

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

THE COLLECT

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. 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 Acts of the Apostles

15:1-2. 22-29

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 66:2-3.5-6.8.R.v4

R) Let the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you.

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth, and all nations learn your saving help. **(R)**

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **(R)**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 21:10-14. 22-23 In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at

each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jn 14:23
Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:23-29

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own:

it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you

while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,

whom the Father will send in my name,

will teach you everything

and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you,

my own peace I give you,

a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say:

I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am

going to the Father,

for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it happens,

so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

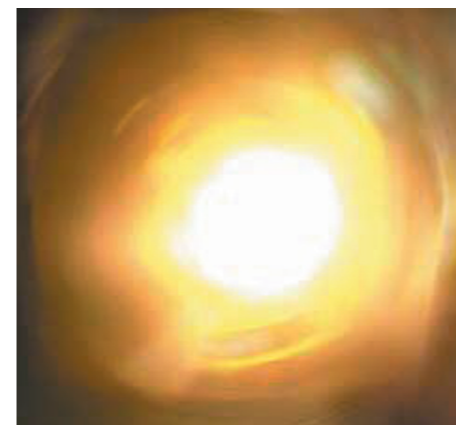
Jn 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



"I am going to the Father," Jesus says; and at the same time, *"I am coming back to you";* for if you obey me, if you love me, then both the Father and I will be with you. It is a love story; not an emotional or

sentimental love story, but love in its most profound and true sense: faithful love; love faithful through thick and thin. On the part of Jesus' followers, love must be obedient to the truth, to Jesus' teaching. It must be a faithful love, that endures to the end. But, "do not let your hearts be troubled, do not be afraid," for Jesus will come back, bringing his Holy Spirit. The Love of the Father and Son for each other is a living, teaching Love. It is the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who will *"teach you all things and will*

remind you of everything I have said to you." The Spirit introduces the human lover into the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity: the mystery of the Origin of Love which is at the same time the Origin of all created existence. "Peace I leave with you," Jesus says, because peace is the offspring of Love.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

77. Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. We should not expect everything from those who govern us, for that would be childish. We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies. Today we have a great opportunity to express our innate sense of fraternity, to be Good Samaritans who bear the pain of other people's troubles rather than fomenting greater hatred and resentment. Like the chance traveller in the parable, we need only have a pure and simple desire to be a people, a community, constant and tireless in the effort to include, integrate and lift up the fallen. We may often find ourselves succumbing to the mentality of the violent, the blindly ambitious, those who spread mistrust and lies. Others may continue to view politics or the economy as an arena for their own power plays. For our part, let us foster what is good and place ourselves at its service.

Golden Thoughts on Death

It is not to think black but golden thoughts that we think of death. Even among an abundance of graces, sometimes we are seized by the sense of the loneliness of exile on earth, and we find ourselves wanting to say again with Paul: 'I should like to depart and be with Christ, which is a far better thing,' or 'We would rather leave our home in the body and go to live with the Lord.'

The more we appreciate and go into the depths of suffering, the more we also understand that death is the ultimate offering of ourselves as 'royal priests' here on earth and, therefore, the culmination of our lives. For whoever loves and knows what it means to love, it is the desired moment.

I would like to explain what I mean. It is really 'desired' in the sense that gold is desired and smoke is not. In short, a moment kissed by God, as Jesus crucified is kissed.

Our Christian brothers and sisters who have died and have lived the moment of death know what it is. Oh! how often we would like someone to have come and told us something about this 'passing' ... But perhaps - no certainly, because this, too, is love - it is better that each one of us should go through this unique experience in life: it has more value and ... for the little suffering, for the little faith we have in God's love for us in those moments, then for all eternity we will be with him.

Chiara Lubich



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

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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	21st	10.00am	St Wilfrid's	Church is open, an opportunity for confession
Sixth Sunday of Easter Thursday is the feast of the Ascension; Holyday of Obligation (Collection for Catholic Communications Network next Sunday)				
Sun	22nd	9.00am	St George's -	Merce & Christian Jane-Heydsiek Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	23rd	2.30pm	St George's -	Rosary Group
Tue	24th	10.00am	St George's -	Colin Hines RIP
Wed	25th	11.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Requiem Mass for Clodagh Coleman RIP
Thurs	26th	10.00am	St George's -	The Ascension of the Lord Terry O'Regan Intention
		7.00pm	St Wilfrid's -	Feast of the Ascension
Fri	27th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Soul of mother of Gary O'Brien RIP
Sat	28th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's -	Church open for Prayer & Confessions
Seventh Sunday of Easter (Collection for Catholic Communications Network Today)				
Sun	29th	9.00am	St George's -	Jean Barham-Wyatt's Intention
		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 LineJean Barham-Wyatt Tel: (01323) 842824

CROSSLINK CHURCHES TOGETHER, HAILSHAM

POLEGATE CHURCHES TOGETHER
 Contact: Anne Bowe Tel: 07808 175455

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, Sebastian Martin, 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:**Time to concentrate all our attention.**

In the natural order of creation, one of the loveliest times of the year is when there is a flurry of blossoms. It quickly gives way; but is still a most crucial time for the resulting harvest. The blossoms give way to the emerging fruit, so a time of great importance.

In the life of the spirit, it is the same process. From the life of Christ when His work was accomplished upon the cross, the first words then began to emerge "Christ is Risen". Rumours began to spread. The stories in the scripture at this time are so revealing. The more they develop they shed light, but also reveal **the mystery**. Why?

I always remember (an early introduction of what it means to be a priest) being awakened in the early morning by someone shouting outside the church, very shortly after Holy Week "**demanding that He would come out and fight**, why was He Hiding?". I could hear what was being said - why does He not reveal Himself clearly.

For those who were chosen to experience His Ascension into Heaven, this was an incredible grace. The instruction that follows are of the greatest importance to all of us. The apostles returned to Jerusalem to watch and to pray, essential now for us.

So during the coming week with our focus upon the Feast of the Ascension; there will be a vigil mass on Wednesday evening (25th) at St Wilfrid's at 7pm, and the 10am mass will be at St George's church for all the parish.

Our next open meeting for our parish will be Tuesday 31st May at 6pm in St Wilfrid's Church, beginning with May devotions and setting the ball rolling with plans for our future. The Synod questionnaire and now our continuing response to all the questions raised, and the statements that followed are very helpful.

Fr Rory

SYNOD SUGGESTIONS:

The minutes of the meeting of the Core Group are available on the notice board of each church.

The next meeting of the whole parish to discuss these suggestions will be held in St Wilfrid's Church on Tuesday 31 May. This day is the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and there will be Marian Devotions at 6pm. The meeting will be held immediately afterwards.

WANTED:

Do you like computers? Do you know how to update a website? The Parish could do with a bit of help and would be delighted if some clever people would offer their help on internet things. Please give your name to Fr Rory or send him an email. Thank you.

Requiem Mass for the late Clodagh Coleman who sadly passed away on the 29th April, will be held on Wednesday 25th May at St Wilfrid's Church at 11am. **We ask you to respect Clodagh's wishes not to wear black at her funeral.**

Confirmation - 22nd May 2.30pm OLR

Please keep in your prayers ten of our Parishes Children and two adults who are currently preparing to receive the Sacrament of confirmation later this month. The Confirmation Service, with Bishop Richard, will be at 2.30pm on Sunday 22nd May at Our Lady of Ransom.

St Wilfrid's 1st Holy Communion: Sunday 22nd May at the 10.30am Mass. All welcome. Followed by 1st Holy Communion Breakfast on Sunday 29th May in St Wilfrid's Hall after Mass. All invited.

Are you struggling with bereavement of loss?

Would it help to have someone to talk to? Our Deanery has a team of trained Catholic Bereavement Supporters available to listen and support people experiencing bereavement and loss. Please contact your Parish Priest if you would like to speak to one of our team.

To find out more about Bereavement Support please contact our Marriage and Family Life Project Officer:

E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk T: 01293 651155

Collection for the Ukraine:

If you would like to support us in collecting items for Ukraine, here are some of the items we are collecting:-

Tinned food i.e. meat/fruit, good condition clothing, nappies, baby wipes, toiletries etc. If you would like more information please speak to Loretta after Mass. Thank you.

Over 50's Activities - St Wilfrid's Hall: Our next afternoon tea will be a special Jubilee Tea on Thursday 26th May, 2-4pm. Please could we dress up for the occasion (wear something red, white or blue), £3 per person. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Platinum Jubilee: We will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June with a Jubilee Lunch. Please put your name on the list in the church porch if you would like to contribute a dish. If possible the dish would be able to serve approximately 15 people with a small bowl of food. If you are unsure what to provide please see Teresa Bradley or Loretta Fry. Thank you.

Time for tea? Please allow a little extra time on a Sunday to enjoy tea/coffee and a chat with your fellow parishioners. Both St George's and St Wilfrid's are blessed to be able to hold this social opportunity, in our halls, after mass and would love to have more people join us weekly. All friends and family are also welcome - they don't have to have been at mass to enjoy some time with us!

Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Sunday 5th June
St George's Church 9am & St Wilfrid's Church 10.30am

At St Wilfrid's we will be celebrating with a Jubilee Lunch after the 10.30am Mass. Please reserve a seat on our website www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk or contact Jackie on 841504. All welcome.

Special Centenary Mass - Saturday 13th August 2022
St Wilfrid's Church, Hailsham at 11am

A Special Mass with Bishop Richard will be held at St Wilfrid's Church, Hailsham to celebrate 100 years since first Mass was held.

If you would like to join us in celebrating this special Mass please either book on-line on our website www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk or contact Jackie by email ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com or phone 841504. Thank you.

Lourdes Pilgrimage helpers required! We have received several applications from Pilgrims who will require assistance to join this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage, but at this point we are short of Helpers. After two 'grace years' dictated by the pandemic we are conscious of people's wellbeing, and we are having to look for more helpers than usual who are fit and well to support others. Subsidies are available for helpers to go towards them meeting the costs of the pilgrimage. As we currently stand, we will have to turn down some pilgrims who require assistance, if we do not get a significant number of fit helpers applying in the next few weeks, so please do apply if you can spare the time to help those in need. The Pilgrimage Office is happy to answer any questions anyone has prior to applying 01403 740110, office@ablourdes.org Helpers Apply now lourdes.abdiocese.org.uk

ENRICHMENT TALKS: **Our Lady of Ransom Hall, Eastbourne, from 7.30pm – 8.30pm Thurs 26th May** : Eucharistic Adoration. (Caroline Rother). **Thurs 9th June** : Henry VIII and Annulment. (John de Waal). **Thurs 23rd June** : Love of Neighbour - examples from Jesus in the Gospels. (John Kimberley).

"SAINTS & SINNERS CONCERT": **Our Lady of Ransom, Saturday 28th May (7:30-9.30 pm)**, with refreshments interval mid-way. An evening of secular and sacred music and storytelling, exploring and celebrating the journey of faith as saints and sinners on the road. John Holmstrom (keyboard) and Dominic Dring (saxophone, flute and vocals) with special guests. Donation (suggested £5-£10) on the night, with support given towards local charities. This is part of a series of concerts across Sussex churches.

Monthly Mass at Eastbourne District General Hospital: a monthly Mass at **12 pm** on the **last Tuesday of each month** is celebrated in the Hospital Chapel, to which anyone is invited who would like to come and pray with and for the staff and patients.

The ASCENT Information Session 24 May at 7.30pm

An opportunity for Parents, Catechists and Priests to learn more about the ASCENT project and the huge impact it is having on young lives. Meet the team, as well as young people who are already taking part, to have all your questions answered. Join one of our Zoom sessions to discover more about this fantastic project for teenagers in year 10, 11 and 12. Contact E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for joining instructions.

Grandparents Day Wednesday 8 June at West Grinstead

A pilgrimage to the shrine at West Grinstead. If you would like to find out more please contact E: katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Sat 13th August, 11am - Special Mass with Bishop Richard to celebrate 100 years since first Mass at St Wilfrid's.

Sunday 15th May 2022

St George's Attendances: 78 St Wilfrid's Attendances: 88