

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

Cf. Is 30:19,30

THE COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
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

40:1-5.9-11

‘Console my people, console them,’
says your God.
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger of Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
Joyful messenger of Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
‘Here is your God.’
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 84:9-14. R. v8

**R) Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R)**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R)**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that
with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a
thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow in
carrying out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow;
but is he being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost
and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of
the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will
vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and
all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be
living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day
of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the
elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he
promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where
righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you
are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so
that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lk 3:4.6

**Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

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

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son
of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to
him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they
confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and
he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his
preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and
undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water,
but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bar 5:5;4:36

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



John the Baptist became a very
popular figure, baptising people
in the Jordan while they confessed
their sins. However, despite his
popularity, he was at pains to
point out to those who ‘followed’
him, that there was ‘someone’
following him, some who would

baptise, not just with water, but
with the Holy Spirit. Still today,
there is a danger that we ‘follow’
people who cannot give us real
nourishment for the soul. In our
highly secularised society, film
stars, singers and sports
personalities are often held in the
highest esteem, especially by the
young. We erect pedestal for these
people, only to knock them off
when their behaviour turns out to
be less than exemplary. But even
in the ‘religious’ world, certain
writers or thinkers, are held in
high esteem by believers. Many of

them have good and interesting
ideas, write inspiring books which
help on our journey towards God.
What we must remember is that
they are not God and, are not, to
use John the Baptist’s words, fit to
undo the strap of his sandals. The
acid test is if they bring us closer
to Jesus or not.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



POPULAR VS. POPULIST

159. “Popular” leaders, those capable of
interpreting the feelings and cultural
dynamics of a people, and significant trends
in society, do exist. The service they provide
by their efforts to unite and lead can become
the basis of an enduring vision of
transformation and growth that would also
include making room for others in the pursuit
of the common good. But this can degenerate
into an unhealthy “populism” when
individuals are able to exploit politically a
people’s culture, under whatever ideological
banner, for their own personal advantage or
continuing grip on power. Or when, at other
times, they seek popularity by appealing to
the basest and most selfish inclinations of
certain sectors of the population. This
becomes all the more serious when, whether
in cruder or more subtle forms, it leads to the
usurpation of institutions and laws.



The Fire of Love*

LIVING AS A TRUE CONTEMPLATIVE



Those who are true contemplatives, on fire with love, hardly
ever engage in fruitless outside activity or seek high office in
the Church. They like to be always free to be raised up to
Christ in joyful song. The most important angels are not
sent out on errands but remain close to God at all times. In
the same way, contemplatives give themselves over to the
things of God and are not willing to lord it over other
people.

God chooses whomsoever God chooses. One is chosen for
activity, another for solitude. Such people are often ignored
and rated pretty low by others. They do no flashy miracles,
but rather prefer to remain in interior solitude.

Others are properly chosen to serve God in other people
and they serve those under them with sensitivity. Others
may live lives of discipline that people know nothing about.
God may make this known by ‘signs’ before they die, but
not necessarily so. Signs can also come from those who are
sinners and who are actually doing what they do for human
acknowledgement and praise.

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



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

Second Sunday of Advent

Sat	9th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers & Confessions
Sun	10th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Enza Riddiford RIP
Mon	11th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues	12th	10am	St George's—	Joy Rebello Intention
Wed	13th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Jim Ayres RIP
Thur	14th	10am	St George's —	Deceased member of the Steele Family
Fri	15th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Margaret & John Forde's Intention

Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent, 'O Sapientia'

Sat	16th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers & Confessions
Sun	17th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	James & Margaret Westcar 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 Brotherhood, Nellie Oakshott, Jean Molloy, Alan Smith, Julie Martin, Peter Andrews, Holly Leone, Deborah Osbourne Walker, Gill Standen and Richard Streeter.

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.

Reader 1: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

When I left our seminary the flame of hope was alive. That hope has now become greatly tested. In my heart I could then see the writing was on the wall for seminaries in Ireland. **My hope was established in team ministry.** In fact I was part of a team ministry at St Paul's, Haywards Heath for a while. We were well underway, focused upon Leaven Groups as part of each mass community and with the R.C.I.A. as an important guiding light to our liturgical year. Then renew came and upset the apple cart. As responsible priests we did our best. We all gathered at the Brighton and Hove Godstone Football Grounds with Cormac our Bishop, for our diocesan celebration at the launch of Renew where we received an oak seed. We planted the oak sapling outside our church at St Paul's, and it can now be seen as a thriving oak tree. The secret is that the seed must be planted in order to grow.

Today our children's liturgy remains on my radar as our greatest source of hope. Sadly, especially in Ireland there are not many examples. Once when in Dublin with my sister Mary and PJ, we went for the baptism of their grandchild.

Their parish had a children's liturgy, when I congratulated them as brave people, their response was in complete agreement. **Hope must go on.**



6. What you spent years building may be destroyed overnight. BUILD ANYWAY.

Nine Lessons & Carols: Sat 16th Dec, 3pm at St Wilfrid's. Please fill the church, raise the roof in song and pray with us in the season of Advent. And don't forget to invite friends and family, this service is a perfect way to bring those who don't attend our weekly mass through our doors. Mulled wine & mince pies in the hall afterwards. We shall have a "surprise bag" table, a prize every time for just £1. There is a box in the porch to receive any gifts you may like to contribute please. We are asking for donations of mince pies by Sun 10th Dec and on the 13th/15th morning as long as they are in date on the 16th if you are buying, or if making brought to the church on the 16th before the service at 3pm.

Bambinelli Sunday: Gaudete Sun 17th Dec the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Gaudete means "rejoice" and on this Feast Day we rejoice because we are almost at Christmas, the day where we celebrate the coming Jesus into the world, the greatest gift we have ever been given. To mark the Feast, our parish will join with parishes around the world, in celebrating the tradition of Bambinelli Sunday. We invite each family in the parish and their friends/families to bring the figurine of Jesus from their family crib to either mass, where they will be blessed and returned to you for wrapping and placing under your tree until Christmas Eve/Day.

Las Posadas - A Journey towards Christmas: If you have not signed up yet to be part of our travelling nativity during Advent please do, the list is at the back of St W's Church, or speak to one of the youth team (Teresa, Angela, Annette, Sandra or Mary) to find out more. All you would need to do is welcome one family with the travelling nativity figures on your allocated date, then the following day you will deliver the nativity to the next family on the list.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 17th Dec - Bambinelli Sunday, St W's & St G's Church.
Sat 23rd Dec, 10am - Rehearsal Nativity Mime, St W's Church
Sun 24th Dec, 5.30pm - Nativity Mime, St W's Church.
Thur 28th Dec, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
Fri 29th Dec, 2-4pm - Parish Christmas Party, St W's Hall.
Tue 16th Jan, 6pm, - 1st Communion Lesson, St W's Hall.

Parish Over 50's Club: Thurs 28th Dec, 2-4pm. Party Time; crackers, homemade Christmas cake, plus all the usual bingo and quizzes. If you are able to put a little extra than the £5, that will help towards expenses. Christmas Jumpers can be worn!

Parish Christmas Party: 29th December, 2-4pm. Tickets - Adults £5, Children Free (still require a ticket).

Parish Bereavement Gp: There will be no bereavement group in December, we will recommence in January.

St Wilfrid's Nativity Mime: Sunday 24th December, 5.30pm in St Wilfrid's Church. All welcome.

Rehearsal for the Nativity Mime will be on Saturday 23rd December at 10am in St Wilfrid's Church.

St Wilfrid's: Have you noticed a large revolving book stand in our church? This was purchased for the children to take a religious book, read it and return for someone else to read. In our world of technology it is good to read a book, especially a holy one. The money raised from Christmas cards & religious items will go to pay for this new and useful item.

Parish Charity Breakfast: Next Breakfast 28th Jan after St G's 9am mass - fundraising for Children's Respite Trust. All Welcome invite friends and family, they are welcome just to attend breakfast or join for mass also.

St Wilfrid's Christmas Cards & Small Gifts:

Purchased from the LINK before it closed, are on sale in our hall after mass on Sundays & Wednesdays at reduced prices. The money raised will go towards the children's liturgy. We have raised almost £100 to go towards the Children's Liturgy items.

Sunday 3rd December - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 108 St George's 72