

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Cf. Ps 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**THE COLLECT**

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful  
to unite in a single purpose,  
grant your people to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,  
our hearts may be fixed on that place  
where true gladness is found.  
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 Joshua

24:1-2.15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God and serving other Gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps 33:2-3.16-23. R.v9

**R) Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R)**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal. **(R)**

They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **(R)**

Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken. **(R)**

Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her

holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Your words are spirit, Lord,**  
**and they are life:**  
**you have the message of eternal life.**  
**Alleluia!**

Cf. Jn 6:63.68

**GOSPEL**

John 6:60-69

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

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.  
The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption  
through the one sacrifice offered once for all,  
bestow graciously on us, we pray,  
the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. Jn 6:54

**Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood**  
**has eternal life, says the Lord,**  
**and I will raise him up on the last day.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray,  
the healing work of your mercy  
and graciously perfect and sustain us,  
so that in all things we may please you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Here we come to the crunch. Jesus has done his best to explain divine realities to the people but they reject them. They cannot let go of their mundane experiences to take on board the deep spiritual realities Jesus is offering them.

This is tendency we all have. We must be careful not to let our purely human way of reasoning block the possibility of God speaking to us and taking into an altogether different experience. Somehow we have to take the risk and try to enter the divine way of thinking which is on a completely different plane. Many people today, just as when Jesus was alive, refuse the offer to enter into a relationship with Jesus and through him, with the Father. Many of his disciples left him, just as many leave him today. There are many reasons why we

do not understand what Jesus is saying, many distractions that take our mind of the only question that really matters: what are we here on earth for? Let us pray that every time we are 'derailed' in this way, Jesus will find a way of getting us back on track.



### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



## FRUITFULNESS OVER RESULTS

194. Politics too must make room for a tender love of others. "What is tenderness? It is love that draws near and becomes real. A movement that starts from our heart and reaches the eyes, the ears and the hands... Tenderness is the path of choice for the strongest, most courageous men and women".<sup>191</sup> Amid the daily concerns of political life, "the smallest, the weakest, the poorest should touch our hearts: indeed, they have a 'right' to appeal to our heart and soul. They are our brothers and sisters, and as such we must love and care for them".<sup>192</sup>

[191] Video Message to the TED Conference in Vancouver (26 April 2017): L'Osservatore Romano, 27 April 2017, p. 7.

[192] General Audience (18 February 2015): L'Osservatore Romano, 19 February 2015, p. 8.

### The Fire of Love\*

#### A MEDITATION ON THE PASSION (3)

The throng of people pulled you and dragged you along without any respect. They kicked you with their feet as if you were a dog. In my mind's eye, I can see you walking so pitifully, your body all bloodied, blistered and beaten raw. The thorn crown is so sharp, pressing upon your head.

Your lovely face is pallid and swollen from the punching, hitting and spitting. I shudder to look at you. They have made you look more like a leper than a healthy man. Your cross is so heavy, high and rigid, and they have lashed it tightly onto your bare back.

How you groaned dear Lord, so pitifully and agonisingly did your cross press upon the bone. Your poor body is ailing, enfeebled, exhausted from lack of food and being kept awake all last night without sleep. You are so overwhelmed by flogging and punching that you walk stooped right over and with a tense face. Where the cross rubs against your back, the skin is raw and swelling with huge bruises. Every footstep you take stabs at your heart.

\*Augustine of Hippo Edited by Oliver Davies Published by New City



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JG

Tel: (01323) 841504

(Answerphone service available)

Email: [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk)

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

## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 24th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Closed
Sun 25th	9am	St George's —	Rosamma Mathew RIP
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Christine RIP
Mon 26th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 27th	10am	St George's—	Colin Bullock RIP
Wed 28th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Fr Rory's Intention
Thurs 29th	10am	St George's —	Peter Carton RIP
Fri 30th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention

#### Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

##### (Collection for Church Maintenance Funds Today)

Sat 31st	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Prayers and Confessions
Sun 1st	9am	St George's —	Colin Bullock 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#\\_=\\_](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, Peter Andrews, Graham, Pamela Swanston, Jean and Chris Littlewood.

#### 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:****“Another Outing”**

Last week I shared our experience of a visit to see Elizabeth Robinson, which was a great moment of grace amidst all the adversities of life. She was a blessing and a joy to visit. Reminiscing on moments from the past, and the special contributions of Peter and Sophie from confirmation preparation, plus treasured memories from our past.

This week I am about to set out on a much longer venture, when we will visit Fr Jerry Twomey in York. He was ordained with me at Thurles in June, fifty years ago. We joined the seminary together, six years earlier. I look forward to sharing with him treasured moments from that time. We were very blessed with aspects of our experiences, and one of the professors was a true treasure that can never be taken away. Other aspects were fit for purpose, and we looked forward to a rewarding time of ministry in the church.

I am afraid that was not sadly how it turned out and continues to be echoed in the times we are living. The seminaries are closed (a sign of not fit for purpose) some will not be pleased by the reminder. Fr Jerry’s health has let him down, so he has made the decision to retire. I am really looking forward to our time of sharing. I am hoping and praying that this visit will be equally rewarding as the one with Elizabeth. In fact I am sure it will be a great help and I am looking forward to it. Please God, it will help to open my eyes to see the beam in my own eyes before attempting to take out the splinters in other peoples eyes. Also, help me as I look forward to our future following on the moderated plans in Fr Kevins letter, laying out the focus for our future. Please continue to give the letter the care and attention that it requires.

*Fr Rory*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024-25**

**First Communion Preparation:** Parents are invited to enrol their children for our First Holy Communion Programme 2024 - 25 (those entering Year 3 or above). Application forms to join the programme are available at the back of the church and on the parish website. The course will begin with an introductory meeting for parents on September 25th at 6.00pm in St Wilfrid’s Church Hall. **Deadline for enrolment is September 15th.** For more information, please contact Teresa Palmer. 07951082592, [tpalmer2205@gmail.com](mailto:tpalmer2205@gmail.com)

**VOLUNTEER CATECHISTS & CHILDRENS LITURGY ASSISTANTS (ST WILFRID’S)**

As we are about to commence our new year of Children’s Liturgy and sacramental preparation, we give thanks to all those who freely give of their time to support this most valuable ministry.

Our Sacramental preparation programmes and Children’s Liturgy sessions are dependent on the number of volunteers available. Going forward, we only have 2 catechists available at St Wilfrid’s to run both of these programmes and without further support it may not be possible to offer a Children’s Liturgy session every Sunday in term time. One DBS checked adult catechist is needed for every eight children to meet the child safeguarding regulations.

If you are willing to give a little of your precious time, want to learn more about your faith and share it with others, then please email Jackie at [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com) or speak to Teresa or Annette. We would especially like to encourage parents to consider joining our team so that we can continue to offer this service to your children. Prior experience is not necessary, support and training will be provided.

**Dates for your Diary:**

Thur 29th Aug, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50’s Club, St W’s Hall.  
 Sun 1st Sept, Lourdes Pilgrimage Reunion, St W’s Sch, Crawley  
 Sun 8th Sept, St Wilfrid’s Parish Meeting, After Mass, St W’s.  
 Sat 21st Sept, Catechists Day at Worth Abbey School.  
 Sun 22nd Sept, St Wilfrid’s Childrens Liturgy Returns.  
 Fri 27th Sept, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W’s Hall.  
 Sun 29th Sept, 10am - Community Charity Breakfast, St G’s.  
 Sun 29th Sept, 10.30am - St W’s Harvest Festival, St W’s Church

**Fr Rory’s 75th Birthday:** Fr Rory celebrates his 75th birthday on September 24th and what better way to celebrate this than by joining us for a sponsored walk along the Cuckoo trail on Sun Sept 29th? You may recall that Fr Rory had hoped we would all walk with him along this trail that links our two churches together as part of his golden Jubilee celebrations. Sadly, this event was postponed due to the closure of the Cuckoo trail for that weekend. We will set off at 3pm from St George’s Car Park Polegate and walk via the Cuckoo Trail to St Wilfrid’s Hailsham (approx. 3miles). At St Wilfrid’s we will be greeted with warm hospitality and a delicious birthday tea. Sponsor forms will be available soon at the back of church. Please gather as many sponsors as you can from friends and family. We are raising funds for CAFOD. If you are unable to walk please come and celebrate the birthday tea with us at 4pm .

**St George’s Fire Drill - Sun 15th Sept.** The Diocese recommend that we have a fire drill at least annually. Although we are giving notice of it, to ensure it is as authentic as possible, following consultation with Fr Rory, it will take place during Mass, prior to the offertory procession. Appointed fire stewards will ensure prompt evacuation of both the church and hall where children’s liturgy will be taking place. The evacuation assembly point is on the pavement, Eastbourne Road, right in front of the church. Afterwards, we will return to the church and continue with Mass. It is very important that as a community we know how to evacuate safely. The weekend before, during the notices announcement slot, there will be a short talk on the fire drill.

**St George’s Hall:** Mon 26th Aug 10am - 5pm - Board Games Enthusiasts Fair. This is a charity event for Demelza, the children’s hospice. All welcome.

**Sunday 18th August - Mass Attendance:**

St Wilfrid’s 146                      St George’s TBC