

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 90:15-16

**When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.**

## THE COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,  
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,  
that we may grow in understanding  
of the riches hidden in Christ  
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.  
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 book of Genesis

9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

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

## PSALM

Ps 24:4-9. R. cf.v10

**R) Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love  
for those who keep your covenant.**

Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. **(R)**

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R)**

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R)**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins,  
died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put

to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels of the Dominations and Powers his subjects.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
Man does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:12-15

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

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

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

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray,  
to make these offerings,  
for with them we celebrate the beginning  
of this venerable and sacred time.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 90: 4

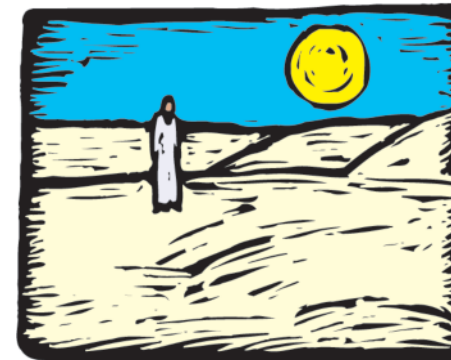
**The Lord will conceal you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will trust.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed now with heavenly bread,  
by which faith is nourished, hope increased,  
and charity strengthened,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that we may learn to hunger for Christ,  
the true and living Bread,  
and strive to live by every word  
which proceeds from your mouth.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel is one of the briefest in the entire lectionary, but it contains a very important message. It is difficult to know whether Jesus was literally in a wilderness for forty days, or whether he experienced the

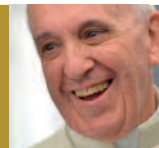
wilderness in an inner way, in his soul. Whatever, the point is that he experienced something which every human being experiences – temptation. It says that the 'angels looked after him'. When we are experiencing temptation we very often don't have the strength to resist it, but we rarely turn to our Guardian Angel for help. If Jesus needed the help of angels, then how much more so we need their help?

In the second half of today's Gospel Jesus says that the 'kingdom of God is close at hand' and that therefore we

should repent and believe in the Good News. We don't know when God will bring an end to our earthly existence, but we should live as if it were going to happen today. If we live in this constant awareness of our own mortality, then we are more likely to be 'ready' for the kingdom when Jesus calls us.



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



## THE BENEFITS AND LIMITS OF LIBERAL APPROACHES

168 (Cont). Financial speculation fundamentally aimed at quick profit continues to wreak havoc. Indeed, "without internal forms of solidarity and mutual trust, the market cannot completely fulfil its proper economic function. And today this trust has ceased to exist".<sup>141</sup> The story did not end the way it was meant to, and the dogmatic formulae of prevailing economic theory proved not to be infallible. The fragility of world systems in the face of the pandemic has demonstrated that not everything can be resolved by market freedom. It has also shown that, in addition to recovering a sound political life that is not subject to the dictates of finance, "we must put human dignity back at the centre and on that pillar build the alternative social structures we need".<sup>142</sup>

141. BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter Caritas in Veritate (29 June 2009), 35; AAS 101 (2009), 670.

142. Address to Participants in the World Meeting of Popular Movements (28 October 2014): AAS 106 (2014), 858.



**The Fire of Love\***  
**DO NOT JUDGE**



If we live a really holy and religious life, we will not judge sinners, however bad we may think them to be. We cannot resist sin unless we receive the grace to do so. Remember, when tempted to get all puffed up with your own virtue, that, if Christ had not protected you, you would have fallen into the very sins you condemn in others. We have received everything as a gift of God, nothing is our own doing.

I was fortunate in that God so frightened me that it seemed sweet to flee from worldly delight and so escape eternal punishment. God gave me such strength that I can now gladly put up with all kinds of penance, especially since I have already tasted the delights of heaven.

If we want to, we can, without undue hardship and even in this life, repent completely and purge ourselves of sin, provided that we do this to the best of our ability. Better to be cleansed here than hereafter.

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



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



## ST GEORGE



Eastbourne Road  
Polegate

Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly  
South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JG  
Tel: (01323) 841504

(Answerphone service available)  
Email: [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk)

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

## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### First Sunday of Lent (Collection for CAFOD next Sunday)

Sat 17th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers & Confessions
Sun 18th	9am	St George's —	Len Brotherhood RIP
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon 19th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 20th	10am	St George's—	James, Lyra, Joyce Lissenburg RIP
Wed 21st	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Mary O'Donoghue RIP
Thur 22nd	10am	St George's —	P J Harrington Intention
Fri 23rd	10am	St George's -	Richard Stimpson's Funeral
Fri 23rd	10am	St Wilfrid's —	No Service

#### Second, 'Transfiguration' Sunday of Lent (Collection for CAFOD Today)

Sat 24th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers & Confessions
	6pm	St Mary's Church	Leading Prayers at St Mary's Church, Ukraine Vigil
Sun 25th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Michael Copper 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

**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 Stimpson, Nicole McCutchan, Nellie Oakshott, Jean Molloy, Alan Smith, Julie Martin, Holly Leone, Deborah Osbourne Walker, Sue Nye, Gill Standen, Richard Streeter, Patricia Delaney and Peter Andrews.

**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:**

We have just celebrated a great event “Ash Wednesday”, the beginning of Lent.

With a powerful sign of ashes and the traditional words that accompany it. “Remember man thou art, but dust and unto dust thou shall return”. Remember man thou art, .... This powerful moment remains deeply embedded in my being from my first experience almost seventy years ago, in fact sixty nine. I was in High Infants in Fantane N. S. (because my mum loved me I was a bit later starting school).

The Head Master was Mr Boyle and on that Ash Wednesday he went to the morning mass in Borisleigh before coming to school. This is an early symbol of delegation when he was appointed by the parish priest to minister the ashes to the school community. Beginning with the youngest, we were in Mrs Ryan’s Class, and each and every child as the ashes were placed upon the forehead, the constant refrain “Remember man thou art, but dust and unto dust thou shall return” placed on every head. “The date of my birth was the reason for the year I started school”.

Tosnu maith se laith an oibre, a good start is half the work and that good start was extended into the liturgy of life “Repent and belief, the good news “God’s salvation has remained the bedrock, the foundation for my life and I am eternally grateful for this.

*Fr Rory*

**CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal and Soup Lunch**

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to safely feed their families for good. Please join us for a simple lunch of soup and bread at St Wilfrid’s Hall after mass on Sun Feb 25th to support this Appeal. It is a fun event for all ages with Lenten themed activities and fellowship. If you could spare a little time to make soup or help at this event, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church. Alternatively, you can make donations using the envelope or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

**Candlelit Vigil:** On 24th February there will be a candlelit vigil at the Hailsham town centre memorial to mark the second anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This event starts at 6pm and Father Rory will be leading the prayers at the service. All parishioners are welcome as our community comes together to show support for the people of Ukraine. More details and timings about the event can be found in the leaflet in the church porch.

**Dates for your Diary:**

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.  
 Sun 25th Feb, 11.30am-1pm - Lenten Lunch, St W’s Hall.  
 Thur 29th Feb, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50’s Club, St W’s Hall.  
 Sat 2nd March, 11.30am - Reconciliation Service, St G’ Church.  
 Sat 9th March, 10.30am - Exposition/Fam Stations/Soup St G’s  
 Tue 12th March, 6pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.  
 Sun 24th March, 10am - Community Charity Breakfast, St G’s  
 Sun 24th March, 3pm - Stations of the Cross, St G’s Church  
 Thur 28th March, 7pm - Washing of feet/watch & pray, St G’s  
 Fri 29th March, 10am - Family Stations + Hot Cross Buns, St W’s  
 Fri 29th March, 3pm - Good Friday Liturgy, St W’s Church.  
 Fri 29th March, 3pm - Good Friday Liturgy, St G’s Church.  
 Sat 30th March, 7pm - Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, St W’s Church  
 Sun 31st March, 9am - Easter Sunday Mass, St G’s Church.  
 Sun 31st March, 10.30am – Easter Sunday Mass, St W’s Church.  
 Fri 12th April, 7pm - Parish Quiz Night, St G’s Hall.

**The Diocesan walking pilgrimage** will be going from Worcester to Peterborough from 10th to 25th August. Cost £350 the whole way or £33 per night, 25% discount for under 21’s. For more details to go [www.thepilgrims/2024.org.uk](http://www.thepilgrims/2024.org.uk)

**St George’s:** St Patrick’s Day and Easter Cards are on sale at the back of St George’s Church.

**March 17th, St Patrick’s Feast Day** this year is on a Sunday. The 10.30am Mass at St Wilfrid’s will be a celebration of this feast day, followed by a light lunch of sandwiches and cake in the hall after, along with Irish music etc. There will be a nominal charge to cover the food costs of £2 per adult.

**INVITED:** Everyone is invited to be part of our Lenten Programme. Whether you take part in our five “Invited” mission sessions that will take place after the 10am Mass on Wednesdays at St Wilfrid’s or online as part of the diocesan group, everyone watches the same episodes and explores the same material each week. The material explores “Discipleship” as we continue to conform our lives to The Lord. If anyone would like to join an evening session, we could hold these on either a Monday or Friday evening if enough people are interested. Please talk to David Hoad or Maria Hills if you would like to explore this further. The five parish sessions will be held on Wednesday 21st and 28th February and 6th, 13th and 20th March. For online sessions please see the “Invited” section on the Diocesan website.

**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 with children under 12 not included in team numbers. More details to follow.

**Parish Over 50’s Club:** Our next afternoon tea will be Thursday 29th Feb at 2pm. “Chinese New Year”

**Sunday 11th February - Mass Attendance:**  
 St Wilfrid’s 102                      St George’s 75

### Scripture Reading for Lent

Whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God. Give no offence to anyone, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all *people* in all *things*, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved. Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:31-11.1)

**Let Us Dream:** In response to the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor, The Catholic Deanery of Eastbourne invites you to: 'Let Us Dream'. Saturday 16th March 2024, 11am to 1pm at Our Lady of Ransom, 2-4 Grange Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4EU.

About the event:

How can building caring communities help in our fight against injustices and crises, such as climate change, poverty, life issues, and the destruction of nature?

In tackling these issues, what would you like your parish, school or community to look like if we had done all we could to make it a reality in the years leading up to 2030?

The workshop will include a short talk by John Paul de Quay of The Ecological Conversion Group and The Journey to 2030 to set the scene, followed by a creative activity and discussion and network building.

The Journey to 2030 'Building a caring community' activity packs will be provided to motivate your own parishes/schools and communities.

This event is hosted by Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne, and is part of a series of events with The Journey to 2030 in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton.

If you wish to sign up for this event, please phone Deacon John on Tel: 486280. Thank you.

**The Deaf Service** supports Deaf and hard of hearing adults and children providing catechism so that they can access the sacraments of baptism, reconciliation, First Holy Communion, confirmation, and marriage. The service aims to: Create awareness in the Church of the needs of Deaf and hard of hearing people Celebrate Mass in Sign Language once a month Provide support in the Catholic faith Members of the Deaf Service visit the sick at home or in hospital and provide support with the preparation of funerals to help meet communication needs. You can contact the A&B Deaf Service by email; E: [peterandmaria.booker@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:peterandmaria.booker@abdiocese.org.uk) Or text message only (no telephone calls) M: 07970 428601 and there is a brand new web page <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/deaf-community>

**Parish Charity Breakfast:** Our next date will be Sunday 25th February after St George's 9am mass - fundraising for our young parishioners who sign up for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. All Welcome invite friends and family, they are welcome just to attend breakfast or join for mass also.

**Please donate items** such as unwanted gifts, stationary, books, jigsaws, nearly new toys or anything suitable for the St Georges Table Sale? Donations are needed urgently as stock is low, money raised is split between charity of month and parish youth activities/resources. Please leave labelled for St G Table Sale in the back of either church for collection. Or place under table or on it if space permits.

**Are you interested or involved in Baptism preparation in the parish?** Do you have a desire to support young families grow the faith in their home?

Please join us for a formation day with Bishop Richard and Katherine Bergin exploring a new approach to welcoming families to the community of the Church through baptismal preparation.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 9.30-1.30 at the St Philip Howard Centre Crawley.

Please do sign up here:

[Baptism Catechists' Day \(02-Mar-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

**Holy Father's Prayer intention for February:**

Throughout February, Pope Francis has asked us to remember the terminally ill and their family and friends. Please pray for them to find the consoling peace of our Lord.

If you are finding the journey through bereavement or challenging or overwhelming and would like to speak with someone, the Ministry of Consolation team across the Diocese are here to journey with you. Please ask your Parish Priest for more details or email [simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk)



**St George's Church**

110 Eastbourne Road,  
Polegate,  
BN26 5DF

**Mass**

9am Sunday

**St Wilfrid's Church**

South Road,  
Hailsham,  
BN27 3JG

**Mass**

10.30am Sunday

ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com / 01323 841504

**The Catholic Parish of  
St Wilfrid & St George****Lent & Easter Programme 2024**

**Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February to Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

During this most important part of the Christian year, we are encouraged to do even more: more prayer and devotions; more fundraising; more for our community and others. We invite everyone to be part of this with us, a calendar of events is listed below.

**Stations of the Cross** – Sundays in Lent at St George's 3pm.  
(Not Mothering Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March)

**Sunday 25th February:**

- St George's – Community Charity breakfast after mass in the hall (10am)
- St Wilfrid's - Family lent activities and CAFOD Soup lunch after mass in hall (11.30am)

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:**

- Reconciliation Service 11.30am St George's Church

St Wilfrid's Church is open for private prayer and confessions every Saturday 10am – 11am

**Saturday 9th March at St George's**

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.30am - 11.30am Holy Hour
- Family Stations of the Cross 11.30am
- Soup lunch 12.15pm in the hall (donations to Lourdes Pilgrimage, Parish Youth attendees)

**Palm Sunday 24th March:**

- St George's 10am – Community Charity breakfast after mass in the hall
- St George's 3pm - Stations of the Cross followed by refreshments in the hall.

**Holy Week**

- Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March St George's 7pm – (inc. washing feet & watch and pray)
- Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March
  - St Wilfrid's 10am Family Stations and Hot Cross Buns
  - St Wilfrid's & St George's 3pm Good Friday Liturgy
- Holy Saturday Easter Vigil St Wilfrid's 7pm
- Easter Sunday mass - St George's 9am & St Wilfrid's 10.30am

**A warm welcome awaits you all**

Additional to the above are regular parish activities held weekly and monthly all year round.

Please see newsletter for details or website - [www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk)