

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Cf. Ps 24:1-3

THE COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that, gathered at his right hand,  
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.  
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 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father.  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down  
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.  
No ear has heard,  
no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity;  
and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you our potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps. 79:2-3.15-16.18-19. R. v4

R) God of hosts bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit the vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. (R)

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace  
and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received  
through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched  
in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers;  
the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that  
you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are  
waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep  
you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you  
to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Ps 84:8  
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.  
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.

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

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be on your guard, stay awake,  
because you never know when the time will come. It is like a  
man travelling abroad: he has gone from his home, and left his  
servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the  
doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not  
know when the master of the house is coming, evening,  
midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must  
not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay  
awake!’

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,  
gathered from among your gifts to us,  
and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below,  
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield  
its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord,  
in which we have participated,  
profit us, we pray,  
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,  
you teach us by them to love the things of heaven  
and hold fast to what endures.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



The only certainty in life is death. And yet we often live our lives as if we going to live forever. In today’s Gospel Jesus reminds us that we must always keep the fact of our death, and the fact that we don’t know when it will come, at the front of our minds. This doesn’t mean that we should have a morbid

awareness of death, but rather a realistic one: we don’t know when it will come, so - be ready. And how can be always ready? By living God’s will as well as we can in each present moment. However hard we try, we will find ourselves wandering away from what God wants of us because of our flawed human nature. So what should we do when fins we have wandered off

the track? Get back on it as soon as we can. One good way to do this is to take advantage of the gifts God has given us to help us ‘start again’ when we have fallen. The Sacrament of reconciliation is that gift. Through this very special gift, we are reconciled with God and with our brothers and sisters and all our

sins, our mistakes, our selfishness is consumed in God’s mercy. When we come out of the confessional we are like new people, ready to start again on our journey towards God. Some people say they don’t see the point of confession because they always have the same sins. Think of it this way: if I only clean my windows once a year, by the end of the year I won’t see much through them; if I clean them once a month, I will have a clear view most of the time.



### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



## POPULAR VS. POPULIST

158. Here, there can be a misunderstanding. “People’ is not a logical category, nor is it a mystical category, if by that we mean that everything the people does is good, or that the people is an ‘angelic’ reality. Rather, it is a mythic category... When you have to explain what you mean by people, you use logical categories for the sake of explanation, and necessarily so. Yet in that way you cannot explain what it means to belong to a people. The word ‘people’ has a deeper meaning that cannot be set forth in purely logical terms. To be part of a people is to be part of a shared identity arising from social and cultural bonds. And that is not something automatic, but rather a slow, difficult process... of advancing towards a common project”.<sup>132</sup>

132. ANTONIO SPADARO, S.J., Le orme di un pastore. Una conversazione con Papa Francesco, in JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO – PAPA FRANCESCO, Nei tuoi occhi è la mia parola. Omelie e discorsi di Buenos Aires 1999-2013, Rizzoli, Milan 2016, XVI; cf. Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (24 November 2013), 220-221; AAS 105 (2013), 1110-1111.

## The Fire of Love\* CONVERSION IS A LONG PROCESS

It is obvious that those who are in love with God do not attain the heights of devotion straight away. They experience the sweetness of contemplation only sporadically. Hard work is needed to prepare the ground, for only then can we feel some joy in loving God.

We can be very virtuous and yet not experience the warmth of God’s love and be able to sing in our hearts the song of divine praise. It is rare for anyone to be raised to the level of jubilant song. This song is that which is constantly sung in heaven, full of harmony and sweetness. Those who experience it are the true contemplatives. Having sat long in solitude they have kept company with angels, exulting and rejoicing in Jesus.

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



# 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

#### First Sunday of Advent

Sat	2nd	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers & Confessions
Sun	3rd	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Edmund Ginn RIP (5th Anniversary)
Mon	4th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group —All welcome
Tues	5th	10am	St George's—	John McNabola & Paddy Hession Intention
Wed	6th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Clodagh & Jack Coleman RIP
Thur	7th	10am	St George's —	Yvonne Lodrick 90th Birthday Intention
Fri	8th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Encinas & Wadey Families Intention

#### 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

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, 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 and Gill Standen.

**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:**

**This new year of Our Lord is now underway as we light the first candle “The Candle of Hope”.** We can accompany it with the thought “hope springs eternally”. It’s on the foundations that we build; the value of life and the hope we have is dependant on the material that we build on. A report which I read on the Synod has restored some real confidence in my heart ..... The Synod is a call for Catholics to become a new kind of church; a communion of baptised people walking together.

This has been at the heart of our work since we began to focus on our parish council. So it is very appropriate following on the focus that Bob Waters has given us, that we put our best efforts into building up the ministries that will serve in the life of our church. As we light the first candle, we begin with establishing the ministry of hospitality, as we will go on to grow a team of welcomers with again Bob’s experience as a Knight of St Columba, will be of benefit to help with its structure and service.



5. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY.

**Invited:** The Diocese has prepared four thoughtful online streamed presentations to help us all prepare for Christmas called “invited”. Each week the presentation comprises a film, discussion, reflection, music and prayer. The first online presentation was launched yesterday and can be accessed via the Diocesan website at [www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited).

**South Downs Singers** will be holding their Christmas concert at St George's on Saturday 9th December at 3.00pm. A fabulous selection of carols and festive songs will be sung with an opportunity to join in well loved favourites. Tickets £10 available on the door or beforehand from Anne Bowe.

**Thank you** for buying candles at St W's, we sold them all!

**St Wilfrid's Parish Meeting** will be on 3rd December at 11.30am in the church.

**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 3rd Dec, 11.30am - St W's Parish Meeting, St W's Church.  
Sat 9th Dec, 3pm - South Downs Singers Xmas Concert, St G's.  
Sat 16th Dec, 3pm - Nine Lessons & Carols, St W's Church.  
Sun 17th Dec - Bambinelli Sunday, St W's & St G's Church.  
Thur 28th Dec, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.  
Fri 29th Dec, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall.  
Tue 16th Jan, 6pm, - 1st Communion Lesson, St W's Hall.  
Sun 28th Jan, 10am - Parish Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.

**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. Next year this Parish service will be at St George's Church. 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 that can be left in the church porch on Sun 10th Dec and on the following Wed/Fri 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. Thank you.

**Parish Charity Breakfast:** Congratulations and thank you to the Breakfast team, with lovely Richard cooking, and all those who supported the breakfast last weekend and helped raise £202 to add to the £23 raised by the poppy sales earlier in Nov for the Royal British Legion. Next Breakfast 28th January 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.

**Celebrate The Rorate Candlelit Mass** at Our Lady of Ransom in Eastbourne, Friday's in Advent at 6.30am followed by breakfast.

**Parish Christmas Party:** 29th December, 2-4pm.

**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.

**St George's Table Sale items:** new and nearly new items suitable for sale are urgently needed if anyone has anything please place at the back of church or under the table, or feel free to add to table display.

**Sunday 26th November - Mass Attendance:**  
St Wilfrid's 118 St George's 85