcopalian priest and a newly-arrived Catholic priest. They were sitting out in the middle of the lake and the Protestant minister said he had to relieve himself, so he got out of the boat and walked across the water to shore, relieved himself behind a tree. Then walked back to the boat. The Episcopalian priest did the same thing. The Catholic priest thought to himself, if they can do it, so can I. So, he stepped out of the boat and started sinking. After saving him and bringing him back on the boat one minister commented: "We should have told him where the rocks are under the water!"

**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](mailto: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](mailto:lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk) for details.

**Dates for your Diary**

**Sat March 12th at 11am** - Family friendly Stations of the Cross at St George's Church. Everyone is welcome. Followed by a Lenten Lunch in the hall.

**Sun April 3rd at 12noon** - Sponsored Walk, Jevington to Alfriston - More information to follow.  
Reserve date **Sun 10th April**

**Sunday 6th February 2022**

St George's Attendances: 51

St Wilfrid's Attendances: 67