

12TH MARCH 2023

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.**

Cf. Ps 24: 15-16

THE COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving
have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,
may always be lifted up by your mercy.
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 Exodus

17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses.
'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I
should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses
appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he
said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to
Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move
on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with
which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before
you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and
water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses
did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named
Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of
Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is
the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R.v8

**R) O that today you would listen to his voice:
'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous
and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that
we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about
looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive,
because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the
Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when
at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy
to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really
worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that
God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Cf. Jn 4:42.15

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;
give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

GOSPEL

John 5-15.19-26.39-42

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land
that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and
Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was
about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw
water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone
into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him,
'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?'
– Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering
and who it is that is saying to you:
Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered ' and the well is deep:
how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than
our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself
with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again;
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may
never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw
water.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers
worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is
the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know;
for salvation comes from the Jews.
But the hour will come – in fact it is here already –
when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:
that is the kind of worshipper
the Father wants.
God is spirit,
and those who worship
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ
– is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I
who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the
strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me
all I have ever done,' so, when the Samaritans came up to him,
they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and
when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they
said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what
you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he
really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,
may take care to forgive our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 4: 13-14

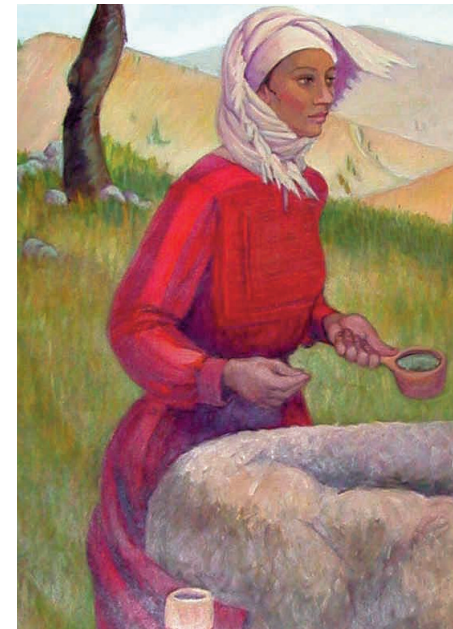
**For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in mystery
may come to true completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The encounter between Jesus and
the Samaritan woman at the well is
remarkable in many ways. First of

all, Jesus speaks to a woman, and a
Samaritan woman at that. Samaritans were usually disdained
by the Jews and this woman was
also someone who had had a
number of lovers. But Jesus cuts
through all the normal conventions
and sees right into the soul of this
ordinary woman. She is so moved
by her meeting with Jesus that she
recognises her own sinfulness and
her need for forgiveness. There are
plenty of examples in the Gospels
of Jesus spending time with
'disreputable' people for which he
is severely judged by the 'law-
abiding' members of the Jewish
community.

If we wish sincerely to follow Jesus,
we need to have a personal

encounter with him. In doing so
we too will recognise our sinfulness
and our need for forgiveness. And
once we have done that we will be
in a position to love others, no
matter how 'disreputable' they may
be, or how they are viewed by the
'upright' members of society. Pope
Francis never tires of reminding us
that our prime duty as Christians is
to go towards the suffering, those
on the margins of society and those
whom society judges harshly.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



RE-ENVISAGING THE SOCIAL ROLE OF PROPERTY

119. In the first Christian centuries, a number of
thinkers developed a universal vision in their
reflections on the common destination of created
goods.⁹¹ This led them to realize that if one
person lacks what is necessary to live with
dignity, it is because another person is detaining
it. Saint John Chrysostom summarizes it in this
way: "Not to share our wealth with the poor is to
rob them and take away their livelihood. The
riches we possess are not our own, but theirs as
well".⁹² In the words of Saint Gregory the Great,
"When we provide the needy with their basic
needs, we are giving them what belongs to them,
not to us".⁹³

91. Cf. Saint Basil, Homilia XXI, Quod rebus mundanis adhaerendum non sit, 3.5:
PG 31, 545-549; Regulae brevius tractatae, 92: PG 31, 1145-1148; Saint Peter
Chrysologus, Sermo 123: PL 52, 536-540; Saint Ambrose, De Nabuthe, 27.52: PL 14,
738ff.; Saint Augustine, In Iohannis Evangelium, 6, 25: PL 35, 1436ff.

92. De Lazaro Concio, II, 6: PG 48, 992D.

93. Regula Pastoralis, III, 21: PL 77, 87.

Promise Of Good Things
SERVING THE COMMON GOOD

We must quickly put a stop to this conflict and simply fall
down before our Master. In tears we should plead with him
to look upon us with mercy, to be reconciled to us and to
restore us to that noble and holy practice of brotherly love of
ours. For this is the gate of righteousness which opens on to
life. As scripture puts it: 'Open to me the gates of
righteousness, that I may enter by them and give thanks to
the Lord. This is the Lord's own gate. The righteous will enter
by it'.

So of the many gates open before us, it is the one of
righteousness which is Christ's own gate. They are blessed who
enter into it, who walk in the ways of holiness and
righteousness and who accomplish all things without fuss.
Each of us should be faithful; each should have the power of
the initiated to utter 'knowledge'; each should be wise in
the discernment of truth; and each should be pure in all
things done. The greater we seem to be, the more humble
we must be, and the more we must seek the common good
and not our own.

Clement's First Letter to the Corinthians



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly
South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JG
Tel: (01323) 841504

(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

Third Sunday of Lent (Friday is the Feast of St Patrick)

Sat 11th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers Confessions
Sun 12th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Jim Ayres RIP
	3pm	St George's -	Station of the Cross
Mon 13th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues 14th	10am	St George's—	Holy Souls (MM)
Wed 15th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Bert Knight RIP
Thur 16th	10am	St George's —	Frederick Southland RIP
Fri 17th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Dorothy Blake RIP

Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent

Sat 18th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Confessions & prayer , Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sun 19th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Clodagh Coleman 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, 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:	
Help, I rely upon help.	
<p>In my first parish, St Anne's, Banstead, we started up a parish youth group called Y.A.F (Youth Action Fellowship) it got off to a great start. I hoped to add the word formation, but the time as curate was short lived, 3-4 years. So I was moved on. There appears to be so much less time in a week as weeks and years fly by.</p> <p>We are now well launched on our response to Bishop Richards pastoral plan "The Word Who Is Life", especially from the introduction 1.3: "I therefore take this opportunity to invite everyone in the Diocese - lay faithful and religious, deacons and priests - to join with me in forging our parishes into communities".</p> <p>Putting things into practice is the important thing, this is where I need all the help. Already in our plan for St George's I got the date for our meeting after our weekday mass wrong, as I am not free on Tuesday, so it needs to change.</p> <p>Most important is our first Sunday Meeting after Mass which takes place at St George's Church next Sunday.</p> <p><i>We need to spread the word and encourage people to come.</i></p>	
<p>CAFOD in Eastbourne and St Leonards Deanery invite you to a Workshop on Catholic Social Teaching on Sat 1st April, 11 am to 1 pm, in Concordia Hall, Church Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6HB. Come and explore with us the history and practice of Catholic Social Teaching which informs and underpins the work of CAFOD. Hot Cross Buns, coffee and tea provided. This is not an "April Fool" but an opportunity not to be missed!"</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY LUNCH: Thank you to all who supported the recent Family Fast Day Lunch. There was a great choice of tasty soups and a wide range of activities for all to enjoy. We raised £167 for CAFOD. Many thanks to all volunteers who gave so generously of their time to make this a success.</p>
<p>World Youth Day: Are you aged 18-35? If you are, we invite you to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lisbon to meet with the Holy Father. 31st July -7th August 2023. Join millions of other young people from all over the world to celebrate our faith and make life-long friendships. The week will include a trip to Fatima as well as all the amazing festival activities, not to mention Mass with Pope Francis. To find out more please contact E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk</p>	<p>HCPT POUND CROSS: Throughout Lent we are raising money for our local branch of HCPT (Hosanna House Children's Pilgrimage Trust) who offer pilgrimage holidays, to Lourdes, for disabled and disadvantaged children. Have you shared your packet of Smarties with your family yet? Don't forget to use the empty tube to collect your change for this very worthwhile charity. Please return your filled tube to church by Easter Sunday. In addition, we have a display of your generosity at St Wilfrid's church. Please add your pound coins to the cross in the church window. In exchange for your coins, please collect one of the paper flowers and add it to the cross in the church porch. We hope to have the cross blooming in time for Easter Sunday.</p>
<p>Do you have a Charity suggestion that you would like us to support at one of our future breakfasts? Ideally local or Catholic. Can you Help occasionally - we are very much in need of extra team members so we can set up a rota as this event needs at least four people helping monthly and we are not always all available. Speak to Sandra after mass or email sandraforte40@gmail.com</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>St George's Hall now has Yoga classes for beginners and intermediate on a Tuesday morning at 10.00 am for one hour. All taken at your own pace. Price per session is £9 and payment can be made by cash or card. Mats provided or bring your own. Wear loose, comfortable clothing - not jeans.</p>	
<p>Over 50's Club: Our next date will be Thur 30th March, theme "Green for the Irish".</p>	<p>Parish Stations of the Cross during lent at St George's will be held on Sunday 12th March and 2nd April (Palm Sunday Stations includes Benediction and refreshments in hall). Also on Good Friday 7th April there will be a Family Service with Stations of the cross at St Wilfrid's at 10.30am followed by refreshments and hot cross buns in the hall. All welcome.</p>
<p>Easter Cards are on sale at the back of St George's Church.</p>	
<p>Dates for your Diary: 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 19th March, After Mass, St G's Parish Mtg, St G's Hall. Sun 26th March, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G' Hall. Sun 26th March, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall. Thur 30th March, 2-4pm, Over 50's Club, St W's Hall. Fri 31st March, 11-12pm, Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall. Fri 7th April, 10.30am, Family Service/Stations, St W's Church. Sun 16th April, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall.</p>	<p>Sunday 5th March - Mass Attendance: St Wilfrid's 110 St George's 72</p>