

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

Cf. Is 66: 10-11

THE COLLECT

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 second book of Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up." '

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 136. R. V6

**R) O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!**

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. **(R)**

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' **(R)**

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **(R)**

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him

and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3:16

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 121: 3-4

**Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel is a masterpiece in explaining why Jesus came into the world and what the consequences are, both for those who believe and those who refuse to believe. One phrase I particular gives a clue as

why some will be condemned. It is because they 'prefer darkness to the light'. Because of original sin, there is a tendency in each of us to prefer darkness to light. It is a tendency which causes us to do wrong, even when we don't 'want' to. St Paul himself says that he finds himself doing wrong when he is fully aware that he should not do it. In fact, the root of sin, unless we allow Jesus to uproot it, will constantly lead to do the wrong we would rather not do. And this is precisely why Jesus had to become incarnate and die for us. He knew full well that with our

own strength it is impossible to destroy the roots of sin within us. So, believing in Jesus means, first and foremost, that without him we can do nothing, and especially nothing about our tendency towards evil. The season of Lent is a good time to reflect on this truth and to ask him to give us the strength which only he can give.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



INTERNATIONAL POWER

170. I would once more observe that "the financial crisis of 2007-08 provided an opportunity to develop a new economy, more attentive to ethical principles, and new ways of regulating speculative financial practices and virtual wealth. But the response to the crisis did not include rethinking the outdated criteria which continue to rule the world".¹⁴⁷ Indeed, it appears that the actual strategies developed worldwide in the wake of the crisis fostered greater individualism, less integration and increased freedom for the truly powerful, who always find a way to escape unscathed.

147. Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' (24 May 2015), 189: AAS 107 (2015), 922.

The Fire of Love* TRUE LOVE IS LIKE A PRECIOUS JEWEL

If we are truly devout, we are impervious to the devil's darts and continue to think constantly of the beloved. Our meditation becomes a song of glory and praise. We pass straight from this life to heaven, for being a friend of light rather than darkness, we are lovers of life itself.

To love purely is to be like topaz, a precious jewel that needs no polishing and is found but rarely. True contemplatives are also rare and should not be given positions of ecclesial authority or secular employment. They are like gold in their outstanding love; like the sky in the glory of their heavenly living. They surpass the life of any saint. Their sole purpose is to love and possess the life of God. Leave true contemplatives alone rather than offering them honours, and they will continue to grow brighter and brighter.

*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

Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent (Collection for Easter Flowers Today)			
Sat 9th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Confessions & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.30am	St George's -	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	11.30am	St George's -	Family Stations, Whole Parish
Sun 10th	9am	St George's —	People of the Parish
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Marie Kelly RIP
Mon 11th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 12th	10am	St George's—	Margaret Madams RIP
Wed 13th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Creta O'Neill RIP
Thur 14th	10am	St George's —	Fred Rebello RIP
Fri 15th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Grace Verrill RIP
Fifth Sunday of Lent (Second Collection for Church Maintenance Fund)			
Sat 16th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Confessions & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Sun 17th	9am	St George's —	Mary Jenner RIP
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	3pm	St George's -	Stations of the Cross

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 Neyenhuisen, 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:

“Moment by moment we continue to build the Kingdom of God”

We had a very successful celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation last Saturday morning at St George’s Church. The enrolment ceremony for the Altar Servers at St Wilfrid’s Sunday Mass, in conjunction with the first scrutiny can point us in the right direction. As our progress through Lent develops it will please God, prepare a platform for the most important events to come, the resurrection of our Devine Lord from the dead, the ascension into heaven and the greatest experience, Pentecost.

Then for the more down to earth events, parish finance council, parish meetings, but especially all our parish events like tea and coffee, where we share with one another the life God has given, bestowed upon us, so that we may continue to bear good fruit, fruit that will last.

A very special event on Wednesday evening, we had a visit from Katherine Bergin. Her work with the diocese, but especially her involvement with her parish, make her a rich source of contact. As we face the plans that Bishop Richard has laid out for our diocese, and will have great implications upon our future, certain aspects of it have been dictated, especially by the shortage of priests. But equally so, lack of baptism, lack of marriage, lack of involvement of people in the life of the church. So much of the focus has been on going to Mass and what we liked to happen there. We have a great challenge before us.

Fr Rory

Scripture Reading for Lent: We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God. As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you”. Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation!.

Parish Quiz Night Fri April 12th 7pm - Tickets now on sale. Get your teams ready for the second of our bi-annual quiz nights this time held at St Georges Hall. Teams of 6 with children under 12 not included in team numbers.

Race Night Date Confirmed as 26th April at 7pm: The race night leaflets already bought will be accepted as your entry on the night. More will be on sale over the next few weeks. You will need to bring your own alcoholic drinks and nibbles. Tea ,Coffee & soft drinks will be available. The tote will be at £1 a ticket. This is a fun night for all, hope to see you on the night.

Lourdes Lent fundraising as a parish we are fundraising this Lent to help pay towards the cost of Maria, Claudia and Laura, three of our youth parishioners, to be able to attend and help on the Lourdes pilgrimage. We have so far raised nearly £120 towards each ticket. The actual cost is £750 for each attendee and we are therefore hoping to raise more if we can. Both churches will have a pound cross. Also, the Palm Sunday breakfast donations will go towards this fundraiser. All are very welcome, invite family and friends. Thank you for your support.

Dates for your Diary:

Tue 12th March, 6pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.
Sun 17th March, St Patrick’s Feast Day Celebration, St W’s Hall.
Fri 22nd March, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, 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, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50’s Club, St W’s Hall.
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.

Easter Sunday after Mass in St Wilfrid’s Hall, we shall have our “surprise bag sale”, choose a bag for £2 (£1 for children) prize every time. This was so popular last year, we sold out within half an hour. This year we have more bags to fill. If you have any bags to contribute, please put them in the box in the porch, empty or full. Thank you. The proceeds will go towards items for children’s liturgy.

St George’s Church - 7th to 30th March: Tea/Coffee after Mass every Thursday during Lent. Join us in Lenten Mass and social time afterwards in St George’s Hall.

St Wilfrid’s: It has been brought to our attention, that more people would come into the hall after Mass for tea/coffee etc. and get to know their fellow parishioners if there were more empty chairs. Well we have now sorted this, so please make the effort to join us after Mass on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Hailsham Foodbank currently have two vacancies, Deputy Manager and Communications Officer. More information on these can be found in St Wilfrid’s Church Porch.

March 17th, St Patrick's Feast Day: 10.30am Mass at St Wilfrid's will be a celebration of this feast day, followed by a light lunch of sandwiches/cake in the hall after, along with Irish music etc. A nominal charge of £2 per adult to cover the food costs.

Parish Over 50’s Club: Our next afternoon tea will be Thursday 28th March at 2pm. Theme is Easter, Easter bonnets may be worn!

Sunday 3rd March - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid’s 125 St George’s 68