

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.**

Cf. Ps 90:15-16

THE COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,
that we may grow in understanding
of the riches hidden in Christ
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.
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 Genesis

2:7-9. 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 50:3-6.12-14.17. R.cf.v3

R) Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R)**

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R)**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R)**

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but he gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many

as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. .

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Man does not live on bread alone

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray,
to make these offerings,
for with them we celebrate the beginning
of this venerable and sacred time.
Through Christ our Lord.

Mt 4:4

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone,

**but by every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed now with heavenly bread,
by which faith is nourished, hope increased,
and charity strengthened,
we pray, O Lord,
that we may learn to hunger for Christ,
the true and living Bread,
and strive to live by every word
which proceeds from your mouth.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



At Jesus' baptism in the Jordan the Holy Spirit descends on him as a dove and he hears his Father's voice, "*This is my beloved Son, my*

favour rests on him."

Immediately, Jesus goes out into the desert to fast and to pray. This suggests that Jesus saw what had happened as the sign that his public mission should begin and would require a time alone with his Father and the Holy Spirit, in silence and in prayer. Forty days alone and fasting are his preparation; a preparation that is on-going, since the Gospels tell us that his times of silence and prayer continued. Often, we are told, "*He went apart to pray*"; even sometimes going out early in the morning, before dawn,

so that the disciples had to search for him later. Clearly, constant communication with his Father was an essential part of his mission. There is a temptation to say, 'even though he is the Divine Son'? In fact, precisely because he is the Son and One with the Father. Those who through Baptism are 'sons in the Son', should likewise seek to communicate frequently with their Father and follow Jesus' example of prayer.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE VALUE OF SOLIDARITY

117. When we speak of the need to care for our common home, our planet, we appeal to that spark of universal consciousness and mutual concern that may still be present in people's hearts. Those who enjoy a surplus of water yet choose to conserve it for the sake of the greater human family have attained a moral stature that allows them to look beyond themselves and the group to which they belong. How marvellously human! The same attitude is demanded if we are to recognize the rights of all people, even those born beyond our own borders.



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



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly
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(Answerphone service available)
Email: ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com
Website: www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk

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

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

First Sunday of Lent (Friday is CAFOD 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 -	Station of the Cross
Mon	27th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues	28th	10am	St George's—	Norman & Angela Wright RIP
Wed	1st	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Timothy Healy RIP
Thur	2nd	10am	St George's —	Mary Ackman RIP
Fri	3rd	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Mary O'Donoghue's Intention

Second, 'Transfiguration' Sunday of Lent (Collection for CAFOD)

Sat	4th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers Confessions
Sun	5th	9am	St George's —	Margaret Smith RIP
		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 .

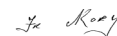
PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THOSE NAMED IN THE BOOKS IN OUR CHURCHES

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.

Fr Rory Writes:**“A very, very special moment”**

The outstanding event during my visit to Ireland was Fr Seamus Ryan’s funeral mass in his home village of Cappamore. A truly, truly inspiring priest, a great gift to us during our seminary days. Because of his inspiration we left our seminary full of hope, a time of renewal and inspiration was in store for our church because of the 2nd Vatican Council. Pope John 23rd had announced the council in order to open up the windows and let fresh light shine into the church. A time of great hope. Unfortunately his funeral mass was quite a contrast. The age profile of the priests, and indeed the congregation. The stories of all his endeavour and our remembrance of his celebrations of the liturgy. His key message “The church as communities of faith and a new generation”. This is exactly what he would want us to continue to focus upon, and to develop and grow.



St Patrick’s day cards are on sale at St George’s Church.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal: This Lent, your donations to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope or at cafod.org.uk/give and please join us in praying for CAFOD’s development and emergency response work all over the world.

Thank You to all who contributed to my Birthday Celebrations. Thank you for all the cards, plants, gifts and voucher. I had a really special day. Lulu.

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: Tuesday 28th March we are considering paying a visit to the Emmaus Centre in Portslade. If interested please see Joan or Tel 07873390944 asap. Details to follow.

Grand Table Top Sale, St Wilfrid’s Hall: Sat 11th March, 10am-3pm. We have received some goods for sale, but plenty more are needed, we can accept adults/children’s clothes. Please pop your donations in the box in the church porch. We also need helpers on the day, please leave your name/time on the list in church porch/hall. 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 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.
 Fri 17th March, 6-9pm, Parish Irish Party Evening, St W’s Hall.
 Sat 18th March, 5pm, Reconciliation Service, St W’s Church.
 Sun 26th March, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G’ Hall.

New Parish Council: Thank you to everyone who recommended people for the Parish Council. 13 persons have been recommended from St George’s and 34 from St Wilfrid’s. They will all be invited to a meeting to explain how the Council will work and afterwards they will be asked if they want to accept or decline membership of the Council.

Family Fast Day Lunch: Join us for a simple lunch of soup and bread at St Wilfrid’s Hall after mass **today**, 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 welcome generous donations to CAFOD.

Churches Together Polegate and Willingdon "Pop In" at St. John’s Church Hall Polegate. Social Activities from 10am to 1.30pm every 1st and 3rd Wednesday. Contact Ruth on 01323 485463.

Parish St Patrick’s Feast Day - Friday 17th March: We couldn’t let this great Irish day go by without celebrating in the true Irish way. We have arranged an evening of fun, music, singing and dancing. Good food, tea/coffee provided. You may bring your own drink. All for £5 Adults, Children Free. Tickets on sale now after Sunday and weekday masses.

St George’s Hall: On **Fri 3rd March, 4.30 pm**, there will be a **puppet theatre** using the hall. Their show is 45 minutes long and is aimed at primary school age children. They do extensive work in schools and after the show the actors will bring out the puppets for the children to see close up. Admission is free but seats are on a first come first served basis.

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.

Sunday 19th Feb - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid’s 122

St George’s 78