

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.**

Cf. Ps 16:15

THE COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. 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

55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

**R) Some seed fell into rich soil
and produced its crop.**

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **(R)**

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. **(R)**

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R)**

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!**

1 Sam 3:9; Jn 6:68

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-23

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again,
but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord,
as she makes her prayer to you,
and grant that, when consumed by those who believe,
they may bring ever greater holiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 83: 4-5

**The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord,
that, by our participation in this mystery,
its saving effects upon us may grow.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Could we say of ourselves that *"the heart of (our) nation has grown coarse"*? Certainly we see the Christian ethos gradually disappearing from our culture, our society. In St. Matthew's

typical of Jesus, of God, that he compares his Father's gifts to the human race as (mere) seeds sown in the ground; tiny things that need the understanding of the gardener, need care and



protection in order to flourish. All of God's creation, in every aspect and detail, reflects, as God intended it to do, something of Himself and of His intentions for His *"images"*. The *"seed"* is the Word of God offered to the human race. We are urged to "see with our eyes, hear with our ears, understand with our hearts, be converted and healed." Happy are those whose eyes see and whose ears hear!

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



RECIPROCAL GIFTS

136. . On an even broader scale, Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb and I have observed that "good relations between East and West are indisputably necessary for both. They must not be neglected, so that each can be enriched by the other's culture through fruitful exchange and dialogue. The West can discover in the East remedies for those spiritual and religious maladies that are caused by a prevailing materialism. And the East can find in the West many elements that can help free it from weakness, division, conflict and scientific, technical and cultural decline. It is important to pay attention to religious, cultural and historical differences that are a vital component in shaping the character, culture and civilization of the East. It is likewise important to reinforce the bond of fundamental human rights in order to help ensure a dignified life for all the men and women of East and West, avoiding the politics of double standards".¹¹⁹

[119] Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, Abu Dhabi (4 February 2019): L'Osservatore Romano, 4-5 February 2019, p. 7.



Promise Of Good Things
THE VIRTUE OF REPENTANCE



While we are still on earth, let us have a change of heart. We are clay in the hands of the workman. When the potter makes his vessel, he sometimes finds that it bends or breaks in his hands. When this happens, he immediately sets about remodelling it. But he can do nothing more for it once he has put it into the oven and applied heat to it. So too let us grasp our chance while we are in this world. Let us repent whole-heartedly of all the evil we have done in the flesh, so the Lord may save us while we still have time for repentance. Once we have gone from this world, we can never make our confession or change direction again in the place that awaits us there.

So then, my friends, if we have accomplished the Father's will, keeping our fleshly selves pure and following the Lord's commands, we shall obtain eternal life. As the Lord says in the Gospel: 'If you do not guard something which is small, who will give you something that is really important? I tell you that the one who is faithful in little things is faithful also in great things'.

What he is saying is this: Keep the flesh pure and the seal of baptism undefiled, so that we may gain eternal life.

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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat	15th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers & Confessions
Sun	16th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Joan Covey's Intention
Mon	17th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues	18th	10am	St George's—	Morning Service
Wed	19th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Brian Winter RIP (6th Anniversary)
Thur	20th	10am	St George's —	Morning Service
Fri	21st	10am	St Wilfrid's —	No Service

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat	22nd		St Wilfrid's—	
Sun	23rd	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention

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/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.

Parish Safeguarding Reps:

St George's: Kelly - 07967562110

St Wilfrid's: Maria - 07873759962

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, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne Holt, Margaret, Rosie Tuson, Lilian Summers,
Tom Woodrow-Spencer, Chris Neyenhuizen, Letty Booth, Laurey & Richard Stimpson, Nicole McCutchan,
Jean Barham-Wyatt, Nellie Oakshott and Jean Molloy.

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.

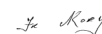
Fr Rory Writes:

We are on our way to our Father in heaven. Jesus left us with all the guidance that we need; and the assurance that in my Father's house there are many mansions.

As we have our summer break shortly, it is very timely. The summer BBQ may be magical I hope, but there is nothing magical about the preparation. So please God, it will get the support that is needed. A great big thank you to the social committee. Our prayers are with Joan and all who are convalescing at this time.

So wishing you all grace and peace,
truly grateful for the most generous support that I have received.

God bless and keep you all.



Sea Sunday - Thank you

Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday. Our parish raised £184.20. Your generous gifts will ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk

Our Parish Children's Liturgy team would like to thank all our young children and their families who have joined us to regularly take part in the liturgy during 2022/23. We are now taking a break over the summer but look forward to welcoming all the children back on Sunday 10th of September. Please do continue when you can to attend our Church over the summer or if you are away perhaps you can send us a postcard bring back a souvenir you could tell us all about on your return.

Our Parish Children's liturgy runs weekly during both St George's and St Wilfrid's Sunday services during term time. If you know any families who live locally and may like to join us do encourage them, we welcome everyone with a friendly smile, child friendly teaching of God's Word, creative opportunities to demonstrate understanding and lots of chances to have fun celebrating our faith with our friends. For more information on Children's Liturgy speak directly to any of the catechists or email Father Rory at the Parish Office for your details to be passed on to the team.

The Charity Breakfast:

The July breakfast will be held on Sunday 30th and will be raising money to help pay for Stations of the Cross in St Richards Catholic College Chapel which has recently been built to help with spiritual growth of the pupils.

Harmonics Family Singing Group Music Recital Saturday 5th August at 3pm St George's Hall. Led by Marylou St George's organist and with some children from our parish and others locally this charity Music Recital is a chance to enjoy wonderful music/singing with delicious tea and cake. Free Entry, fundraising by donations for Linking Lives and Let's Talk Loneliness. For more information speak to Marylou or Merce.

Parish Over 50's Club: Unfortunately we will not be holding an afternoon tea in July, but will keep you posted about August.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 16th July, 12pm - Parish Garden Party/BBQ, St W's Hall.
Fri 28th July, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall.
Sun 30th July, 10am - Charity B/fast, St G's Hall.
Sun 3rd Sept, 4pm - Mass for Confirmation Candidates, St G's
Sun 10th Sept, Children's Liturgy Returns, St G's & St W's

Hailsham Foodbank

Thank you for your generous donation of £530 towards the work of Hailsham foodbank. We have been having to buy in food to keep up with the demand so very much appreciate monetary donations to enable us to do this alongside our usual running costs. Thank you to the church for their support in both donations and prayer.

To celebrate all our Parishes confirmation candidates from 2022 and 2023 there will be a special Going Forth service held at St George's on Sunday 3rd September at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to join this celebratory service when the Confirmation Candidates will all receive their certificates. A celebratory party in St George's hall.

Eastbourne Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who helped raise £300+ during June towards the work of Eastbourne Foodbank following the charity breakfast and sponsored walk fundraisers. They were very grateful for the much needed donation as we come into the summer holidays when more and more people seek their support. Please continue to bring donations or dry/tinned products and sanitary items to place in the basket at the back of St George's Church if you can.

Blackberry Picking - we hope to enjoy some blackberry picking on the weekend of 9th/10th Sept. This is something members of our parish have enjoyed doing together for several years and we want to extend the opportunity to everyone to enjoy some fun foraging and walking in nature. If you are interested in and want more details please contact Sandra by email sandraforte40@gmail.com or text/call on 07791 627368. This is an event for all ages particularly our children accompanied by parent/guardian.

Sunday 9th July - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 103 St George's 60