

26TH MARCH 2023

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.**

Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

THE COLLECT

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
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 Ezekiel

37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean
to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to
the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I
open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people.
And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall
resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord,
have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 129. R.v7

R) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **(R)**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **(R)**

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord. **(R)**

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never
be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the
unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made
his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of
Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be
dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit
is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of
him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he
who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal
bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:
who ever believes in me will never die.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

Jn 11:25.26

GOSPEL

John 11:3-7.17.20-27.33-45

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

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

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord,
the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said,
'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and
through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he
heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more
days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb
for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come
she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house.
Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would
not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of
God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise
again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection
on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.
Do you believe this?'

'Yes Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of
God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in
great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart,
'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved
him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes
of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?'
Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone
to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha
said to him 'Lord by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.'
Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see
the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus
lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me.
but I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here!
Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound
with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to
them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen
what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Hear us, almighty God,
and, having instilled in your servants
the teachings of the Christian faith,
graciously purify them
by the working of this sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.**

Cf. Jn 11: 26

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray, almighty God,
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

26TH MARCH 2023

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK /PROPER

Our Faith on Sunday

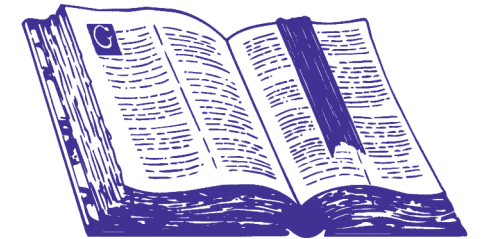
GOSPEL REFLECTION



Many meanings can be drawn from
this Gospel. The first is that Jesus
decides to go to Bethany to visit the
house of Lazarus despite the fact
that the Apostles warn him about
the danger involved. His
motivation is love for his friends
Lazarus, Mary and Martha which
overrides any fear of death at the

Jesus' raising of Lazarus from the
dead is truly miraculous, but it is
much more than that. It is a "sign"
of God's promise to all who have
faith in him that they will be raised
to eternal life. That is why Jesus
asks Martha if she believes in the
resurrection from the dead. The
symbolism of this event is quite

clear – it is a pre—figuring of Jesus'
own rising from the dead. Lazarus
has already been in the tomb for
several days; the tomb is sealed
with a stone; the stone is taken
away and Lazarus, like Jesus, has a
cloth round his face. Jesus says:
"Unbind him, let him go free." It is
precisely what Jesus came on earth
for, and what he still wants to do
for us, if only we will allow him, to
unbind us and set us free.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



RIGHTS WITHOUT BORDERS

121. No one, then, can remain
excluded because of his or her place
of birth, much less because of
privileges enjoyed by others who
were born in lands of greater
opportunity. The limits and borders
of individual states cannot stand in
the way of this. As it is unacceptable
that some have fewer rights by virtue
of being women, it is likewise
unacceptable that the mere place of
one's birth or residence should result
in his or her possessing fewer
opportunities for a developed and
dignified life.

Promise Of Good Things WHAT SHALL WE GIVE IN RETURN?

What, then, shall we give him in return, or what shall we
offer that will be worthy of what he has given us? How great
a debt of holiness we owe him! He gave us the light, he
called us his 'child' as a father does, he saved us when we
faced destruction. How, then, shall we praise him or repay
him for all that we have received? We were in a state of
mental blindness. We worshipped stones and pieces of
wood, not to mention gold, silver and copper: the works of
human hands. Our whole life was nothing other than death.
We were immersed in thick darkness, and mist completely
obscured our vision. But we were given back our sight, and
it was his will that we should be free of that cloud which
surrounded us. He had pity on us, and he saved us in his
mercy. What he saw was the great error and destruction
which was within us, and that we had no hope of salvation
apart from him. For he called us when we were not, and it
was his will that we should come to be.

Clement's Second 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

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
Mon 27th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues 28th	10am	St George's—	John & Nellie O'Neil RIP
Wed 29th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Brian Winter RIP
Thur 30th	10am	St George's —	Mary Ackman RIP
Fri 31st	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Agata Zylowicz O'Brien Intention, In Thanksgiving

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Sat 1st	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Confessions & prayers
Sun 2nd	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Repose of the Soul of Margaret Rose O'Brien
	3pm	St George's —	Stations of the Cross and Benediction

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.

<p>Fr Rory Writes: "Holy Week is almost upon us"</p> <p>"Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into His Glory?"</p> <p>We are about to be presented with this mystery which is at the heart of life, the greatest occasion in the churches year. Please God, this year presents us with the opportunity to bear much fruit. So far, a lot of work has taken place and we look forward to the coming events. Hopefully after my misadventure with the Covid virus, thanks be to God my symptoms were not too serious, and I will be able to catch up with visiting the housebound and get on with our preparations for Holy Week. God bless and keep you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Fr Rory</i></p>	
<p>After Easter, at St George's, we are going to start introducing a new sung Mass called Mass of the Son. It was written by a priest who used to be based at OLR. It is very congregation friendly and easily picked up. We will start to learn it on the first weekend after Easter that Marylou is with us. I hope you like it. If you have any favourite hymns or ones that mean something special to you or your family, let me know and if I can I will include it in our Sunday music liturgy. Shirley</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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."</p> <p>"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</p>	<p>New Date for Diary: Feast of St George, Patron Saint of England. Fish & Chip Supper plus all the usual fun. St Wilfrid's Hall, Saturday 22nd April, 6-9pm. We will have to charge £8 pp due to the price of fish & chips going up, like all food. Tickets available from next week, keep your tickets for a 'lucky number' prize on the night.</p> <p>We had a jolly good evening on St Patrick's night and a lot of people asked when the next one would be. Well we have the answer! So lets make it as good as ever. Talking of St Patrick's night it was not meant to be a 'fund raising event', but a good 'social get together', hence the entry fee of just £5 which covered the cost of food. We made money on the raffle and roll a £1 coin to win a bottle of Irish Whisky. So we were able to pay £80 in to the parish funds. We had a very good team of helpers on the night which made such a difference. If you would like to help us at St George's Party please contact either Annette, Teresa, Gerry, Jean or Joan. Thank you.</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</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>Having a Spring Clear Out? Don't forget any new or nearly new items suitable for the St George's Table Sale are most welcomed, please just leave at the back of church, under the table in the hall or display them ready for sale! 50% of the proceeds go to the charity of the month and 50% to parish and youth activities.</p>	<p>Easter Cards are on sale at the back of St George's Church.</p>
<p>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. Sat 22nd April, 6-9pm, Feast of St George, St W's Hall. Sun 30th April, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall. Sun 14th May, 4-6pm, Confirmation Classes, St G's Hall.</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Sunday 19th March - Mass Attendance: St Wilfrid's 123 St George's 78</p>