



Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In this week's Gospel passage Jesus continues to teach His fellow mortals the way to alive for the happiness and fulfillment intended by His Heavenly Father, their Creator. It is a way starkly different from the ways commonly perceived as leading to happiness. Love your enemy, He says. Offer the wicked man no resistance; return good for evil, pray for your persecutors. Jesus Himself by his own life, shows the way. Even more, He shows Himself, announces Himself, to be the way. *"I am the way,"* he says in St. John's Gospel, *"and the truth and the life."* His fellow human beings, Jesus knows, are in fact helpless to walk the way of

truth and life in their own strength. United to Him, however, all things are possible. Baptized into Him, they become *'new creatures'*, remade in His, the Son's image, *"sons of your Father in Heaven"* and enabled to walk in His strength, which is Divine strength. How otherwise could they (we) possibly become with Jesus, *"perfect just as your Heavenly Father is perfect"*?



19TH FEBRUARY 2023

7TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.**

Ps 12: 6

THE COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is 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 Leviticus 19: 1-2. 17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 102:1-4.8.10.12-13. R.v8

R) The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R)**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R)**

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says:

The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!**

Jn 14:23

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:38-48

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: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord,
with the observance that is your due,
we humbly ask you,
that what we offer to the honour of your majesty
may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.**

Ps 9: 2-3

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we may experience the effects of the salvation
which is pledged to us by these mysteries.
Through Christ our Lord.

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE VALUE OF SOLIDARITY

116. The needy generally "practise the special solidarity that exists among those who are poor and suffering, and which our civilization seems to have forgotten or would prefer in fact to forget. Solidarity is a word that is not always well received; in certain situations, it has become a dirty word, a word that dare not be said. Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all are prior to the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means combatting the structural causes of poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labour rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money... Solidarity, understood in its most profound meaning, is a way of making history, and this is what popular movements are doing".⁹⁰

90. Address to Participants in the Meeting of Popular Movements (28 October 2014): AAS 106 (2014), 851-852..

Promise Of Good Things HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS

How richly blessed, how wonderful are God's gifts, my dear people! Life in immortality, splendour in righteousness, truth in boldness, faith in confidence, self-control in sanctity - and, what is more, all these things are placed within the grasp of our understanding.

What then are the things that are being prepared for those who wait for him? The Creator and Father of the ages, the all holy One, he himself knows their greatness and beauty. We for our part must strive to be found among the number of those who wait, so that we too may have a share in these promised gifts. But how, dear people, shall this be? It will come about only if our minds are fixed faithfully on God; if we seek those things that please and satisfy him; if we carry out fully what is in harmony with his will, which cannot err; and if we walk in the way of truth. It will happen if we free ourselves from all evil and wrong-doing, from greed, wrangling, ill-will and deceit, from gossip and back-biting, contempt for God, pride and arrogance, conceit and lack of hospitality. Those who indulge in these things can only be hateful to God, and this is true not only of those who commit these faults but also of those who encourage them.

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

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
Mon 20th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues 21st	10am	St George's—	C & S Lodrick RIP
Wed 22nd	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Ash Wednesday , Jim Ayres RIP
	12noon	St George's -	Ash Wednesday , Parish Communities' Intention
Thur 23rd	10am	St George's —	Harriet Fairchild RIP
Fri 24th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	A T Mathew RIP

First Sunday of Lent (Friday is CAFOD Lent Fast Day)

Sat 25th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers Confessions
Sun 26th	9am	St George's —	Mary Conlan (90th Birthday)
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	3pm	St George's -	Stations of the Cross

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:

First I give you the text of a message from Bishop Richard which came last week. "On Saturday, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – the Day of Prayer for the Sick. Mary calls us to Lourdes, a pilgrimage that is such an important part of our diocesan life. Mary our Mother calls us to see her Son in those around us and Pope Francis, in his message for this day writes: "Brothers and sisters, we are rarely prepared for illness. Often times, we fail even to admit that we are getting older. Our vulnerability frightens us and the pervasive culture of efficiency pushes us to sweep it under the carpet, leaving no room for our human frailty." Mindful of the frailty and weakness that is present in every one of us, let us do all we can to strive against the isolation that is so prevalent in our present society, ensuring that all recognise their value and dignity and know the love of Him who carries our weaknesses for us."

I also want to draw your attention to our charity for this month at St George's. It is the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust, and I ask you to support it as much as you can. First the proceeds of the sales table this month will be split between HCPT and parish and youth activities. The last Sunday of the month is the occasion for a real feast after Mass - a superb breakfast. All the money raised at this event will be donated to HCPT. Please support it if you possibly can

Deacon John

Celebrations at St Wilfrid's: It was Lulu's 75th Birthday, we all appreciate what she does for our parish community, clearing, tidying, teas/coffees and keeping our garden pots around the church & hall beautiful. We presented her with a beautiful plant, a special "star studded" bag full of goodies including a voucher for Waitrose and a special birthday cake with sparklers. She was so amazed, she was speechless. Emily paid a fleeting visit from France, so we had a large Christmas Cake too! (one of the things she misses most). She has organised a student visit from her school in France and St Richards College.

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 & prizes table will have a Chinese theme.

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.

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.
Sun 5th March, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall.
Sat 11th March, 10am-3pm, Grand Table Top Sale, St W's Hall.
Sun 12th March, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall.
Tue 14th March, 5.30pm, Holy Communion Class, St W's Hall.

Ash Wednesday is on 22nd February and is a day of Fasting & Abstinence. Many thanks to everyone who brought back their old palms which have now been burned to produce the ashes.

Parish Council: Thank you to the people who have taken the time to recommend parishioners to the Parish Council. If you have not completed your form, please do this today. The Synod Core Group are meeting on Tuesday 21st February to prepare a list of those recommended

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,

CAFOD and CTS are both running Lenten Sign-up courses by email with reflections and resources. For more information please check out the following links; <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/lent-calendar> and <https://go.ctsbooks.org/prayer-community>

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** - 11.30am Sat 11th March at St G'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 10.30am** Fri 7th April at St Wilfrid's Church followed by Hot Cross buns in the hall. All parishioners, our youngest to our most senior, are encouraged to support these, especially the Family Services.

Sunday 12th Feb - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 130 St George's 76