

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

## THE COLLECT

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

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

## PSALM

Ps 144:2-3.8-9.17-18. R. v18

### R) The Lord is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R)**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R)**

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. **(R)**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

1:20-24. 27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessings on the King who comes  
in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven  
and glory in the highest heavens!  
Alleluia!

Lk 19:38

## GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

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: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too". In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

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

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray,  
the offerings of your people,  
that what they profess with devotion and faith  
may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 118: 4-5

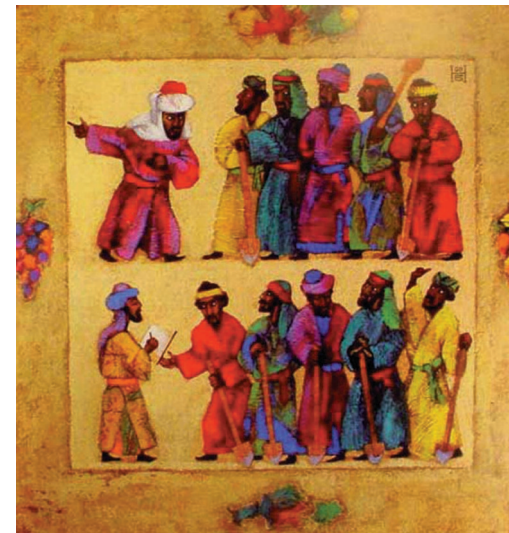
**You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping you statutes.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously raise up, O Lord,  
those you renew with this Sacrament,  
that we may come to possess your redemption  
both in mystery and in the manner of our life.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Many of us, when reading today's Gospel will sympathize with the workers of the first hour. Our innate sense of justice tells us that those

who longer should be paid more. But this way of looking at this Gospel is too superficial and doesn't understand the real message behind it. What Jesus is talking about here is the kingdom of heaven, and not just a group of people looking for work. God wants all of to be saved and his love and his mercy will go to any extreme to bring us 'home'. There are those who have good and holy lives since childhood and will surely walk straight into paradise when they die. But there are many others, probably the majority, whose lives have not taken such a direct route. For all sorts of reasons, people my stay from the path, and come back on to it, or may

simply refuse to walk along it until the final days or hours of their lives. If those who have always been 'good' resent the fact that others who have lived 'unholy' lives will be welcomed into to paradise at the last minute, then they are very similar to the 'faithful' son in the parable of the Prodigal Son. Who are we to say how and on whom God should choose to bestow his mercy? We should rejoice with him that the prodigal son has at last come home.



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



### A UNIVERSAL HORIZON

148. In fact, a healthy openness never threatens one's own identity. A living culture, enriched by elements from other places, does not import a mere carbon copy of those new elements, but integrates them in its own unique way. The result is a new synthesis that is ultimately beneficial to all, since the original culture itself ends up being nourished. That is why I have urged indigenous peoples to cherish their roots and their ancestral cultures. At the same time, though, I have wanted to stress that I have no intention of proposing "a completely enclosed, a-historic, static 'indigenism' that would reject any kind of blending (mestizaje)". For "our own cultural identity is strengthened and enriched as a result of dialogue with those unlike ourselves. Nor is our authentic identity preserved by an impoverished isolation".<sup>129</sup> The world grows and is filled with new beauty, thanks to the successive syntheses produced between cultures that are open and free of any form of cultural imposition.

129. Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Querida Amazonia (2 February 2020), 37.

## Promise Of Good Things THE DISCERNMENT OF THE SPIRIT

Even if some people wanted to deceive me in the flesh, the Spirit is not deceived, for it comes from God. It knows where it comes from and where it is going, and knows too how to test things that are hidden.

When I was with you, I cried out, I said with a very loud voice, with God's own voice: 'Listen to the bishop, the presbyters and deacons'. Some people suspected that I said these words with foreknowledge of the division that certain persons were going to cause. But the one I serve in chains is my witness that I had no knowledge of this from any human being.

It was the Spirit that was preaching, telling you this: 'Do nothing without your bishop. Keep your flesh as the temple of God. Love unity. Avoid divisions. Be imitators of Jesus Christ, as he was of his Father'.

*The Letters of Ignatius*



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



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

## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat	23rd	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers & Confessions
Sun	24th	9am	St George's —	Anne Eamer RIP 2nd Anniversary
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Michael Copper RIP
Mon	25th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues	26th	10am	St George's—	Parish Communities' Intention
Wed	27th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Parish Pastoral Council Intention
Thur	28th	10am	St George's —	Private Intention
Fri	29th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	In Honour of Our Lady

#### Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

##### (Collection next Sunday for CAFOD Harvest Fast Day)

Sat	30th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers & Confessions
Sun	1st	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Marie Kelly 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 Treasurer 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](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.

#### 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, Joan Covey, Nellie Oakshott, Jean Molloy, Alan Smith, Julie Martin, Peter Andrews and Holly Leone.

#### 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**

Our '**confirmands**' going forth mass made an excellent start to our new year, and it is important to build on it. This item from our **parish confirmation catechists below** concerning this coming year helps to build upon their good start. We need to widen the windows and make it more flexible for all our young people to share in our faith.

"Those who have gone before us" have always been a blessing and a source of strength .... Sometimes just survived. We have two very special occasions to look forward to. The first one, please God, will be at St Wilfrid's on Sunday 15th October at 3pm and the second will be at St George's on Sunday 5th November at 3pm, when we always remember the Holy Souls. During the pandemic we lost so many and this gives us an opportunity to remember them again and the treasured memories they left us with.

With grateful thanks to Bob Waters for bring to our attention the Synod of Bishops with the words:-

Many parishioners took part in the local synod consultations in 2021 & 2022 which are leading to the Synod which opens in Rome on 4 October, and will now benefit from our prayers.

Pope Francis has said that without Prayer there will be no Synod. Everyone is invited to pray that the bishops and others who take part in the Synod will listen to the Holy Spirit so that proposals will spring forth to enable the entire People of God to feel that they are truly participating in the life of the Church, and be witnesses to the newness of the Gospel in our world.



**Parish Charity Breakfast - Today** after mass at St George's will support Love in a Box - Look forward to seeing you there.

**The parish confirmation catechists** wish to invite all year 10 - 13 young people who are looking to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2024 to enrol for this year's formation classes. Forms can be found at the back of both churches or can be sent to you via email by emailing a request to [sandraforte40@gmail.com](mailto:sandraforte40@gmail.com).

The group is open to all young Catholics 15-19 in our deanery and will launch on Sunday 15th October, with an information session for candidates and their parents/carers at 4pm in St George's Hall. It will then meet every second week at 4pm during term time from November.

Application forms should be completed and posted or emailed to the parish office by Sunday 8th October. For more information contact Sandra on 07791627368.

**The Songs of Praise** on Sunday at St George's was a resounding success. Very moving stories were told on why each hymn had been chosen. Beautiful hymns sung with gusto. Special thanks to Anne Bowe, an excellent master of ceremonies and who orchestrated the event. Thank you Sandra, the young people and children who picked blackberries that were made into delicious jam for the tea afterwards. Special thanks to the kitchen team who kept the tea flowing and did the huge clean up afterwards. You know who you are ladies and are very much appreciated. Oh, and the cakes were superb too!!

**Christmas Cards:** will be on sale at the back of St George's Church.

**Dates for your Diary:**

Sun 24th Sept, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.  
 Sun 24th Sept, - Harvest Sunday, St W's Church  
 Thur 28th Sept, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.  
 Fri 29th Sept, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall.  
 Sat 30th Sept, 10am-4pm, Womble Day, St W's & St G's.  
 Fri 13th Oct, 7pm - Family Quiz Night, St W's Hall.  
 Sun 15th Oct, 4pm - Confirmation Info Session, St G's Hall.  
 Sun 29th Oct, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.

**Red Boxes:** If you have any Red Boxes to hand out, please leave them with the welcomer on Sundays, Christian will collect these and bank the funds. If you prefer to send a cheque please make cheques payable to Missio and post to: Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU.

**Womble Day (The Parish big help out)** Sat Sept 30th 10-4pm. Both St Wilfrid and St George's desperately need your help to garden, clean, tidy etc. There are also several maintenance tasks for those who are good with tools and paint brushes. We are currently creating a list of jobs: some small, some a little bigger, but enough for us all to have something to volunteer for on the day. More details to follow but please save the date and ask your family to join us if they can- even if only for half an hour. Many hands make light work - don't assume others will do it. Refreshments will be provided.

**Parish Quiz Night** - Fri Oct 13th 7pm St W's Hall. This will be the first of two annual parish quiz nights, St G's will host the second next Spring. So find yourselves a team of max. six and put the date in your diary, £5 p person, there will be a coveted trophy/cash prize for the winning team - family & friends most welcome. Quiz masters are in the process of preparing the rounds at present .... bring your own nibbles/wine/beer, tea/coffee/juice will be on sale.

**Churches Together** would like to thank St George's for such a warm welcome and delicious tea at Songs of Praise, and would like to say £192 was raised for Eastbourne Foodbank.

**Marriage Anniversaries Mass** - Sat 30th Sept, 11.30am at Our Lady of Ransom. The booking link is attached here [Marriage Anniversaries Mass \(30-Sep-2023\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

**Sunday 17th September - Mass Attendance:**  
 St Wilfrid's 110 St George's 65