

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Cf. Ps 26:7-9

**O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;  
of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;  
hide not your face from me, alleluia.**

**THE COLLECT**

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,  
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race  
is with you in your glory,  
may experience, as he promised,  
until the end of the world,  
his abiding presence among us.  
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. 1:15-17. 20-26

One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers - there were  
about a hundred and twenty persons in the congregation:  
'Brothers, the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which  
the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of  
Judas, who offered himself as a guide to the men who arrested  
Jesus

- after having been one of our number and actually sharing this  
ministry of ours.

'In the Book of Psalms it says:  
Let someone else take his office.

'We must therefore choose someone who has been with us  
the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling around with  
us, someone who was with us right from the time when John  
was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us - and  
he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.'

Having nominated two candidates, Joseph known as  
Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias, they  
prayed, 'Lord, you can read everyone's heart; show us  
therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over this  
ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his  
proper place.' They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell  
to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****PSALM**

Ps 102:1-2. 11-12. 19-20. R.v.19

**R) The Lord has set his sway in heaven.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord;  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **(R)**

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins. **(R)**

The Lord has set his sway in heaven  
and his kingdom is ruling over all.  
Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels,  
mighty in power, fulfilling his word. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of St John 4:11-16

My dear people,  
since God has loved us so much,  
we too should love one another.  
No one has ever seen God;  
but as long as we love one another  
God will live in us  
and his love will be complete in us.  
We can know that we are living with him  
and he is living in us  
because he lets us share his Spirit.  
We ourselves saw and we testify

that the Father sent his Son  
as saviour of the world.  
If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,  
God lives in him, and he in God.  
We ourselves have known and put our faith in  
God's love towards ourselves.  
God is love  
and anyone who lives in love  
lives in God,  
and God lives in him.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! cf. Jn 14:18

**I will not leave your orphans, says the Lord;  
I will come back to you,  
and your hearts will be full of joy.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

The Lord be with you. John 17:11-19

**And with your spirit.**

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

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father,  
keep those you have given me true to your name,  
so that they may be one like us.

While I was with them,  
I kept those you had given me true to your name.  
I have watched over them and not one is lost  
except the one who chose to be lost,  
and this was to fulfil the scriptures.

But now I am coming to you  
and while still in the world I say these things  
to share my joy with them to the full.

I passed your word on to them,  
and the world hated them,  
because they belong to the world  
no more than I belong to the world.  
I am not asking you to remove them from the world,  
but to protect them from the evil one.

They do not belong to the world  
any more than I belong to the world.  
Consecrate them in the truth;  
your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world,  
I have sent them into the world,  
and for their sake I consecrate myself  
so that they too may be consecrated in truth.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful  
with the sacrificial offerings,  
that through these acts of devotedness  
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

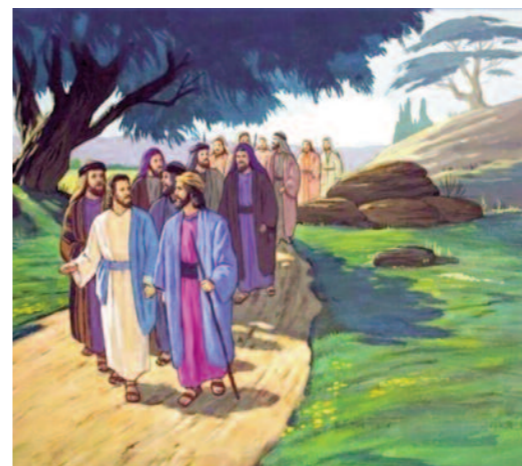
**Father, I pray that they may be one  
as we also are one, alleluia.** Jn 17:22

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Hear us, O God our Saviour,  
and grant us confidence,  
that through these sacred mysteries  
there will be accomplished in the body of the whole Church  
what has already come to pass in Christ her Head.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



The Gospel of John has a different  
quality to that of the so-called  
synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark  
and Luke. It deals especially with  
the relationship between Jesus and  
the Father. Jesus came on this earth,  
because it was the will of the Father.

He dies on a cross, because it is  
the will of the Father. Today's  
Gospel is nothing other than  
Jesus' prayer to the Father. He  
knows now that he will soon be  
'returning' to the Father and he  
wants to protect his followers  
from the 'evil one'. He is not  
asking the Father to remove us  
from the world, but to  
consecrate them in the truth.  
Here Jesus is talking about all  
of us, Christians of the 21st  
century. As Christians we are  
'in' the world, but not 'of' it.

But what does that mean? And how  
can we be consecrated in the truth?  
First of all, we must live in such a  
way that we see this earthly life as a  
preparation for the real life, the life  
with God in paradise. The world  
tries to persuade us that riches and

material possessions are what life is  
all about. If we are 'consecrated in  
the truth', we know the real meaning  
of life. The devil. The Prince of this  
world is the Master of Lies. There are  
so many situations in the world  
today where lies are presented as  
truth and truth as lies. If we have  
been consecrated in the truth, we  
have the strength to see through all  
the falsehoods that are being  
presented to us as the truth. Thus we  
can be a light in the darkness for a  
society which has lost its way.

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

### THE POLITICS WE NEED

179. Global society is suffering from grave  
structural deficiencies that cannot be  
resolved by piecemeal solutions or quick  
fixes. Much needs to change, through  
fundamental reform and major renewal.  
Only a healthy politics, involving the  
most diverse sectors and skills, is capable  
of overseeing this process. An economy  
that is an integral part of a political, social,  
cultural and popular programme directed  
to the common good could pave the way  
for "different possibilities which do not  
involve stifling human creativity and its  
ideals of progress, but rather directing  
that energy along new channels".<sup>164</sup>

<sup>164</sup> Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* (24 May 2015), 191: AAS  
107 (2015), 923.



### The Fire of Love\*

#### THE PURGING EFFECTS OF THE FIRE OF LOVE



When the fire of love has taken hold of us, it enables us  
to put away all vice, all that is trivial and unnecessary,  
and creates beauty in every virtue. The tendency to small  
sins may remain, yet the fire of love will eventually burn  
up even sins of which we are unaware.

We have to be ready to give up everything that does not  
lead us to God, for God will have nothing to do with a  
divided heart.

Loving God and delighting in him enables us to delight  
in the present world as well. For what is more delightful  
than praising Jesus, nothing more delectable than  
hearing him. We can rejoice therefore as if saying:

We are wanting your honour and glory.

We are rejoicing in your delights.

The pleasures of mere vanity have been put away.

And although we cannot yet see your face our longing is  
still so ardent that, were we to live for ever like this, we  
would seek no other object of our love.

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



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



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

## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### Seventh Sunday of Easter (Collection Today for World Communications Sunday)

Sat	11th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration and Reconciliation
Sun	12th	9am	St George's —	Repose Soul of Sonia Villaluna
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	13th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	14th	10am	St George's—	David Rudd RIP
Wed	15th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Bridie's Intention
Thurs	16th	10am	St George's —	In Thanksgiving
Fri	17th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Anniversary of Simon Davis RIP

#### Pentecost

#### (Collection next week for Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese)

Sat	18th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration and Reconciliation
Sun	19th	9am	St George's —	Filomena Forte RIP (1st Anniversary)
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Encinas Family 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#\\_=\\_](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:

**Next Sunday we celebrate the Great Feast of Pentecost**

“Pour forth we beseech thee O Lord thy grace, into our hearts that we to whom the incarnation of Christ was made known by the message of an angel”.

I continue to return to the seed that has to be sown, then the saplings start to grow; cultivation plays such an important part. A time comes when that participation becomes a critical part as in the natural order of our lives, nourishment plays an essential part. To stop or to neglect to nourish a body has a large effect, sometimes critical. We have reached the second stage in our plans for baptism, and from this all the ministries must flow and continue to develop and grow. When we were in the seminary the R.C.I.A. process was continually brought to our attention. Unfortunately all our parishes were not prepared for it, and maybe parish priests not prepared to listen.

Please God, after a lot of work I have persons within our parish community and with the help of the parish council, we are beginning to respond to the great challenge that is before us. Bob Waters highlighted the importance of the challenge that Pope Francis was introducing when he introduced the Synod. Our work with baptism preparation is the key step into our response to the work that Bishop Richard has established with a plan for the diocese.

*Fr Rory*

**Womble Day (The Parish big help out) Sat June 1st, 10-4pm.**

Both St Wilfrid's and St George's desperately need your help to garden, clean, tidy etc. There are also several maintenance tasks for those who are good with tools and paint brushes. We are currently creating a list of jobs: some small, some a little bigger, but enough for us all to have something to volunteer for on the day. More details to follow but please save the date and ask your family to join us if they can- even if only for half an hour. Many hands make light work - don't assume others will do it. Refreshments will be provided.

**Crowning our lady** is part of all our parish tradition and children's liturgy focus in May. Last week at St Wilfrid's the children had a Godly play session focusing on the wonders of Our Mother Mary and then crowned her during mass. This week at St George's our children will make the flower crown for our lady's statue in the remembrance garden and we invite everyone to join them in song while they crown her.

**The Parish Rosary Group** meets every Monday at 2pm in St George's Hall (not bank holidays). Everyone is welcome to join as a regular or occasional member to Pray the Rosary a most wonderful devotion together. May is the Month of Our Lady so a good time to start.

**Church Flowers:** Are you able to spare an hour once or twice a month to help with the floral decorations at St Wilfrid's? Please speak to Agata Wiktor or Jean Barham if you are able to volunteer to become part of our valuable team.

**Dates for your Diary:**

Sun 12th May, After Mass - St Wilfrid's Parish Mtg, St W's.  
Tue 21st May, 6pm - Holy Communion Session, St W's Hall.  
Sun 26th May, 10am - Community Charity Breakfast, St G's.  
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.  
Sat 1st June, 10am-4pm - Womble Day, St W's & St G's  
Sun 9th June, 9am - 1st Holy Communion, St G's Church.  
Sat 15th June, 11am - Confirmation, OLR  
Sun 16th June, 10.30am - 1st Holy Communion, St W's Church.  
Sun 14th July, Golden Jubilee Celebration/Sponsored Walk.

**Father Rory's Golden Jubilee Celebration - Sunday**

**14th July:** A fun packed day with celebration masses at both St Wilfrid's and St George's, sponsored walk, delicious afternoon tea. More details to follows.

**The young people's walk on May 25th** has been postponed till September/October, due to no one informing the organiser that they are coming.

Please keep all our deanery First Holy Communion candidates and Confirmands in your prayers as they finalise their preparations during May/June to then receive the sacraments in June.

**St Wilfrid's Garden Maintenance:** We are looking for some extra volunteers to help maintain our beautiful gardens here at St Wilfrid's. Various tasks; mowing, pruning back brushes, weeding, tidying up the car park areas. This is especially important this year, so we look spick and span for our jubilee celebrations in July. Speak to Jackie on 841504

**Parish Over 50's Club:** Our next afternoon tea will be Thursday 30th May at 2-4pm.

**Parish Charity Breakfast:** Our next date will be Sun 26th May after St George's 9am mass - All welcome. This months charity will be RNLI.

**Gift Aid Donor Statements:** All Gift Aid statements for the tax year 2023/24 will be sent out by the end of May. In order to reduce the costs of stationery and postage we are requesting that all donors (envelope and standing order) opt to have their letter issued by email. In order to do this could you please send your email details through to the Parish Secretary so that our records can be updated. Please state in the title of the email "Gift Aid Donor Contact Details" for either St George's or St Wilfrid's and send to [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com)

**Sunday 5th May - Mass Attendance:**

St Wilfrid's 118                      St George's 80