

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

Ps 105:47

THE COLLECT

Grant us, Lord our God,
that we may honour you with all our mind,
and love everyone in truth of heart.
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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: ‘Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. “Do not let me hear again” you said “the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die”; and the Lord said to me, “All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 94:1-2.6-9.R.v9

**R) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R)**

Come in; let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord’s affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world’s affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a

young girl, can devote herself to the Lord’s affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world’s affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Mt 4.16
**The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.**
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus said sharply, ‘Be quiet! Come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. ‘Here is a teaching that is new’ they said ‘and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.’ And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, we bring to your altar
these offerings of our service:
be pleased to receive them, we pray,
and transform them
into the Sacrament of our redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 5:3-4

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**
Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,
we pray, O Lord,
that through this help to eternal salvation
true faith may ever increase.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Jesus ‘taught them with authority’. No wonder the scribes took a dislike to him. Here was this ‘outsider’ who was preaching in the synagogue and winning a lot of support. We have all had the

experience of listening to a preacher whose sermons are ‘different’ to the norm. Every word seems full of meaning. No one is made to feel inadequate or inferior, rather they feel inspired and uplifted by what they hear. Then we move to the strange scene of the man possessed by an unclean spirit. It is difficult to understand what this means. It

could mean that the man is mentally ill, that he has lost his inhibitions and is not afraid of saying out loud what many others are thinking to themselves. Whatever, Jesus calms the man

down and unclean spirit leaves him. Yet another reason why the people saw in Jesus something completely different from their usual teachers. Now, we don’t have the physical Jesus present our churches, but when we love one another he is spiritually present and we can experience something similar to what the people in today’s Gospel experienced.



The Fire of Love*

ADVICE ON TOUCHINESS



Give up being conceited and touchy over mere nothings. Don’t keep defending yourself when challenged, and don’t be continually laying down the law. Be humble, and later you will hear Christ saying to you: ‘Friend, come up higher’ (Lk. 14: 10). Whatever life brings, so long as you do not sin, you will arrive at the courts of heaven.

Whatever happens we should praise the Lord with delight and devotion. Rest in Jesus. Truly all will be well if we make it our only concern to love others and to love Christ.

We should ask the Lord to enlarge our heart and give us a greater capacity for both the love and the laughter that spring from a good conscience and spiritual buoyancy.

We must avoid flattery from others and look at ourselves with clear eyes – remembering that a good and holy conscience is all that counts in the end.

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

POPE FRANCIS’ ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE BENEFITS AND LIMITS OF LIBERAL APPROACHES

166. Everything, then, depends on our ability to see the need for a change of heart, attitudes and lifestyles. Otherwise, political propaganda, the media and the shapers of public opinion will continue to promote an individualistic and uncritical culture subservient to unregulated economic interests and societal institutions at the service of those who already enjoy too much power. My criticism of the technocratic paradigm involves more than simply thinking that if we control its excesses everything will be fine. The bigger risk does not come from specific objects, material realities or institutions, but from the way that they are used. It has to do with human weakness, the proclivity to selfishness that is part of what the Christian tradition refers to as “concupiscence”: the human inclination to be concerned only with myself, my group, my own petty interests. Concupiscence is not a flaw limited to our own day. It has been present from the beginning of humanity, and has simply changed and taken on different forms down the ages, using whatever means each moment of history can provide. Concupiscence, however, can be overcome with the help of God.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly
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Email: ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com
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The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Collection for Racial Justice Day Today)

Sat 27th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers & Confessions
Sun 28th	9am	St George's —	Joseph & Rose Falkner RIP
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon 29th	2.30pm	St Wilfrid's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 30th	10am	St George's—	Kate Middleton Intention
Wed 31st	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Jim Ayres RIP
Thur 1st	10am	St George's —	Liturgy of the Word
Fri 2nd	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Rosary

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Collection for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund next Sunday)

Sat 3rd		St Wilfrid's—	
Sun 4th	9am	St George's —	Gretta Loughnane RIP Anniversary
	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 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

Churches Together in Polegate/Willingdon/Hampden Park/Hydneye 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, Nellie Oakshott, Jean Molloy, Alan Smith, Julie Martin, Holly Leone, Deborah Osbourne Walker, Gill Standen, Richard Streeter and Patricia Delaney.

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:

**“The Devine Life of God in Heaven, Father, Son and Holy Spirit”
The Devine life of God on earth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.**

Through our baptism we share in the life of Christ. The purpose of our parish meeting last Sunday guided by our parish council was how we respond and play a living part in the life of the church. After the opening prayer I began by opening up the profile of each ministry beginning with welcoming. You will find a guidance for this ministry of welcome at the back of the church as we begin our journey.

Gerry Palmer highlighted Bishop Richard’s guidelines for the future development of parish life, and brought to our attention when our deanery will have its meetings i.e. in the harvest time of this year. We have taken an important initiative which is essential. An example of this is when we had persons sharing their name with those near them seated in the church, a small step for a good beginning.

The input of our Children’s Liturgy Groups from our two churches, and there is no doubt that they are leading the way, giving us great example. The carol service was highlighted because of the quality of the reading. So it highlights the challenge that is necessary to develop this ministry. Obviously diction and clarity of delivery is important, but there is much more entailed. A suggested initiative has been brought to my attention for a Lectio Divina Group to focus on scripture. Thanks be to God for new saplings and ideas that are happening to develop.

Fr Rory

Lourdes Diocese one week pilgrimage July/Aug 2024 - 50th anniversary of the Diocese led pilgrimage. All our Parish youth school years 10-13 are encouraged to consider attending. We would also like all others in our parish to consider joining as able Helpers, medical support or pilgrims who may need support to attend. We will have a launch meeting in February to form a parish group of attendees and consider our Lent Fundraising which we plan to undertake to help pay towards our parish attendees. To have our own Redshirts/youth group in advance of going this year will be amazing so please do consider it, we have three signed up already. If your children are younger their are family options also. Further details of the pilgrimage can be found on the Diocese website at(please can you insert link). To find out more about fundraising in our parish email sandraforte40@gmail.com or text/call 07791627368.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED: Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in our Catholic schools and churches to bring alive their sense of global justice? Could you give an assembly or a workshop in a local school?

Supported by CAFOD with training and resources, you will discuss issues of global justice, add to parish and school life whilst complementing the work of teachers, priests and catechists. Contact the CAFOD A&B office at:- St Pius X Church, Laustan Close, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey GU2 2TS. Tel: 01483 573273 07710 094448, Website: www.cafod.org.uk Email: arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 28th Jan, 10am - Parish Charity Breakfast, St G’s Hall.
Fri 16th Feb, 7pm - Fundraising Race Night, St W’s Hall.
Tue 20th Feb, 6pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.
Fri 23rd Feb, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W’s Hall.
Sun 25th Feb, 10am - Parish Charity Breakfast, St G’s Hall.
Thur 29th Feb, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50’s Club, St W’s Hall.
Tue 12th March, 6pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.
Fri 12th April, 7pm - Parish Quiz Night, St G’s Hall.

A RACE NIGHT on the 16th February at St Wilfrid's is our next parish social/fund raising event. The race cards will go on sale at £5 each which be your entry ticket from today at St Wilfrid’s and on Sunday 4th February at St George’s. This is a fun evening so please put the date in your diaries.

Parish Charity Breakfast: Today 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.

Parish Over 50’s Club:
The meeting was an excellent occasion, the theme was “Burns Night” and everything Scottish, a wee dram to start off. Having music made all the difference. A full house enjoyed by all, the £10 price included 2 free raffle tickets was accepted by all. Much appreciation for those who prepared and looking forward to the next afternoon tea, which will be Thursday 29th Feb at 2pm. Our theme is “Chinese New Year”, year of the Dragon.

Parish Quiz Night Friday April 12th 7pm - get your teams ready and the date in your diary for the second of our bi-annual quiz nights this time held at St Georges. Teams of 6 under children not included in team numbers. More details to follow.

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist, Sat 10 Feb. Free of charge. Bishop Richard will lead a day of reflection and formation for Ministers of the Eucharist at St Michael’s, High Salvington, Worthing 11-4pm. The day will include theological & practical talks, Eucharistic Adoration and mass. Please register using the link [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist \(10-Feb-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

Sunday 21st January - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid’s 128 St George’s 70