

5TH NOVEMBER 2023

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!**

Cf. Ps 37: 22-23

THE COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
by whose gift your faithful offer you
right and praiseworthy service,
grant, we pray,
that we may hasten without stumbling
to receive the things you have promised.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Malachi

1:14-2:2,8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name is feared
throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you.
If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify
my name, says the Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you
and curse your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from
the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.
You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of
Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile
in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you
have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your
administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why,
then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant
of our ancestors?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 130

R) Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me. **(R)**

Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast, even so is my soul. **(R)**

O Israel, hope in the Lord both now and forever. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians

2:7-9,13

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we
felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to
love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not
only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind
you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day
so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were
proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that
as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as
God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's
message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living
power among you who believe it.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
**You have only one Father, and he is in heaven;
you have only one Teacher, the Christ!**
Alleluia!

Mt23:9,10

GOSPEL

Matthew 23:1-12

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes
and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must
therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but
do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise
what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on
men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not
they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing
broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the
place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the
synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares
and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi,
since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You
must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one
Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to
be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ.
The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who
exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles
himself will be exalted.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord,
become for you a pure oblation,
and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 15: 11

**You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

Jn 6: 58

**Just as the living Father sent me
and I have life because of the Father,
so whoever feeds on me
shall have life because of me, says the Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of your power, O Lord,
increase in us, we pray,
so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments,
we may be prepared by your gift
for receiving what they promise.
Through Christ our Lord.

5TH NOVEMBER 2023

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK 3/PROPER

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



When a person from the world
of entertainment or politics falls
is involved in a scandal or a
scam, the media who have spent
much time and effort promoting
them, then suddenly turns
against them. When that person

beings were all flawed. We can
try to cover the flaws, to paper
over the cracks, but the more we
do that, the worse it is when the
flaws are eventually revealed. In
Today's Gospel Jesus warns us
about being fooled by outward

appearances. Humility has
always been one of the hallmarks
of sanctity. But what is humility.
It is recognising that, in front of
God, we are nothing. But being
nothing is a not a reason to be
downhearted. It is a reason to
place all our trust in God and
not in ourselves. This is not an
excuse for being complacent, but
in letting God take his rightful
place in our lives, so that he can
act in us and through us.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



CHAPTER FIVE A BETTER KIND OF POLITICS

154. The development of a global
community of fraternity based on the
practice of social friendship on the part
of peoples and nations calls for a better
kind of politics, one truly at the service
of the common good. Sadly, politics
today often takes forms that hinder
progress towards a different world.



The Fire of Love*
THE FIRE OF LOVE



I can't tell you how surprised I was when I felt my heart
becoming warm for the first time. It wasn't an imaginary
warmth but a real one. I felt as if my heart was actually on
fire, and I had to keep feeling my breast to see if there was
a physical cause. However, once I was sure that the feeling
of warmth and fire came from within me and was God's
gift, not due to sin or illness, I was absolutely delighted.
Until this happened to me, I had no idea such a thing was
possible.

There are people on fire with love for Christ, for we can see
how they despise the world and are completely given over to
God's service. If we put our finger near a fire we feel the
heat, and in much the same way a person who is genuinely
on fire with love feels a similar warmth from being close to
God – sometimes more, sometimes less, depending on
individual capacity.

*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Aeterna Press

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PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



ST GEORGE

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

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Collection Today for Retired Priests' Fund)

Sat	4th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers & Confessions
Sun	5th	9am	St George's —	Deceased Members of the Forte Family
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		3pm	St George's -	Bereavement Mass—Treasured Memories
Mon	6th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues	7th	12noon	St George's—	Requiem Mass for Margaret Mary Vine RIP
Wed	8th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Peter Hyland RIP
Thur	9th	10am	St George's —	John Harnett Intention
Fri	10th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Margaret O'Brien & Dec'd Member of O'Brien Family

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Collection next week for Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund)

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 —	Wladiswava & Jan Zylowicz 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 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.
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, Letty Booth, Tom Woodrow-Spencer, Chris Neyenhuizen, Laurey & Richard Stimpson, Nicole McCutchan, Len Brotherwood, Nellie Oakshott, Jean Molloy, Alan Smith, Julie Martin, Peter Andrews, Holly Leone and Deborah Osbourne Walker.

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:

Back on the horizon again
"The Great Feast of Christ the King"

One day this will be the Greatest Feast of All. When Christ will come in His glory; and all will be raised to life in the Glory of God's Kingdom. This is the true inspiration that Christ left with His disciples - the promise I will be with you always, and after I am gone I will send the Holy Spirit which the early disciples experienced at Pentecost. This is at the heart of our lives of faith; and please God, with the help of the parish council; the renewal of different ministries, and the inspiration of our children's liturgy groups, and young people, a need for a new generation is so important to all. So really, really important is there notice last week.

Preparing for Advent Family Workshop: Saturday, Nov 18th, 3.30pm – 6.00pm, St Wilfrid's Hall. Following the success of last years event we are going to hold another Parish Advent Workshop and look forward to seeing many of our families there. This is an opportunity for families to come together and have fun, be creative and prepare for Advent. There will be variety of Christmas related activities, relevant to all ages, followed by a short time of worship and a shared meal. Children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult. To book your place please complete the form available at the back of church and collect a tear off slip for your small contribution to bring to the shared meal.

Fr Rory

In Calcutta, India, there is a children's home named Shishu Bhavan founded by Mother Teresa. The home continues to be operated by her community, the Missionaries of Charity. On the wall of the home hangs a sign which has eight sayings about people in this world and follows each with instructions about how to cope with it. One will appear in the newsletter each week for you to think about.

1. People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred. LOVE THEM ANYWAY.

Mother Teresa taught her young charges that the challenges offered by this sign can be met only if human beings are motivated by a love and a respect for one another which looks beyond faults, differences, ulterior motives, success, and failure.

Las Posadas - A Journey towards Christmas

The tradition of having figures of Mary, Joseph and a donkey travelling from home to home during Advent originated in Mexico where it is known as posada. During Advent our nativity figures take a journey around the Hailsham area. Would you be willing to welcome them into your home for the night? It's a great way to prepare for Christmas and fun for the whole family! Two families meet every day in December as part of our preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus, with one family handing the nativity over to another. It comes complete with suggested readings, prayers and Christmas hymns.

If you would like to be part, all you have to do is put your name on the list in the narthex. The travelling nativity will be brought to you on this day. The following day you will deliver it to the next family on the list. You can agree the arrangements and the time to meet with the families yourself.

The second collection on 12th November will be for Christmas Flowers. It is possible to claim Gift Aid on this donation so please use a special second collection envelope or a one off Gift Aid envelope which can be found in the church porch. Many thanks for your continued support.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 5th Nov, After Mass, Parish Meeting, St W's.
Sun 5th Nov, 3pm - Service of Remembrance, St G's Church.
Tue 7th Nov, 6pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W's Hall.
Sat 18th Nov, 3.30pm - Preparing for Advent W/Shop, St W's
Fri 24th Nov, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall.
Sun 26th Nov, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
Tue 28th Nov, 6pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W's Hall.
Thur 30th Nov, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
Sat 2nd Dec, 5pm - 1st Reconciliation Service, St W's Church.

Parish Charity Breakfast: Thank you to all who continue to support the last Sunday Charity breakfast at St George's. The October breakfast along with 50% of the months table sale has raised £124 for CAFOD. Special thanks to Teresa's friend Richard who offered to fill the role of chef and enjoyed it so much he has volunteers to continue which is great. Him and his brother were also most welcomed at clear up doing some of the heavy work putting away all the tables.

When the idea of the breakfast developed over a year ago, it was always hoped it would be a full community event, not just for our Catholic parishioners. We want to open our doors to all and so far it is proving to be just that. If anyone has friends or family that may wish to attend future breakfasts do invite them along, it is open to all and a great way to socialise together and meet new people on a Sunday morning. The next breakfast will be held on Sunday November 26th at 10am in aid of Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Parish Over 50's Club: A big thank you to Joan and Annette for giving us such a wonderful monthly tea for the over 50's. So much work goes into making this event so enjoyable for us all.

Synod 21-24: The first session in Rome has ended. A summary of proposals can be found at <https://www.synod.va/en/news/a-synodal-church-in-mission.html>

Sunday 29th October - Mass Attendance:
St Wilfrid's 86 St George's 75