

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
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 Acts of the Apostles

9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R.v26

R) You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! **(R)**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **(R)**

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

3:18-24

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are the children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.
My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

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 his disciples:

'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes
to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away
- he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice
have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead,
grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to know your truth,
we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 15:1,5

**I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,
alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



This Sunday's Gospel goes right to the essence of what the real Christian life is all about. John says: "our love is not to be just words of mere talk, but something alive and active". If our love is not "alive and active", then it isn't love,

it's just words. John also speaks about conscience. St John Henry Newman said that

conscience is the voice of God which helps us understand right from wrong. It is something that every human being has within them. However, we can choose to ignore the voice of conscience, and every time we ignore it, we also 'damage' it. If we ignore it constantly we will end up being led by a thousand other voices which are certainly not the voice of God. In fact we can see how much we are listening to the voice of conscience by how much we keep God's

commandments. We are familiar with the Ten Commandments, which are from the Old Testament, but John simplifies this by saying that there are just two commandments, to believe in the name of Jesus Christ and to love one another as he told us to. If we put these two into practice God lives in us and we in him.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)**

THE POLITICS WE NEED

177. Here I would once more observe that "politics must not be subject to the economy, nor should the economy be subject to the dictates of an efficiency-driven paradigm of technocracy".
158 Although misuse of power, corruption, disregard for law and inefficiency must clearly be rejected, "economics without politics cannot be justified, since this would make it impossible to favour other ways of handling the various aspects of the present crisis".
159 Instead, "what is needed is a politics which is far-sighted and capable of a new, integral and interdisciplinary approach to handling the different aspects of the crisis".
160 In other words, a "healthy politics... capable of reforming and coordinating institutions, promoting best practices and overcoming undue pressure and bureaucratic inertia".
161 We cannot expect economics to do this, nor can we allow economics to take over the real power of the state.

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

159. *Ibid.*, 196: AAS 107 (2015), 925.

160. *Ibid.*, 197: AAS 107 (2015), 925.

161. *Ibid.*, 181: AAS 107 (2015), 919.

The Fire of Love*

BECOMING A CONTEMPLATIVE (1)

Reaching contemplation does not happen overnight. First of all, our heart must be set on fire with the torch of eternal love. Tasting the sweetness and feeling the warmth of contemplation we can almost die from the excess of love we feel within ourselves, for we are held tightly in the embrace of eternal love.

However, we are still able to sin, for only in heaven will we be confirmed in sinlessness. Certainly, we can be tempted and feel the pull of sin. Nevertheless, I think that those who are on the way to perfection and continue to make an effort to overcome sinful desires and actions can see heaven as it were with their inward eye.

If we take a hold of this closeness to heaven, we can live by its sweetness and glory in jubilant song. Only those who reach this state can know its sweetness and die in safety.

To attain stability of mind and heart, prayer is a great help. Christ gave us a true example of prayer when we read in the Gospels that he went up the mountain to pray and spent the whole night in prayer. We are to ask, seek, knock, so that we will receive likewise (cf Lk. 18: 1).

*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

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Second Collection for Church Maintenance Funds)

Sat 27th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration and Reconciliation
Sun 28th	9am	St George's —	Mina Bromfield 90th Birthday
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon 29th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 30th	10am	St George's—	Anne Eamer RIP
Wed 1st	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Dorothy Blake RIP
Thurs 2nd	10am	St George's —	In Thanksgiving
Fri 3rd	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Chris Fenn RIP

Sixth Sunday of Easter

(Collection next week for World Communications Sunday)

Sat 4th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration and Reconciliation
Sun 5th	9am	St George's —	Jenni Duder-Rumsey RIP
	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 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:

**Hail Mary, full of grace the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.**

The Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday evening went very well; please God, it is preparing us as well as possible for our future. At the heart of this is the need to become communities of faith. In order to do this the ministries of the church are most important. We will establish a structure to develop these ministries. Clearly this calls for a syllabus and a time frame to be established, so that all can play a full part in the life and liturgy of the church.

I just received a letter from Bishop Richard confirming that Fr Kevin Dring has been appointed as Moderator of the Moderated Parish for the communities currently making up the Eastbourne and St Leonards Deanery. I know you will join with him in continuing to develop the Pastoral Plan across the communities involved.

Fr Rory

Father Rory's Golden Jubilee Celebration - Sunday 14th July

This year in June, Father Rory celebrates 50 years as a priest and almost a third of those have seen our parish blessed to have him with us. Father will be away in June on a celebratory cruise so we plan to postpone our celebrations with him until Sunday 14th July. In line with Father's generosity he has requested that this be a day of worship, charity and enjoying time together as a parish community. The day will start with Sunday mass in both our churches, followed by a Parish Sponsored Walk from St Wilfrid's to St George's along our much loved cuckoo trail (just three miles for those able to walk). On arrival at St George's benediction and adoration will be held in church and finally everyone will be treated to a delicious Afternoon Tea (helpers and bakers needed). Please put this date in your diary and ensure you and your family join us on the day.

Walk for young people (Age 16+), Saturday 25th May, 9.30am to 4.30pm, commencing from St Wilfrid's Church, Hailsham. Can anyone who is able to help with this walk please get in touch; email garyobrien4@yahoo.co.uk, Tel: 07707513847.

Table Sale St George's - We urgently need quality items for our table sale, new and nearly new. This table sale raises significant amounts to our monthly charity and also to assist in Youth Activities throughout the year. Please leave bags marked table sale at the back of St George's church.

Parish Over 50's Club: Our next afternoon tea will be Thursday 30th May at 2pm.

A Year of Encounter: With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on Saturday 4th May to learn more.

Dates for your Diary:

Sat 27th April, 3.30pm - South Downs Singers Concert, St G's
Sun 28th April, 10am - Community Charity Breakfast, St G's.
Tue 7th May, 6pm - Holy Communion Session, St W's Hall.
Sun 19th May, After Mass - St Wilfrid's Parish Mtg, St W's.
Tue 21st May, 6pm - Holy Communion Session, St W's Hall.
Thur 30th May, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
Fri 31st May, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall.
Sun 14th July, Golden Jubilee Celebration/Sponsored Walk.

Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults Training (face to face): Thursday 23rd May at Our Lady of Ransom Parish Hall, Grange Rd, Eastbourne, 1.30pm - 3.30pm (This training is also available on-line). This training is a Diocesan requirement for those working with children/vulnerable adults. Please contact Maria on 07873759962 if you would like to attend or need further information.

Parish Charity Breakfast: Our next date will be **Today**, Sunday 28th April after St George's 9am mass - All welcome invite friends and family, they are welcome just to attend breakfast or join for mass also. The charity we are supporting this month is Mary's Meals.

Urgent - St Wilfrid's: We urgently need more volunteers to help with keeping our beautiful church spick and span. We are looking for 2 hours of your time once a month. Even whole families could take this on as there are plenty of tasks children can be involved in. Please see Maria Hills at the back of the church on Sunday or ring on 07873759962. Thank you.

Selden College, A new Christian university: soon to open in the UK. Regional Meeting to take place on Fri 10th May, 10.30am—2.30pm, Victoria Baptist Church, 7 Eldon Road, Eastbourne. For more information contact Merce on 07855452741.

The South Downs Singers Spring Concert on Saturday 27th April at 3.30pm. St George's Church. Tickets £10 on the door or by calling 01323 832767.

Sunday 21st April - Mass Attendance:
St Wilfrid's 110 St George's 68