

5TH FEBRUARY 2023

5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**O come, let us worship God  
and bow low before the God who made us,  
for he is the Lord our God.**

Ps 94:6-7

**THE COLLECT**

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care,  
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,  
they may be defended always by your protection.  
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

58:7-10

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,  
and shelter the homeless poor,

clothe the man you see to be naked  
and turn not from your own kin.  
Then will your light shine like the dawn  
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you  
and the glory of the Lord behind you.  
Cry, and the Lord will answer;  
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,  
the clenched fist, the wicked word,  
if you give your bread to the hungry,  
and relief to the oppressed,  
your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your shadows become like noon.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps. 111:4-9. R.v4

**R) The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.**

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just.  
The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honour. **(R)**

The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever.  
He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **(R)**

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
His head will be raised in glory. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of  
oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had

guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I  
claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the  
crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I  
came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my  
speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the  
arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of  
the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should  
not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jn 8:12

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord,  
anyone who follows me  
will have the light of life.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:13-16

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 are the salt of the earth. But if  
salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good  
for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot  
by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot  
be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put  
it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house.  
In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so  
that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your  
Father in heaven.'

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O Lord our God,  
who once established these created things  
to sustain us in our frailty,  
grant, we pray,  
that they may become for us now  
the Sacrament of eternal life.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Cf. Ps 106:8-9

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,  
his wonders for the children of men  
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,  
and the hungry he fills with good things.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, who have willed that we be partakers  
in the one Bread and the one Chalice,  
grant us, we pray, so to live  
that, made one in Christ,  
we may joyfully bear fruit  
for the salvation of the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.

5TH FEBRUARY 2023

5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK /PROPER

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



How are Christians "*the salt of the earth*", "*the light of the world*"? Clearly, not by their own power or individual merits. Jesus is speaking here of what His own saving work, His passion and death, have achieved for the human race, for those who believe and follow Him. He has 'lit them up' with the light of His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. In a world lost in the darkness of sin, among people searching in the confusion of opinions for the meaning of life and its purpose: is there life after death? does God exist? In such a world those who live by the Spirit of Truth "*shine like lamps*" in the sight of their

fellows. Is this because they are all saints? Certainly not! Insofar as they live by their 'good works', those works given and praised by Christ in the eight beatitudes, they "*shine*". An example to others, they point to a way of life that really is LIFE! A way that not only points, but empowers and leads, to eternal life; a way that even in these present times brings joy and fulfillment to those who follow.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
**FRATELLI TUTTI**  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



### THE VALUE OF SOLIDARITY

114. I would like especially to mention solidarity, which, "as a moral virtue and social attitude born of personal conversion, calls for commitment on the part of those responsible for education and formation. I think first of families, called to a primary and vital mission of education. Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on. They are also the privileged milieu for transmitting the faith, beginning with those first simple gestures of devotion which mothers teach their children. Teachers, who have the challenging task of training children and youth in schools or other settings, should be conscious that their responsibility extends also to the moral, spiritual and social aspects of life. The values of freedom, mutual respect and solidarity can be handed on from a tender age... Communicators also have a responsibility for education and formation, especially nowadays, when the means of information and communication are so widespread".<sup>87</sup>

87. Message for the 2016 World Day of Peace (8 December 2015), 6: AAS 108 (2016), 57-58.

**Promise Of Good Things**  
HE SEARCHES OUR  
THOUGHTS AND DESIRES

Let us give our Lord Jesus Christ the reverence that is his due. It was his own blood that was given for us. Let us respect those who govern us and those who are advanced in years. As for the young, we should instruct and educate them in the fear of God. And we should lead our wives to what is good. They should display that beauty and attraction which a pure way of life alone can give, and should show sincerity of purpose in their humility. Let them prove the gentleness of their tongue by their silences. They should not show affection through partiality to only a few, but fairly and nobly to all who fear God. As for our children, let them have a part in the formation which is in Christ and learn the strength of humility before God. Let them grasp what power love has in his sight, how great and how beautiful is the fear of him which gives salvation to all who walk in that spirit in holiness and purity of mind.

For he searches our thoughts and our desires. It is his breath that we have in us, and when he sees fit, he will take it away.

*Clement's First Letter to the Corinthians*



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



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(Answerphone service available)  
Email: [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk)

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

## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

##### (Collection for Racial Justice Today)

Sat	4th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers and Confessions
Sun	5th	9am	St George's —	Peter James Carter RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	6th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues	7th	<b>10.30am</b>	St George's—	Eileen Anne Budd Liturgy Funeral
Wed	8th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Liturgy of the Word
Thur	9th	10am	St George's —	Liturgy of the Word
Fri	10th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Rosary

#### 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

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#\\_=\\_](https://m.facebook.com/gary.westcar#_=_)

**Newsletter items:** Please send to Jackie at [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, 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.

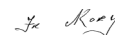
**New to the Parish/would like to get back in touch but not sure how?** Please complete the welcome form in the porch and/or make yourself known to Fr. Rory. It would be great to get to know you and offer any help.

**Fr Rory Writes:**

“Waters of life cleanse and refresh us, raise us to life in Christ Jesus”

Please God, this Sunday we celebrate the baptism of Maceo Adelaja. I hoped that this celebration would have taken place on the feast day for the baptism of Jesus. The waters of baptism open the way for God’s salvation, but above all focuses our need for community. A very important moment during the celebration, is the lighting of the baptismal candle from the paschal candle. It is then handed to the parents and godparents with the words “This light is entrusted to you to keep burning brightly, your child has been enlightened by Christ”. The parallel with the natural order is the same in the order of grace. This is the beginning of a new life and I will continue to return to this during our journey through Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

As you see in our parish newsletter this week, the recommendations of our parish council. A lot of work has taken place and now it is time for it to bear good fruit, so please give this great care and attention



**Parish Meeting:** at St Wilfrid’s, 11.30am on the 5th February.

**Recommendations for Parish Council.** For the last few weeks the Synod group have been telling you about the formation of a new Parish Council. NOW IT IS YOUR TURN! We ask you all personally to do your best to recommend one or more people to join the Parish Council. Please take a form home, complete it and bring it back to church next week. Thank you.

**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. If you missed our last party “Scottish Theme”, do try to come to this one. We can assure you of a fun and laughter afternoon. 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 be generous and 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.

**St George’s Charity of the Month is Handicapped Children’s Pilgrimage Trust** 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 26th February 10am is in aid of Handicapped Children’s Pilgrimage Trust. 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.

**Dates for your Diary:**

Sun 5th Feb, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G’s Hall.  
 Tue 7th Feb, 5.30pm, Holy Communion Class, St W’s Hall.  
 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.  
 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, First Reconciliation Service, St W’s Church

**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. Thank you.

**St George’s Church** needs someone, either male or female to clean up the candle sticks each week, time to suit you. Please ring Cathy on 487688.

**St George’s Church** also needs a lady/man who would like to join our flower arranger team. Friday or Saturday morning, training will be given. PS. My husband is a natural flower arranger. Please contact Cathy on 487688. Thank you.

**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.

**Don’t forget our Parish St Patrick’s Evening Get together:** St Wilfrid’s Hall on Fri 17th March, 6-9pm. Tickets will be available nearer the time, £5 per adult Children free. We don’t expect many of us will get up for an “Irish Jig”, but we can assure you we shall have a great evening with plenty of goodies.

**Our Grand January Raffle:** Drawn last Sunday and had over 50 prizes, our new way of no counterfoil tickets; but names on back of original certainly paid off. Any absentees will have their prizes delivered asap. The jewellery table proved popular and will appear again at our Table Top Sale on Sat 11th March, 10am-3pm in our hall. A big thank you to all who helped in anyway. The refreshment table was laden with goodies and quickly disappeared with a cuppa whilst the raffle was on. We raised a grand total of £160.00. Thank you.

**Sunday 29th Jan - Mass Attendance:**

St Wilfrid’s 118

St George’s 67