

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 24:6,2,22

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Let not our enemies exult over us.
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

THE COLLECT

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.
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 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he called. ‘Here I am’ he replied. ‘Take your son,’ God said ‘your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.’

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he said. ‘I am here’ he replied. ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.’ Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. ‘I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 115:10. 15-19 R. Ps 114:9

R) I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said:
‘I am sorely afflicted.’
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. (R)

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord’s name. (R)

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father’s voice was heard:
‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!’
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-10

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Rabbi,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse us of our faults
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 17: 5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries,
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,
for allowing us while still on earth
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



It may seem a bit strange to have the Gospel of the Transfiguration during Lent. Peter, James and John are completely overcome by the vision of the transfigured Jesus, as

well as by the presence of Moses and Elijah. They were also frightened, but Peter was ready to make the most of it and wanted to make three tents for them, probably thinking that they were going to stay around for a while. But Moses and Elijah disappeared almost immediately and only Jesus remained. Jesus wanted the three Apostles to know who he really was: ‘This is my Son, the Beloved...’ Then Jesus, warned them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after he had risen

from the dead. Although the Apostles were very close to Jesus, there were many occasions when they clearly had no idea what he was talking about, and this was one of them. We too often have the same problem. We listen to the Word of God, we frequent the mass and the sacraments, but we often don’t hear what Jesus is saying to us.



POPE FRANCIS’ ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

THE BENEFITS AND LIMITS OF LIBERAL APPROACHES

169. In some closed and monochrome economic approaches, for example, there seems to be no place for popular movements that unite the unemployed, temporary and informal workers and many others who do not easily find a place in existing structures. Yet those movements manage various forms of popular economy and of community production. What is needed is a model of social, political and economic participation “that can include popular movements and invigorate local, national and international governing structures with that torrent of moral energy that springs from including the excluded in the building of a common destiny”, while also ensuring that “these experiences of solidarity which grow up from below, from the subsoil of the planet – can come together, be more coordinated, keep on meeting one another”.¹⁴³

14. Ibid.

The Fire of Love*

BLESSINGS OF THE SOLITARY LIFE

Many people place life in community above a life of solitude. That is because they have no experience of solitude. If they had, they would most likely think differently. They think that to ‘be alone’ is being without company and therefore lonely. But we cannot ‘be alone’ in any real way if God is with us.

If we have chosen the solitary life and live it properly the words of God are applicable to us: ‘I will lead her into solitude and speak to her heart’ (Hos. 2: 14). Choosing solitude is making time for devotion and contemplation, continuing in a wholehearted effort to love Christ. Even if we are physically among people, we never cease longing for heaven, and are far removed in spirit from a sinful way of life.

Hermits have one controlling motive:

They love God and neighbour

They despise worldly approval

They hold others as better and more worthy than they are.

*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, '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, Ukraine Vigil
Sun 25th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Michael Copper RIP
	3pm	St George's -	Stations of the Cross
Mon 26th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 27th	10am	St George's—	Vocations Intention
Wed 28th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Kay & Michael McCarthy Intention
Thur 29th	10am	St George's —	Peter, Marie & Jim RIP
Fri 1st	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Miss Zoe Walme RIP
Third Sunday of Lent (Collection for White Flower Appeal)			
Sat 2nd	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
	11.30am	St George's -	Reconciliation Service
Sun 3rd	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Danny & Celia Sheehan 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

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.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want, though I walk through the valley of darkness"

At this time we are surrounded by darkness, especially as we listen to the experience of the people in Palestine and also great suffering in the Ukraine. There was a vigil for Ukraine at St Mary's Church, a good response with solidarity that is needed. The great act of bravery given by Alexei Navalny was just outstanding. All through the ages martyrdom has been highlighted and the title of Saint added to his martyrdom. There is a greater call on everyone to respond to the threat that is endangering our world.

AS WE BEGIN THIS SEASON OF LENT THERE ARE SIGNS OF OUR RESPONSE, beginning with buds and signs of new life which needs to be developed and grow. Like any new life it needs to be propagated and encouraged. Something that shocked me..... I was seated in the car sending a text message, when just outside the window a squirrel appeared on a branch of a tree and proceeded to devour all the beautiful buds that were beginning to emerge..... A lesson from life, and so we always need some extra power from above.

In keeping with this we had an excellent insertion in last weeks newsletter, Lent and Easter Programme 2024, Ash Wednesday 14th February to Easter Sunday 31st March. A special moment is the stations of the cross at St George's and next Saturday there will be exposition of the blessed sacrament at St Wilfrid's at 10am, in support of the time for confessions and reconciliation. Please support the Reconciliation Service at St George's, Sat 2nd March at 11.30am

Fr Rory

Scripture Reading for Lent

Now, now - it is the Lord who speaks, come back to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: Let your hearts be broken, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness and ready to relent. [Joel 2:12-13]

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

Parish Charity Breakfast: Our next date will be **Today** 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.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 25th Feb, 10am - Parish Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
 Sun 25th Feb, 11.30am - 1pm - Lenten Lunch, St W's Hall.
 Sun 25th Feb, 3pm - Stations of the Cross, St G's Church.
 Thur 29th Feb, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
 Sat 2nd March, 11.30am - Reconciliation Service, St G' Church.
 Sun 3rd March, 3pm - Stations of the Cross, St G's 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 - Maundy Thursday Service, 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.

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: Our Lenten sessions started last Wednesday after the 10am Mass at St Wilfrid's. Even if you missed this one it is not too late to join us next Wednesday and you will be most welcome. These sessions are also available on line, please see the "Invited" section on the Diocesan website.

Saturday 2nd March, St George's: Please can all our parishioners in both churches take time to support the Reconciliation Service at St George's next Saturday at 11.30am - especially our younger parishioners and families.

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

Let Us Dream: Sat 16th March, 11am-1pm, OLR, Eastbourne. Sign up by contacting Deacon John on Tel: 486280. Thank you.

Parish Over 50's Club: Our next afternoon tea will be Thursday 29th Feb at 2pm. "Chinese New Year"

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

Sunday 18th February - Mass Attendance:
 St Wilfrid's 134 St George's 57