

25TH DECEMBER 2022

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Cf. Is 9:5

THE COLLECT

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. 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
How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'

52:7-10

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 97:1-6. R.v3

R) All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **(R)**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the House of Israel. **(R)**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **(R)**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
A hallowed day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

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

John 1:1-18

[...]

[In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.]

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

[The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.
The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.]

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:
'This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me
ranks before me
because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received -
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day,
when you manifested the reconciliation
that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight
and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O merciful God,
that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day,
is the author of divine generation for us,
so he may be the giver even of immortality.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

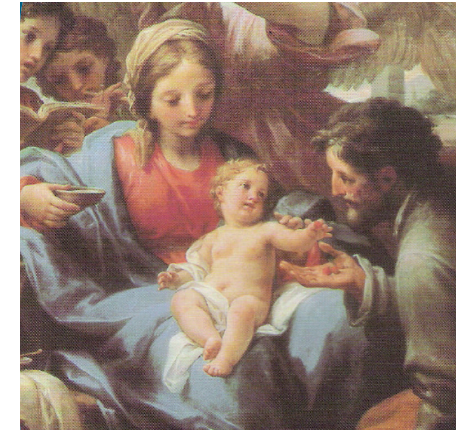
25TH DECEMBER 2022

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK 1/PROPER

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Can we ever fathom what this birth means and has meant to us ! This Child is God become one of us ! He has come, not just to show us/teach us his loving intention for our flourishing and happiness, but to restore to us the possibility of achieving that

intention. Not even the angels could possibly understand the immensity of the gift and the glory ! The Mass at which we are present, makes that gift and glory present – that is why we come; what happens at the altar at the moment of Consecration, brings that Child to us, in a manner possible only to God – truly Gift, truly unimaginable Glory. How can my mind, your mind, our very earthly selves, reach to such glory ! How can we adequately revere it? Adequately live by it ? Mary and Joseph, this Christmas Day, offer us their example: their faithfulness, their obedience, their tender loving care of the Child.

We, in spirit, can be one with them. Not only that: we can call on them to help us from Heaven; they have, literally, a 'bird's eye view' of ourselves, of our situations, our needs; they know from their own experience how far we all are from truly recognizing the Gift and the Glory. They see everything very clearly from God's perspective; through the eyes and with the love of their beloved Son.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



A UNIVERSAL LOVE THAT PROMOTES PERSONS

108. Some societies accept this principle in part. They agree that opportunities should be available to everyone, but then go on to say that everything depends on the individual. From this skewed perspective, it would be pointless "to favour an investment in efforts to help the slow, the weak or the less talented to find opportunities in life".⁸² Investments in assistance to the vulnerable could prove unprofitable; they might make things less efficient. No. What we need in fact are states and civil institutions that are present and active, that look beyond the free and efficient working of certain economic, political or ideological systems, and are primarily concerned with individuals and the common good.

[82] Ibid., 209: AAS 105 (2013), 1107.



Our Father St Benedict*
**OPENING THE HEART'S
EYES TO GOD**



Help us to place our hope in your name, O Lord, which is the source of all creation, and to open the eyes of our heart to recognize that you alone are the highest in the highest, the holy One who abides among the holy. It is you who crush the pride of the arrogant and reduce to nothing the plans of the nations. You raise up on high those who are brought low and bring down those who are raised up. You bring riches to some and allow others to go poor. Some you slay, while to others you give new life. You alone are the searcher of spirits and are the God of all flesh. You gaze into the depths and see all that we do. You come to the help of those in danger and save those in despair. You are the Creator of every spirit, and you watch over them all. You have increased the nations over all the earth and from them you have chosen those who love you through Jesus Christ, your beloved Child. Through him you have taught us, you have made us holy and have brought us honour.

Clement's First Letter to the Corinthians

*This set of mini-reflections is taken from Our Father St Benedict, published by New City



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



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

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

		The Nativity of the Lord			
Christmas Eve	5.30pm	St Wilfrid's—		Christmas Vigil with Nativity Mime , Family Intention	
Christmas Day	9.30am	St George's —		Parish Communities' Intention	
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —		Parish Communities' Intention	
Mon 26th	2.30pm	St George's —		Rosary Group —All welcome	
Tues 27th	10am	St George's—		Edna Andrews RIP	
Wed 28th	10am	St Wilfrid's —		Donor's Intention	
Thur 29th	10am	St George's —		Burbage Family Intention	
Fri 30th	10am	St Wilfrid's —		Fr Rory's Intention	
		Mary, Mother of God			
		(Friday is the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord)			
Sat 31st	10am	St Wilfrid's—		Church Open for Prayers and Confessions	
New Year's Day	9am	St George's —		Parish Communities' Intention	
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —		Fr Rory's Family Intention	

Confession on request before and after Mass or at other times by arrangement with Father Rory.
Unable to attend mass? The 10.30am St Wilfrid's mass is livestreamed when possible and can be accessed via the Parish Website or via the following: <https://saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk/online-masses-and-recordings/>
Facebook: https://m.facebook.com/gary.westcar#_=_

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.

Local Catholic Education Contacts: 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

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 VIA THE PRIEST'S HOUSE PLEASE
Polegate Hall Hire (01323) 504753
Hailsham Hall Hire: (01323) 841504 or email at above address
Prayer Line Jean Barham-Wyatt(01323) 842824

IMPORTANT GIFT AID:

If any parishioner wishes to join the scheme please contact - Gerry on 01323 832577. By signing up the parish can benefit by claiming back from HMRC a further 25% on all your donations at no additional cost to you.

CROSSLINK CHURCHES TOGETHER, HAILSHAM: Volunteer needed contact Father Rory
POLEGATE CHURCHES TOGETHER Contact: Anne Bowe Tel: 07808 175455

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS those who are unwell

Lily May, Julliette Lusted, Jennifer Piskac, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne Holt, Margaret, Rosie Tuson, Lilian Summers, Tom Woodrow-Spencer, Colleen, Chris Neyenhuizen, Letty Booth, Michael Copper, Peter Standen, Laurey & Richard Stimpson, Nicole McCutchan, Jean Barham-Wyatt & Nellie Oakshott.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THOSE NAMED IN THE BOOKS IN OUR CHURCHES

A WARM WELCOME: to all who join us for Mass, especially to any visitors.

New to the Parish/would like to get back in touch but not sure how? Please complete the welcome form in the porch and/or make yourself known to Fr. Rory. It would be great to get to know you and offer any help.

Fr Rory Writes:

To repeat a little bit from what I said last year, with emphasis on the season of Advent. The seed has been sown and a focus given to that most special moment of baptism when the new baptism candle is entrusted to the parents and godparents with the words "this light has been entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly, this child of yours will be enlightened by Christ as he grows in faith on his journey of life".

This seed has been sown for us, and as we sincerely strive to grow as a community of faith, it has been refreshed by the work that is being done as we try to be involved in the synod process. A greater awareness of ministry in different moments of service, welcomers, readers, ministries of the eucharist, ministry of prayer, and the great openings that are developing from our children's liturgy. The ministry of hospitality after mass allows various windows to begin to open. A parish council can really develop as one of our services to the greater community than just being an instrument of authority. So to all a Happy Christmas.

Fr Rory



Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year

Weekly Services

Sat 31st	Sun 1st	Tue/Thur	Wed/Fri	Sat 7th	Sun 8th
St W's	St G's 9am	St G's	St W's	St W's	St G's 9am
Open for Prayer	St W's 10.30am	10am	10am	Open for Prayer	St W's 10.30am

As a parish we have many to thank, today we focus on

St Wilfrid's: Christmas is a time for "thanking" the people that have so willingly given their time and effort to make our parish community flourish as good as it is. Here are a few of those people we give a "Big Thank You" to. All our well behaved Altar Servers under the training of David, Teresa, Annette, Sophie & Angie who train our young children in the Liturgy and First Holy Communion. Gary for recording the Mass on-line and screen hymns etc. Alan for reading notices, all our competent readers, children and grown ups. Gerry for planned giving etc. Bob for keeping us in order and up-to-date with health & safety. John & Rowena; collection plate and counting Sunday collections.

The people who prepare & serve tea/coffee after Sunday & Wednesday Masses, Annette & Joan for the over 50's Club, Lulu for tidying up after functions in the hall. All those people could do with some help, please bear this in mind for your New Years Resolutions, contact the people involved. I know we have omitted to mention other kind people who help us run our parish community, they know who they are, so please accept our sincere **THANKS** to you all. **Can you help us in anyway?**

Some of us are well into retirement age and cannot continue to give the service needed, please think hard and help us. You can contact Annette 07896825180 or Joan 07873390944. "God loves a Cheerful Giver", and the reward is plentiful to those who give their time and effort to help our successful parish community.

Two V.I.P. People who need a special "Thank You" are of course Fr Rory; who is very humble, but a great priest to us all, faults and all Father we love you. Then of course Jackie our Secretary and general dogsbody! She keeps us all going with her pleasant nature and cool calm efficiency, where would we be without her help? She also sorts Father out on many occasion. Thank You Jackie. More thanks to follow

Dates for your Diary:

Thurs 29th Dec, 2pm - Over 50's Afternoon Tea, St W's Hall.
Fri 30th Dec, 3-5pm - Parish Christmas Party, St W's Hall.
Sun 8th Jan, 4pm - Confirmation Classes, St G's.
Fri 27th Jan, 11-12pm, Parish Bereavement Group, St W's Hall.
Sun 29th Jan, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.

Parish Christmas Party: For adults & children. **Fri 30th Dec, 3-5pm** in St Wilfrid's Hall. Adults £5 each please, to help cover costs, children free.

Last Hour Rescue Bid for the Link Coffee Shop in Hailsham:

A last hour rescue bid is underway as Sussex Charity Computers for Charities launches a public appeal to safeguard the future for numerous adults with learning difficulties, living in the Hailsham area. Time is running out, support is urgently needed today to protect all concerned. To that end donations can be made via Just Giving

https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Linkcoffeeshop?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=one_page&utm_content=campaign/Linkcoffeeshop&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=495cc415799b4824bd76ed836fa845ab

If you have never been to the lunches served Mon to Sat 11.45am-1.45pm, please try them out. Main course £6, pudding £2.25 very good value served by friendly helpful staff. Also, coffee served with warm cheese scones or homemade cake served Mon to Sat 9-11.45am, highly recommended.

Parish Over 50's Club: Don't forget Thurs 29th Dec at 2pm till 4pm, our "Pre New Year's Party" wear something sparkly if possible, £5 please. Music, quiz, picture bingo, prizes and small sales table. We look forward to seeing you all and please feel at ease to bring a friend, a good opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and make friends. It going to be a great party!!

Donations Needed for Local Asylum Seekers:

Items required as follows:- Shoes - Sizes: 39x2, 40x9, 41x9, 42x18, 43x10, 44x7, 45x5. Men's trousers; Medium x 20, Large x 20, X Large x 10. Medium Size Jackets, Coats, Cricket Kit and Footballs. Please leave any items in church porch. Thank you.

Sunday 18th Dec - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 88 St George's 51