

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.**

Cf. Is 30:19,30

THE COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
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

11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps 71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17. R.cf.v7

**R) In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R)**

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R)**

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R)**

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant
to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture
gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God.
And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you
all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ
Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other
in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason
Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so
that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the
patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for
his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise
you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!
**Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.**
Alleluia!

Lk 3:4.6

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the
wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for
the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the
prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a
leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild
honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan
district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him
in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw
a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he
said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the
retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the
appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We
have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise
children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is
laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to
produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I
baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me
is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-
fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his
wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will
never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bar 5:5;4:36

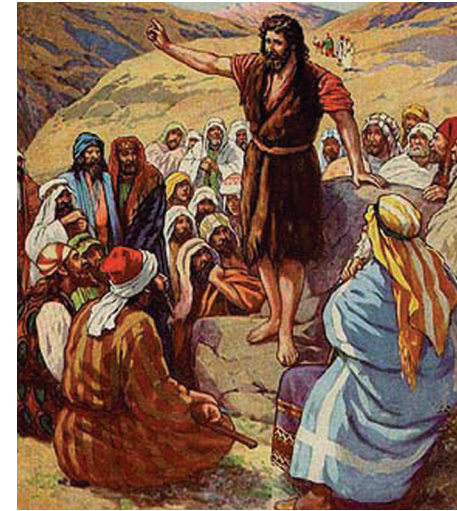
**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The Gospel today paints a picture
of John the Baptist which is rather
daunting. His appearance alone
sounds quite frightening! His
language too is very strong. He
addresses the Pharisees and

Sadducees as a 'brood of vipers'.
We are told that people came from
all over the country to be baptised
by John and to confess their sins,
but he, like Jesus after him, has
strong words for hypocrites. These
leaders of the Jewish faith were very
good at 'practising' their religion,
which meant meticulously
following the Law. But John gives
them a severe warning, that simply
claiming a relationship with
Abraham is an empty claim if it
only a matter of words and not of
life. The lesson from this Gospel
for Christians today is that simply
attending mass, or reciting certain
prayers, or doing novenas will not
give us a ticket to heaven. Our task
is to follow Jesus, who gave his life

for us. Very few of us will be asked
to give our life literally for a brother
or sister, but in our everyday lives
there will be plenty of
opportunities to deny ourselves in
order to love our neighbour. In the
current economic crisis now facing
millions of people, we must ask
ourselves what we can do to help.
As Pope Francis has said so often, if
we see people suffering and feel no
compassion for them, we cannot be
living our faith.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY

105. Individualism does not make us more
free, more equal, more fraternal. The mere
sum of individual interests is not capable of
generating a better world for the whole
human family. Nor can it save us from the
many ills that are now increasingly
globalized. Radical individualism is a virus
that is extremely difficult to eliminate, for
it is clever. It makes us believe that
everything consists in giving free rein to
our own ambitions, as if by pursuing ever
greater ambitions and creating safety nets
we would somehow be serving the
common good.

Our Father St Benedict* THE ARMY OF GOD

For our part then, brothers and sisters, we must serve in our
own army with great commitment, obeying every one of its
unerring commands.

Let us call to mind those who serve our generals and who
obey their commands with such perfect order, promptness
and submission. We know that they are not all prefects,
tribunes, centurions or even minor officers, yet each and
every one of them carries out the orders issued by the
sovereign and the generals, according to the rank that they
hold. The great can no more exist without the small than
can the small without the great. There is a certain
interdependence, and this is what makes everything work.

If we consider our body, then we see the same pattern:
the head is of no use without the feet - nor the feet, for that
matter, without the head. The smallest parts of our body are
necessary and valuable for the body as a whole; all work and
act together in order to preserve the whole body.

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

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Polegate



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

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

Second Sunday of Advent

Sat	3rd	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church open for prayers and confessions
Sun	4th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Edmund Ginn RIP 4th Anniversary
Mon	5th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues	6th	10am	St George's—	Deceased Members of the Cooray Family
Wed	7th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Enza Riddiford RIP
Thur	8th	10am	St George's —	Deceased Members of the Lodrick Family
Fri	9th	11.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Requiem Mass for Peter Dook

Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent

Sat	10th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church open for prayers and confessions
Sun	11th	9am	St George's —	Deceased Friends of Letty Booth & Steven Hill RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Mary Cullen 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, Juliette 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:

Through the ministry of the church, God brings to you His pardon and His peace and I absolve you of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

When I was growing up this was a great focus to our lives and a regular feature, when at least once a month we were all gathered up into the car for our regular journey. After I was first ordained, I spent hours in the confessional box leading up to Christmas and Easter. And yes, I experienced great moments of pardon and peace; a truly great gift.

Now services of reconciliation can play a vital part in our lives of faith. A special great event in your preparation for this Christmas will be offered to you on Tuesday 13th December at 6.30pm, when Fr Barry will lead us in the sacrament of reconciliation. He is excellent and we are grateful to have him. I will be available for confessions on request at any time, particularly before and after masses.

Fr Rory

Sacrament of Reconciliation Tuesday 13th December at 6.30pm when Fr Barry will lead us	Parish Christmas Carol Service: This will take place on Sunday 11th December at 3pm, in St Wilfrid's Church followed by mulled wine/tea & coffee/mince pies and tombola in our hall. Everyone is invited Catholics and Non-Catholics, so if you have friends who would like to come, they are very welcome. Any prizes for the tombola for men/women/children, bottles of wine/spirits! Or variety of gifts including mince pies either homemade or boxed from the shop. Please leave in our hall/church porch Wed 7th or Sun 11th, before or after Mass.
Parish Meeting: Sunday 4th December, St Wilfrid's Church after Mass.	James Leslie Westcar RIP: Sunday 4th December, 15 years anniversary.
Parish Christmas Party: for adults & children. Fri 30th Dec, 3-5pm in St Wilfrid's Hall.	
Christmas Eve Nativity Mime - St Wilfrid's, 5.30pm Mass. Nativity rehearsal will be Thursday 22nd December, 2-4pm any children who would like to take part in the Christmas Eve Nativity, please attend this rehearsal, thank you.	
St Wilfrid's Hospice & St George's are having a Lights of Love Service at St George's Church on Monday 12th December at 7pm. There will be refreshments afterwards in the church hall. Do please come to this wonderfully moving service.	
Parish Over 50's Club: Our next afternoon tea will be Thurs 29th Dec at 2pm , "Pre New Year's Party" also £5 please. Music for all along with quiz and bingo. Let's make it a great party, see you there! Staverton Nursery Trip - Mon 5th Dec. Just 2 seats left. Contact Joan if you would like to go 07873390944.	Evenings of Reflection for Confirmation Candidates/ Youth Groups: St Martha's, Bexhill on Sea on Friday 3rd February from 7pm to 9pm. You can book your places here Evenings of Reflection (03-Feb-2023) · ChurchSuite Events
CAFOD - The True Spirit of Christmas Giving, World Gifts this Christmas: We are collecting for gifts for the poor and needy throughout the world. Many new ideas for helping "those in need" have been introduced this year. Due to your great generosity for this worthy cause, we have collected £161 so far. The collecting box will be available for one more week in the church porch/hall. Lets see if we can make this a record for 2022. We will publish the result in next weeks newsletter with the various gifts we have chosen. Thank you.	Las Posadas - the Travellers Journey Begins - Last week both churches welcomed Joseph, Mary and the Donkey and they have gone home with a parish family until another offers them lodgings for the night. They may stay at each home for one night or several, depending who is next to receive them. The home giving lodgings will each make them comfortable and when they leave offer hospitality (tea & mince pies or similar) to the parishioner/s collecting and send them away with prayers for their onward journey. The last parishioner/s with them will then return the travellers at our Christmas service.
Dates for your Diary: Sun 4th Dec - Parish Meeting, St W's Church. Sun 4th Dec, - Confirmation Classes, St G's Sun 11th Dec, 3pm - Parish Christmas Carol Service, St W's Mon 12th Dec, 7pm - Lights of Love Service, St G's Church. Tue 13th Dec, 6.30pm - Reconciliation Service, St W's Church. Thur 22nd Dec, 2-4pm - Nativity Rehearsal, St W's Church. Sat 24th Dec, 5.30pm - Nativity Mime, St W's Church. Thurs 29th Dec, 2pm - Over 50's Afternoon Tea, St W's Hall. Fri 30th Dec, 11-12pm, Parish Bereavement Group, St W's Hall. Fri 30th Dec, 3-5pm - Parish Christmas Party, St W's Hall.	Churches Together Willingdon and Polegate: during Advent, will be participating in an "Inspiring Angels" theme, that is, creating an Angel focus within their parish community. If anyone at St George's would like to take part in this, and knit an Angel for our Church Christmas tree, please collect a Christmas Angel knitting pattern from our welcomers as you leave Mass, from 27th November onwards.
	Sunday 27th Nov - Mass Attendance: St Wilfrid's TBC St George's 63