

15TH JANUARY 2023

2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.
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

49:3. 5-6

The Lord said to me, ‘You are my servant, Israel,
in whom I shall be glorified’;
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,
my God was my strength.
And now the Lord has spoken,
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
to gather Israel to him:

‘It is not enough for you to be my servant,
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors
of Israel;
I will make you the light of the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 39:2.4.7-10. R.vv8.9

**R) Here I am, Lord!
I come to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **(R)**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **(R)**

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **(R)**

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. **(R)**

Ps 65:4

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
1:1-3

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother
Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to
the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their
place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord
Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens!
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

John 1:29-34

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

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, ‘Look, there is
the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is
the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who
ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know
him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came
baptising with water.’ John also declared, ‘I saw the Spirit
coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on
him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise
with water had said to me, “The man on whom you see the Spirit
come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the
Holy Spirit.” Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is
the Chosen One of God.’

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that we may participate worthily in these mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 22:5

**You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,
and in your kindness
make those you have nourished
by this one heavenly Bread
one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.

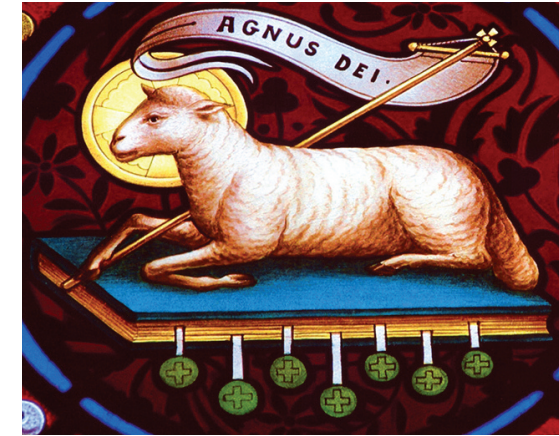
15TH JANUARY 2023

2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK /PROPER

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



“He existed before me.” John the Baptist is in no doubt as to who Jesus is and this passage from the Gospel clearly reveals the Most Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit comes down on Jesus as on one to Whom he belongs, the One who

will “*baptize with the Holy Spirit*”. This is confirmed by the “*voice of the Father*” so that the Baptist can say, “*Yes I have seen and I am the witness that he (Jesus) is the chosen one of God*”. “*He existed before me.*” This is the amazing gift of the Love of God: that he came himself to be our Saviour! Many, many peoples of the world seem content to accept fellow human beings and their teaching as the road to God and happiness. True, many great teachers and holy men and women have gifted the world with their wisdom, but what

can their wisdom be, compared with the source of all wisdom? The Bible compares such a choice to drinking from “leaky cisterns” as opposed to drinking from the fountain, itself! God himself has revealed his accessibility, has opened his arms to us in the Person of his Son! He has chosen to make himself, in Jesus, both the way and the goal of the journey: “*I am the way, the truth and the life.*”



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



A UNIVERSAL LOVE THAT PROMOTES PERSONS

111. The human person, with his or her inalienable rights, is by nature open to relationship. Implanted deep within us is the call to transcend ourselves through an encounter with others. For this reason, “care must be taken not to fall into certain errors which can arise from a misunderstanding of the concept of human rights and from its misuse. Today there is a tendency to claim ever broader individual – I am tempted to say individualistic – rights. Underlying this is a conception of the human person as detached from all social and anthropological contexts, as if the person were a “monad” (monás), increasingly unconcerned with others... Unless the rights of each individual are harmoniously ordered to the greater good, those rights will end up being considered limitless and consequently will become a source of conflicts and violence”.⁸⁵

⁸⁵ Address to the European Parliament, Strasbourg (25 November 2014): AAS 106 (2014), 997.



Our Father St Benedict*
GOD'S MERCY



My brothers and sisters, when we think of Jesus Christ, we must think of him as God, as 'Judge of the living and the dead'. And we must not take our own salvation lightly. Our thinking lightly of him is a sure sign of our hoping little from him. And those who are listening and thinking to themselves 'All this matters very little' are sinning even now. And so are we, for that matter, if we have no idea from where we have been called, who called us, and to what place we are called, and if we have forgotten the terrible sufferings that Jesus Christ underwent for our sake. What then, shall we give him in return, or what shall we offer that is worthy of what he has given us? How great a debt of holiness we owe him! He gave us the light, he called us his 'child' as a father does, he saved us when we faced destruction.

Clement's Second 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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Today is Peace Day, Collection for Pax Christi)

Sat 14th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers and Confessions
Sun 15th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Sybil Knox 100th Birthday Intention
Mon 16th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues 17th	10am	St George's—	Creta O'Neill RIP
Wed 18th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Elsie Fingletan RIP
Thur 19th	10am	St George's —	John Bree's Anniversary RIP
Fri 20th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Angela & Norman Wright RIP

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 21st	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers and Confessions
Sun 22nd	9am	St George's —	Special Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' 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, 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.

The opening prayer for the first week in the new year **was incredibly fit for purpose and worthy of all our attention.**

“Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see **what must be done** and gain strength **to do what they have seen.** Through Our Lord Jesus Christ”.

Hearing about the situation of the church in France, now what is happening in Ireland, all the signs are that this will be our situation. Reality is a shortage of priests and if we continue as we are, this is not going to change any time soon. I find it so so sad. When we were in our seminary, we were so inspired (though this may not have been the same in every seminary) with the work of the Second Vatican Council, and what the Holy Spirit was saying to the church. This is what I find so summed up in that opening prayer.

I am greatly impressed by the support that I am receiving here in our parish. Our meeting on Tuesday evening was excellent and the work being done by the team was inspiring. We will be hearing from them as they present their plans in conjunction with the work that is being done by the Synod. This will be presented to our two communities in the weeks to come.

Fr Rory

Parish Newsletter: Remember to take your copy of our newsletter home each week and read it. It is the one opportunity to find out what is happening in “our parish” and what you are interested in.

Members of Over 50's Club: Last Sunday afternoon members of our over 50's club attended the performance of “Andre Rieu in Dublin” at our local cinema. We enjoyed ourselves so much we suggested we get together for another film. If you are interested please contact Joan on 07873390944. We also went into Wetherspoons for a light lunch together before the performance. Tables were booked and reserved for us. Its only just across the road to the cinema, so not much walking!

St George's Table sale - new and nearly new items suitable for sale are needed, please leave at back of church or under the table in the hall. Especially popular are Jigsaws, books (fiction & non fiction) toiletries and small gifts. Money raised in our table sale will be split between our charity of the month and Parish social events/youth activities.

St George's Charity of the Month is St Wilfrid's Hospice we will give 50% of our table sale proceeds to this charity (50% goes to support our Parish Youth activities). Also, our last Sunday Breakfast on 29th January 10am is in aid of St Wilfrid's Hospice. Please make time to attend and invite friends and family to join us at breakfast even if not attending mass that morning. We will serve sausage and bacon baps and a selection of lighter pastries - Spread the word!

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 22nd Jan, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall.
Thur 26th Jan, 2-4pm, Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
Fri 27th Jan, 11-12pm, Parish Bereavement Group, St W's Hall.
Sun 29th Jan, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
Sun 5th Feb, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall.
Sun 19th Feb, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall.
Sun 26th Feb, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.

Parish Over 50's Club: Next Afternoon Tea is Thurs 26th Jan at 2pm till 4pm. As “Burns Night” falls on the day before, we are going to make the theme “Scottish”, so party time again! This time you may wear anything Tartan if you wish, men don't forget your sporran! Price is £5 each please. All welcome.

St Wilfrid's Last Sunday in January 29th: In our hall after Mass we will have 2 tables full of prizes for a raffle, men, women and children are catered for, so do please come along and join in the fun. Also, tea/coffee/biscuits and cakes. A box is in the church porch for your unwanted gifts etc. please. The money will go towards future activities in our hall which will benefit us all. It would save time on the day if you would buy your tickets beforehand i.e. after Sunday & Wednesday Mass please in the hall. Tickets are £1 per strip, pink for ladies and blue for men, or contact Joan on 07873390944. Thank you.

St Wilfrid's & St George's both serve tea/coffee after Mass every Sunday and St Wilfrid's also serves it on Wednesdays and are being well attended. It is now a good place to meet new friends and old ones. There is much conversation and laughter, a “Good Tonic” in these hard times. We have some new members who have recently joined our parish and the tea/coffee after mass and have found this an excellent way to get to know fellow members of our parish. All stating “what a friendly warm church and hall we have”. So please **you** come and join us too. I expect you have noticed how food prices are going up and up, so please could you put a little more in the tea/coffee pot. Remember we provide biscuits always with your tea/coffee and on many occasions plenty of cake!! Thank you.

Sunday 8th Jan - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 94

St George's 68