

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 48:20

**Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.**

THE COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of
joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him,
knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him
up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to
realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that
anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is
right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on
all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter
were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be
poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them
speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of
God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water
of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy
Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them
to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they
begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 97:1-4. R.v2

R) The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **(R)**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **(R)**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John 4:7-10

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:

not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!'**

GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

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:
'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;

I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,

no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 14:15-16

**If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another
Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel reinforces that of
last Sunday and takes it a step
further. Here Jesus talks about 'his'

commandment: "love one another
as I have loved you." And how did
Jesus love us? He actually gave his
life for us. As we can see from the
news, there are still plenty of places
in the world where Christians are
literally giving their lives, or where
their lives are being taken from
them. But there are many ways in
which we can give our lives out of
love for our brothers and sisters,
not in a literal sense, but in a still
meaningful way. How can we 'give
our lives' for our brothers and
sisters on a daily basis. We can do
that with our children when they
want us to play with them,
especially when we feel exhausted
ourselves. We can put down the

newspaper or turn off the television
when our husband or wife wants to
talk to us. We can offer to do
household chores when we really
just want to put our feet up. The
more we are able to 'deny' ourselves
in order to love others, the deeper
our relationship with God
becomes. If we live our lives at the
service of our brothers and sisters,
we are truly following in the
footsteps of Jesus.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



THE POLITICS WE NEED

178. In the face of many petty forms of politics
focused on immediate interests, I would repeat
that "true statecraft is manifest when, in
difficult times, we uphold high principles and
think of the long-term common good. Political
powers do not find it easy to assume this duty
in the work of nation-building",¹⁶² much less
in forging a common project for the human
family, now and in the future. Thinking of
those who will come after us does not serve
electoral purposes, yet it is what authentic
justice demands. As the Bishops of Portugal
have taught, the earth "is lent to each
generation, to be handed on to the generation
that follows".¹⁶³

162. Ibid., 178: AAS 107 (2015), 918.
163. PORTUGUESE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, Pastoral Letter
Responsabilidade Solidária pelo Bem Comum (15 September 2003),
20; cf. Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' (24 May 2015), 159: AAS 107
(2015), 911.

The Fire of Love* BECOMING A CONTEMPLATIVE (2)

Prayer kindles the fire of love within us. The prophet says: 'Are
not my words as a burning fire, and as a hammer for breaking
stones? (Jer. 23: 29) And the psalmist adds: 'Your promise is
refined in the fire' (Ps. 119: 140).

We have to pray and meditate with a perfect heart and not be lazy
and indifferent about our prayer. We need to meditate ceaselessly
on the Word of God and model our lives on it. To pray also
means to busy ourselves with good works, always praying,
reading, meditating, or doing other useful things to keep us from
idleness. We must watch in prayer and not allow ourselves to fall
asleep. Pray therefore with watchfulness, care and love.

The active life is good and we need it, but the contemplative life
is better. However, if we can live both action and contemplation
with real perfection, doing everything for, with and in God, we
will be truly blessed. Most are called to one or the other kind of
life, and we each have our own gifts. Contemplation needs a lot
of spiritual work, but it gives us peace and inner quiet, so it is
worth labouring for. High office in the Church is no guarantee
of high spiritual giftedness. In fact, practical people are needed
and are often called to labour for God, but their very activity
precludes them from reaching the contemplative state. Christ and
his mother obviously managed both but they are a special case.

*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

Website: www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk

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

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

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
Mon	6th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	7th	10am	St George's—	Tom McCann RIP, 5th Anniversary
Wed	8th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Don, Vera & Alan Koolman RIP
Thurs	9th	10am	St George's —	Doreen Birks RIP
Fri	10th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Donor's Intention

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

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:

A focus for our prayer.

Back on the road again to give our attention to this special and important time of our year.

The Ascension of Our Divine Lord into Heaven, and the out pouring of the Holy Spirit at the Great Feast of Pentecost, provides us with the power of the Holy Spirit to help us to bear true witness to our faith.

Almighty and ever living God, you raised up your son, Jesus Christ, when we afflicted Him with all our sins so having Him crucified. Now that you have raised Him to life, and life of the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon us, so that we may receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and self control. Help us to become more responsible as the people of God, growing in the ministries of the church at this time. Through your Holy Spirit we may become communities of faith, growing in the ministries. At the present time we are especially focused upon the ministry of welcome, and ministries of the eucharist, equally aware of ministry of the word, ministry of music; of formation, of social care and action.

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.

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.

Race Night at St Wilfrid's: Thank you to all those who helped and supported the race night last Friday. £490 was raised which will go towards a new laptop for our Secretary Jackie.

Great News! Selden College, a new Christian university, is soon to open in the UK. The dean, Timothy Edwards, will be in Eastbourne, to talk about "Building a culture of Christian education" and "How to think as Christians about higher education". Selden College will offer a degree in Liberal Arts, in Oxford. Timothy Edwards, will talk to all of us at a regional meeting for the South East, on Fri 10th May, from 10:30am to 2:30pm at The Victoria Baptist Church, 7 Eldon Road, Eastbourne BN21 1UE. This event will run in two sessions. Session 1(10:30am-12:00pm) "Building a Culture of Christian Education", with a focus on school-age Christian education. Talk, followed by Q&A. Lunch break (12:00pm-1:00pm) Session 2 (1:00-2:30pm) "How to Think as Christians about Higher Education", providing specific details about Selden College. Talk, followed by Q&A. Tim is looking forward to talking to Colleges, parents & Christian institutions in the South East, willing to support and promote a culture of Christian education in the UK. Please, contact us to confirm your attendance and support Timothy with this much needed establishment. In Christ we trust, Mercè +44 (0)7855 452741.

Important Notice - for health and safety reasons no donations for St George's table sale should be left outside the hall or church. Donations need to be new or nearly new and suitable to sit on a table for sale. They should be left inside the back of the church or on the hall stage. Thank you to everyone for your support of our sales table both donating and purchasing, all money raised is split between our monthly charity and our youth activities.

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

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.

Child Protection/Vulnerable Adults Training (face to face): Thur 23rd May at Our Lady of Ransom Parish Hall, Grange Rd, Eastbourne, 1.30-3.30pm (Training is also available on-line). This training is a Diocesan requirement for those working with children/vulnerable adults. Please contact Maria on 07873 759962 if you would like to attend/need further info.

Dates for your Diary:

Tue 7th May, 6pm - Holy Communion Session, St W's Hall.
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.
Sun 14th July, Golden Jubilee Celebration/Sponsored Walk.

Sunday 28th April - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 116 St George's 83