

6TH FEBRUARY 2022

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.**

Ps 94:6-7

THE COLLECT

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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

6:1-8

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out one to another in this way,
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts,
His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost,
for I am a man of unclean lips
and I live among a people of unclean lips,
and my eyes have looked at the King,
the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips,
your sin is taken away,
your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send?
Who will be our messenger?'

I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 137:1-5.7-8.R.v1

R) Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R)**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R)**

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
'How great is the glory of the Lord!' **(R)**

You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hand. **(R)**

SECOND READING

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

15:3-8.11

In the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he

appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

But what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jn 15:15

**I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Luke 5:1-11

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats — it was Simon's — and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boats to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord our God,
who once established these created things
to sustain us in our frailty,
grant, we pray,
that they may become for us now
the Sacrament of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 106:8-9

**Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who have willed that we be partakers in the one Bread and the one Chalice,
grant us, we pray, so to live
that, made one in Christ,
we may joyfully bear fruit
for the salvation of the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

6TH FEBRUARY 2022

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK 1/PROPER

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Fish and fishing play quite a large part in Jesus' ministry – as in today's Gospel passage. On another occasion, when the tax collectors were making enquiries as to whether Jesus paid the tax, Jesus instructs Peter, *"Go to the lake and cast a*

hook; take the first fish that bites, open its mouth and there you will find a shekel." This partly explains why, later on, in the times of persecution, Christians chose the fish as the secret sign of Christianity. There was a further reason. The word for 'fish' in Greek is Ichthys/Ichthys; the letters of that word can be interpreted to read, in Greek, Iesous Christos Theou Yios Soter: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. In today's Gospel, Jesus calls the sons of Zebedee and the two brothers, James and John, from fishing

fish to 'fishing' for disciples: *"From now on it is men you will catch."* All Christians, then, as disciples of Christ, are represented by the fish. Tertullian wrote in the 2nd century AD, *"We little fishes, after the image of our Ichthys, Jesus Christ, are born in the water,"* the water of Baptism.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

62. Yet this call to love could be misunderstood. Saint Paul, recognizing the temptation of the earliest Christian communities to form closed and isolated groups, urged his disciples to abound in love "for one another and for all" (1 Thess 3:12). In the Johannine community, fellow Christians were to be welcomed, "even though they are strangers to you" (3 Jn 5). In this context, we can better understand the significance of the parable of the Good Samaritan: love does not care if a brother or sister in need comes from one place or another. For "love shatters the chains that keep us isolated and separate; in their place, it builds bridges. Love enables us to create one great family, where all of us can feel at home... Love exudes compassion and dignity".⁵⁶

⁵⁶ Address to Those Assisted by the Charitable Works of the Church, Tallinn, Estonia (25 September 2018): L'Osservatore Romano, 27 September 2018, p. 8.



Avoiding pride and embracing humility



When our mind is kindled by the fire of the Holy Spirit, it is freed from all idleness and lust. We are then made sweet by the torrent of God's love, always looking at him and not considering earthly things, until the day that we are glorified with the perfect vision of the beloved.

But we must beware of pride, which results in a spiritual swollen head, because pride can then throw the most noble of us into dejection. What a laugh, that those who think themselves great lovers of God go about swaggering and exalting themselves when they are lower than the most useless worm! Think how the king of kings humbled himself, so stop swaggering around. Think about the humility of Christ instead of thinking about yourself and comparing yourself to others. You look down on sinners and consider yourself better than they are, while in fact you are making yourself worse when you pass judgement on them. A proud, righteous person displeases God more than a humble sinner does.



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	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
Mon	7th	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	8th	10.00am	St George's -	Philomena RIP
Wed	9th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	
Thurs	10th		St George's -	No Mass
Fri	11th		St Wilfrid's -	
Sat	12th		St Wilfrid's -	
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time				
(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

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

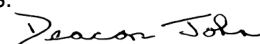
Deacon John Writes:

The readings this weekend challenge us all to be the person God is calling us to be - namely one of his disciples. This means we must recognise and accept the presence of God in our lives, realise that we are unworthy but at the same time to be willing to let his hands mould us to follow him. The readings tell us, as he told Isaiah, St. Paul and St. Peter. We must remember that God has his own reasons and thinking when he chooses those who are to be his Disciples. We can ask ourselves if we are firmly committed to be a disciple and, if not, resolve to change and be positive about how we do it. St. Paul, as described in the second reading, is a good example of changing ones thoughts and actions and what the result could be. The Responsorial Psalm is a wonderful example of a prayer of gratitude. The Second Vatican Council teaches that we are all called to Christ's ministry by virtue of our Baptism into Jesus Christ.

On a different theme his Holiness Pope Francis has reminded us that Friday, February 11, is to be a World Day of the Sick, as instituted by St. John Paul II thirty years ago, with the theme of a quotation from St. Luke: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful". This theme makes us first turn our gaze towards God, who is "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4); he always watches over his children with a father's love, even when they turn away from him. Mercy is God's name par excellence; mercy, understood not as an occasional sentimental feeling but as an ever-present and active force, expresses God's very nature. It combines strength and tenderness. For this reason, we can say with wonder and gratitude that God's mercy embraces both fatherhood and motherhood (cf. Is 49:15). God cares for us with the strength of a father and the tenderness of a mother; he unceasingly desires to give us new life in the Holy Spirit.

He finishes with: Dear brothers and sisters, to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Infirm, I entrust all the sick and their families. United with Christ, who bears the pain of the world, may they find meaning, consolation and trust. I pray for healthcare workers everywhere, that, rich in mercy, they may offer patients, together with suitable care, their fraternal closeness.

To all I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing. Francis.



SYNOD 2023 – Keeping Focused and Our Thanks

We are now in our fourth week of focusing on the Synod, and our thanks goes to all parishioners who have so far attended meetings and/or given their responses to the questionnaires.

A particularly special thank you goes to the children who have taken time to give us some very useful ideas.

All the responses have been passed to the Diocese.

A final handout is being given to everyone this weekend. It includes one final question and the opportunity to further suggest how we as a Parish can improve and work together to make Our Church work for us all. We encourage all of you to give us plenty of suggestions!

There is no need to give your name and we will prepare a summary of all your comments in a few weeks time.

If you missed any of the first three questionnaires, it's not too late to complete them, 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.

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

Wednesday 9th February after 10am Mass – St Wilfrid's Hall

Saturday 12th 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 at 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>

ASH WEDNESDAY and the ASHES

You probably know that the ashes to be used this year on Ash Wednesday on 2nd 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.

Catching fish from the shop: A man had spent fruitless day fishing. He didn't want to go home empty-handed. He decided to stop at a local fish market. "I'd like three good sized fish," he said to the clerk. "But before you wrap them, toss them to me, one by one." The clerk looked puzzled at his request, "Sir? That's a strange thing to ask." Smiling the man said, "This way I'll be able to tell my wife truthfully that I caught them!"

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.

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.

Vacancy: Foundation Governor: Foundation governors are appointed by the Bishop to serve as his representatives on the governing body of diocesan schools to ensure the Church's mission is upheld. Governors have oversight of the curriculum and the appointment of staff and are accountable for the performance of the school. They have a strategic role to play as well as acting as a critical friend to the head teacher. The governing body needs people with a mixture of skills and experience and would welcome anyone who can offer their own perspective and time. Training is provided to help governors fulfil this very important role. If you would like to know more, contact the clerk to the governors, Mandy Randall: clerk@stthomasbecket.e-sussex.sch.uk or visit the diocesan website which can be found at <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/education/governance>

Over 50's Activities:

Thursday 10th February (this week) Lunch at the Kings Head, Horsebridge, 12noon. Yes we are going ahead with our friendly social event. We are able to have the much reduced OAP's meal, 2 courses for £12., which comprises of either starter and main course or main course and dessert. Drinks will be ordered and paid for separately. I have included a tip in the price and would be happy if you would pay when putting your name and telephone number on the list please. If you would like to stay and have tea/coffee with us after the meal, you will be very welcome. Also, if you need transport, please ring me asap to arrange it Tel: 07873 390944, thank you. Look forward to meeting up with you after a covid break!!!

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.

Urgent Notice: If there is someone you have not seen at Mass either Sunday or weekdays, who would normally attend. Please get in touch with them yourself or inform Fr Rory asap. It has been so easy for people to go unnoticed during Covid lockdown. Perhaps we could arrange for them to join us for tea/coffee in our hall after Sunday and Wednesday Mass, for a social chat and to get to know other members of our community.

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 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.

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.

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 30th January 2022

St George's Attendances: 66 St Wilfrid's Attendances: 77