

19TH MARCH 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

Cf. Is 66: 10-11

THE COLLECT

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 first book of Samuel

16:1. 6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.’ When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed one stands there before him,’ but the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ He then asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ He answered, ‘There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.’ Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, ‘Come, anoint him, for this is the one.’ At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 22. R.v1

R) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R)**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R)**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things

which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God! Jn 8:12
**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God!**

GOSPEL

John 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

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

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, ‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (a name that means ‘sent’). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, ‘Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘Yes, it is the same one.’ Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ The man himself said, ‘I am the man.’

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, ‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.’ Then some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How could a sinner produce signs like this?’ And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, ‘What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?’ ‘He is a prophet’ replied the man.

‘Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings,
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,
praying that we may both faithfully revere them
and present them to you, as is fitting,
for the salvation of all the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 9: 11, 38

**The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

19TH MARCH 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK /PROPER

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Many people still perceive Catholicism as a set of rules to be obeyed to the letter. This is precisely the opposite of what Jesus

wants. He reserves his severest rebukes for the Scribes and the Pharisees who sought perfection in observing the Law, but who had little or no regard for the essence of their religion which was to love God and to love one’s neighbour. So, in healing the blind beggar on the Sabbath, Jesus, according to the Pharisees, was breaking the Law. But for Jesus, the only real law is the law of love, which supersedes every other law. The irony is that it was the Pharisees who were truly blind because they were unable or unwilling to see the truth.

We too can suffer from the same kind of blindness the Pharisees had

if we think, for example, that Sunday mass attendance is sufficient to fulfil our Christian duty. What Jesus wants, first and foremost, is that we love one another as he loved us – and he gave his life for us. And this is only possible with his help. At the end of our lives, we will be judged, not by how well we have followed the rules, but by how much we have loved.



POPE FRANCIS’ ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



RE-ENVISAGING THE SOCIAL ROLE OF PROPERTY

120. Once more, I would like to echo a statement of Saint John Paul II whose forcefulness has perhaps been insufficiently recognized: “God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favouring anyone”.⁹⁴ For my part, I would observe that “the Christian tradition has never recognized the right to private property as absolute or inviolable, and has stressed the social purpose of all forms of private property”.⁹⁵ The principle of the common use of created goods is the “first principle of the whole ethical and social order”;⁹⁶ it is a natural and inherent right that takes priority over others.⁹⁷ All other rights having to do with the goods necessary for the integral fulfilment of persons, including that of private property or any other type of property, should – in the words of Saint Paul VI – “in no way hinder [this right], but should actively facilitate its implementation”.⁹⁸ The right to private property can only be considered a secondary natural right, derived from the principle of the universal destination of created goods. This has concrete consequences that ought to be reflected in the workings of society. Yet it often happens that secondary rights displace primary and overriding rights, in practice making them irrelevant.

94. Saint John Paul II, Encyclical Letter Centesimus Annus (1 May 1991), 31: AAS 83 (1991), 831. 95. Encyclical Letter Laudato Si’ (24 May 2015), 93: AAS 107 (2015), 884. 96. Saint John Paul II, Encyclical Letter Laborem Exercens (14 September 1981), 19: AAS 73 (1981), 626. 97. Cf. Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 172. 98. Encyclical Letter Populorum Progressio (26 March 1967): AAS 59 (1967), 268.

Promise Of Good Things
SERVING THE COMMON GOOD

Help us to place our hope in your name, O Lord, which is the source of all creation, and to open the eyes of our heart to recognize that you alone are the highest in the highest, the holy One who abides among the holy. It is you who crush the pride of the arrogant and reduce to nothing the plans of the nations. You raise up on high those who are brought low and bring down those who are raised up. You bring riches to some and allow others to go poor. Some you slay, while to others you give new life. You alone are the searcher of spirits and are the God of all flesh. You gaze into the depths and see all that we do. You come to the help of those in danger and save those in despair. You are the Creator of every spirit, and you watch over them all. You have increased the nations over all the earth and from them you have chosen those who love you through Jesus Christ, your beloved Child. Through him you have taught us, you have made us holy and have brought us honour.

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

Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent

Sat 18th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Confessions & Prayer, Sacrament of Reconciliation
	5pm	St Wilfrid's -	Reconciliation Service
Sun 19th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Clodagh Coleman RIP
Mon 20th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues 21st	9.30am	St George's—	Michael Copper RIP
Wed 22nd	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Annie Crowe RIP
Thur 23rd	10am	St George's —	Mrs Dorothy Metcalf RIP
Fri 24th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Holy Souls' Intention

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Next week is Holy Week)

Sat 25th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Confessions & prayers
Sun 26th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	David Curtis RIP
	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, 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:

Again, help and more help needed. Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the faith of thy womb, Jesus.

The good news, **God's salvation is our greatest gift.** How we share and how we celebrate this is our greatest hope for our future. Yes, this needs a structure, but it needs to be fit for purpose. I am aware that when I write liturgy of the word and of the eucharist, it is controversial. For me the most important thing is that we nourish and strengthen our faith.

The structure for our parish council is now the most important contribution that we can make, and I am grateful for the work that is taking place. This Sunday will be St George's turn to discuss and to propose, and here at St Wilfrid's after mass this Wednesday morning. The implication will take time to fall into place, its priority will be most important. If we get them right, actions speak louder than words and I look forward to our liturgies, obviously the rosary is important, but liturgies of the word and our actions, please God, will bear good fruit, fruit that will last. Maintenance of our churches, including halls and gardens will be an important part of our contribution to give witness to our faith. We are particularly blessed with our parish secretary, and I am very hopeful that we can look forward to our future.


Pope's prayer intention for March 2023 is for victims of abuse.

"We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the church. May they find within the church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering."

"Safe Spaces" is part of our diocesan response.

Safe Spaces is a free, national support service run by First Light. It provides a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

To contact Safe Spaces: tel. 0300 303 1056. / via website: safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

Easter 2023: Whilst the children will be searching for eggs in their "Easter Egg Hunt" we grown ups will be having an "Easter Raffle" over tea and cake. A good time to meet with other people in our parish. If you would like to contribute to our raffle, please put suitable gifts in basket in the church porch or money in the pot provided. Thank you in advance.

NEW PARISH SECRETARY POST: the Parish of OLR, St Agnes/St Gregory (Eastbourne) is seeking to employ a new Parish Secretary to begin in post on 24th April. This role will be 16 hrs per week (£12ph), Monday-Thursday (9.30 am -1.30 pm). The role will be to provide an efficient secretarial service and personal assistance to the Parish Priest and clergy and good communication and administration within the parish. If you would like further details or wish to apply for this role please contact Fr Kevin by email: kevin.dring@abdiocese.org.uk . **The closing date for applications is 9 am on Friday 31st March**

The South Down Singers - Coronation Concert Saturday 29th April 2023 at 3.30pm at St George's Church. Tickets £10 on the Door or Pre-Book by Telephoning 01323 832767. South Down Singers Support Local Charities.

Dates for your Diary:

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.
Sun 30th April, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall.

Parish Over 50's Club: Thurs 30th March over 50's afternoon tea will have a St Patrick's Theme, do wear something green if you can. All the usual fun and games. All for just £5.

Our Grand Table Sale last Saturday. The total raised was £512, far beyond our expectations. Thank you everyone who contributed in anyway, we had many helpers both on Fri afternoon setting up and Sat selling the mound of goods for sale, then packing up goods left to go to various charity shops. Well done everyone, a big thank you to you all. The money raised will go towards music and sound equipment much needed in the church and hall.

Easter Cards are on sale at the back of St George's Church.

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.

Parish Stations of the Cross during lent at St George's will be held on Sun 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.

Sunday 12th March - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 107

St George's 68