

12TH FEBRUARY 2023

6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Cf. Ps 30: 3-4

THE COLLECT

O God, who teach us that you abide
in hearts that are just and true,
grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.
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 book of Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 118:1-2.4-5.17-18.33-34. R.v1

R) They are happy who follow God's law!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **(R)**

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **(R)**

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. **(R)**

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity:
not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of
our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of
God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God
predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a
wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known,
or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach
what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear
has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has
prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through
the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even
the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

1 Sam 3:9; Jn 6:68

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:17-37

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come
to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish
them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and
earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear
from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man
who infringes even one of the least of these commandments
and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least
in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and
teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the
scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of
heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must
not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the
court. But I say this to you; anyone who is angry with his brother
will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool"
he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him
"Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are
bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your
brother has something against you, leave your offering there
before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and
then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with
your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the
court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the
judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you
solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit
adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully,
he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your
right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away;
for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have
your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should
cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you
less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body
go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give
her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who
divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her
an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman
commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You
must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord.
But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since
that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or
by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear
by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white
or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you
mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse and renew us
and may it become for those who do your will
the source of eternal reward.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 77: 29-30

**They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,
we pray, O Lord,
so that we may always long
for that food by which we truly live.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



How precious we are to God! We are his creation, the work of His hands, *"the apple of His eye"* and more precious, each one, *"than hundreds of sparrows"*! No wonder His Son, who has come as a man on His Father's behalf, is fiercely determined to lead his fellow mortals on the right path, the path planned and intended by His Father. He alone knew His Father's creative plan from its initiation: the design His Father had put into these human creatures, who were to be both animal and spiritual and His intention for their happiness and fulfillment. He alone knew the full extent of the disaster brought about by Satan: a disaster

seriously affecting the human race and wounding and distressing the Love of the Creator and of Jesus himself. No wonder, then, that with such fierce fervor Jesus sets out the rules of life: of justice, of marriage and purity, of honesty, warning against failing to live accordingly. At the same time, He assures his hearers of the enormous rewards of righteousness.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE VALUE OF SOLIDARITY

115. At a time when everything seems to disintegrate and lose consistency, it is good for us to appeal to the "solidity"⁸⁸ born of the consciousness that we are responsible for the fragility of others as we strive to build a common future. Solidarity finds concrete expression in service, which can take a variety of forms in an effort to care for others. And service in great part means "caring for vulnerability, for the vulnerable members of our families, our society, our people". In offering such service, individuals learn to "set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable... Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, 'suffers' that closeness and tries to help them. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people".⁸⁹

88. Solidity is etymologically related to "solidarity". Solidarity, in the ethical-political meaning that it has taken on in the last two centuries, results in a secure and firm social compact.

89. Homily, Havana, Cuba (20 September 2015): L'Osservatore Romano, 21-22 September 2015, 8.



Promise Of Good Things
GOD'S PROMISES



The good workman receives the bread of his labour boldly, whereas the lazy, careless person hardly dares to look his employer in the face. So we must be prompt in our good works, since all that comes to us is from him. Indeed, he gives us this warning: 'Look, the Lord is coming. His reward is before his face. He will pay each according to their work'.

And so it is that he exhorts each of us who believe in him with an undivided heart not to be lazy or careless in the good that we do. Our boast, our confidence, ought to be in him, and we should be subject to his will. We need only consider the whole host of angels that surround him, to see how they stand ready, always at the service of his will. As the scripture says: 'Ten thousand times ten thousand stood by him, and a thousand thousands were ministering to him, and crying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Sabaoth. The whole of creation is full of his glory" '.

And so we too ought to gather together in harmony of conscience, and cry earnestly to him as it were with one mouth, that we may have a share in his great and glorious promises. As he says: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor human heart conceived what it is that the Lord has prepared for those who wait for him'.

Clement's First Letter to the Corinthians



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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Collection for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund Today)

Sat	11th		St Wilfrid's—	
Sun	12th	9am	St George's —	Gretta Loughnane RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Jim Ayres RIP
Mon	13th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues	14th	10am	St George's—	Liturgy of the Word
Wed	15th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Mrs Val Wells RIP
Thur	16th	10am	St George's —	Liturgy of the Word
Fri	17th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	William O'Brien RIP

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Wednesday is Ash Wednesday; fasting and abstinence)

Sat	18th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers Confessions
Sun	19th	9am	St George's —	Chintin Paul RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Hannah Hoad RIP

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, Email: gpalmer2703@gmail.com. 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, Laurey & Richard Stimpson, Nicole McCutchan, Jean Barham-Wyatt, Nellie Oakshott, Jay Jo Emmie & Niall Eames .

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.


Deacon John Writes:

We often hear the following prayer in services and in private prayer: Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May he/she rest in peace. Amen. May almighty God bless us with his peace and strength, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The various prayers for the departed have three main purposes: first to pray for the repose of the departed, second, to comfort the living, and thirdly, to remind those who remain of their own mortality. The practice of praying for the dead is rooted in Christian belief in the everlasting life promised in Jesus's teachings and foreshadowed by his disciples' experience that God had raised him from the dead.

We gather together at a funeral service not to talk about the deceased but to pray for him/her. We believe that our prayer can help the deceased. We know that prayer is powerful so we pray for the deceased. There is nothing else we can give and prayer is something we can do so easily. Flowers, as in a wreath, will wither but the prayers we offer will never wither. Every prayer lasts into eternity. Prayer has lasting value.

We do so many things during our lives that in the light of eternity, are a waste of time. The priority in our lives must be to put God first. Jesus said in St John's Gospel that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life. (John. 14:6) If we are not living our lives in union with Jesus then we are not on the way and if we are not on the way then we are lost. In St Matthew's Gospel, Jesus instructs his followers "Seek the kingdom of God first and all these other things will be given you as well. (Matt 6:33). It follows that when we do as Jesus said and seek his kingdom first, and love the Lord with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves, then, and only then, will we be on the way.



St Wilfrid's & St George's First Communion Children will be taking their first reconciliation during our Parish Penitential Service on Sat 18th March, 5pm at St Wilfrid's. Everyone is invited. Please make the effort to come and support our children. In the past this has not been well supported. So please attend this very moving service, our children are the future, without them nothing can be achieved.

Over 50's Club: Our next afternoon tea will be Thurs 23rd Feb at 2pm. The theme is "Chinese New Year - year of the Rabbit". Our party table, raffle and prizes table will all have a Chinese theme. As soon as the weather improves, probably March, we will be going on our little outings on the Cuckmere Bus. Check the newsletter for dates, times and cost.

St Wilfrid's: Coming up, Sat 11th March, 10am-3pm in our hall, **A Grand Table Top Sale & Dress Rail.** Now is the chance to clear out any unwanted items. Please pop your donations in the box in the porch labelled "Gifts for table sale". Thank you and don't forget to browse/buy on the day.

A **BIG** thank you to all who have supported January's Charity Breakfast at St George's we are delighted to have raised £145 for St Wilfrid's Hospice. **Lent Last Sunday Charity Breakfasts** (Sunday 26th of February and March) will be for our local branch of HCPT (Hosanna House Children's Pilgrimage Trust) offering pilgrimage holidays, to Lourdes, for disabled and disadvantaged children. Delicious Bacon & Sausage Baps will be served. **All Welcome (feel free to invite friends and family).**

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 19th Feb, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall.
 Thur 23rd Feb, 2-4pm, Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
 Fri 24th Feb, 11-12pm, Parish Bereavement Group, St W's Hall.
 Sun 26th Feb, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
 Sun 26th Feb, 11.30-1pm, Family Fast Day Lunch, St W's Hall.
 Sun 5th March, 11.30am, Parish Meeting, St W's Church.
 Sat 11th March, 10am-3pm, Grand Table Top Sale, St W's Hall.
 Tue 14th March, 5.30pm, Holy Communion Class, St W's Hall.
 Fri 17th March, 6-9pm, Parish Irish Party Evening, St W's Hall.
 Sat 18th March, 5pm, Reconciliation Service, St W's Church.

Family Fast Day Lunch: Join us for a simple lunch of soup and bread at St Wilfrid's Hall after mass on Sun Feb 26th, 11.30-1.00pm. This is an event for all the family to mark the start of our Lenten journey. There will be fellowship and Lenten themed activities for all. Food is free but we welcome generous donations to CAFOD. More volunteers are needed to help make and/or serve the soup. If you are able to help please contact Teresa Palmer on 07951 082592 or tpalmer2205@gmail.com,

Thank You: I wish to thank parishioners for their prayers, condolences and support over the loss of my husband, Peter. Gillian Standen and Family.

Ash Wednesday is on 22nd February. It is traditional for the ashes used on that day to come from the palms that were blessed on Palm Sunday the previous year. So please bring your old palms and place them in the box at the back of the church.

Stations of the Cross - This traditional devotion is in danger of being lost and as a Whole Parish during lent we encourage maximum attendance from everyone. **Family Stations** - 11am Sat 11th March at St George's Church this will be followed by a Lenten soup lunch. **Stations** - 3pm Sun 12th March at St George's Church - led by our Parish Confirmation Group. **Palm Sunday Stations and Benediction** 3pm Sun 2nd April, St George's Church and refreshments in hall. **Good Friday Family Service/Stations** 3pm Fri 7th April at St Wilfrid's Church and refreshments in hall. All parishioners our youngest to our most senior are encouraged to support these especially the Family Services.

Don't forget our Parish St Patrick's Evening Get together: St Wilfrid's Hall on Fri 17th March, 6-9pm. Tickets coming soon, £5 per adult Children free.

Sunday 5th Feb - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 148

St George's 72