

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

THE COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
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 Prophet Jeremiah.

33:14-16

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 25(24):4-5b.8-9.10,14.R.1b

R. To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O LORD, make me know your ways.
Teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
for you are the God of my salvation.

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgement;
to the humble he teaches his way.

All the LORD's paths are mercy and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and commands.
The LORD's secret is for those who fear him;
to them he reveals his covenant.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Finally, then, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia.

Psalm 85(84):8

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

'But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Stand

Cf. Ps 24:1-3

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

R. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Or:

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate
devoutly here below,
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Ps 84:13

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,
you teach us by them to love the things of heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Stand

All bow

All bow

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The opening sentence of today's Gospel could almost be a description of our world, affected as it is by global warming. The floods, the hurricanes and tsunamis which we have been seeing can make us wonder if the end of the world is nigh. Then Jesus gives us a stern warning about not living a debauched or drunken life. He tells to "stay awake". In other words, we must be very careful that we reform our ways, because we do not know when the end will come for us. He even goes on to say that we should "pray for the strength to

survive all that is going to happen." This is a very hard Gospel, but Jesus knows us very well and if the gentle approach doesn't have the desired effect, then something stronger is required. The important thing to remember is that the Gospels are not just aimed at the people of 2,000 years ago, but that they are equally necessary for all of us today.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

THE BASIS OF
CONSENSUS

208. We need to learn how to unmask the various ways that the truth is manipulated, distorted and concealed in public and private discourse. What we call "truth" is not only the reporting of facts and events, such as we find in the daily papers. It is primarily the search for the solid foundations sustaining our decisions and our laws. This calls for acknowledging that the human mind is capable of transcending immediate concerns and grasping certain truths that are unchanging, as true now as in the past. As it peers into human nature, reason discovers universal values derived from that same nature..

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

The Gospel goes on to remind us that children are not the property of a family, but have their own lives to lead. Jesus is a model of obedience to his earthly parents, placing himself under their charge (cf. Lk 2:51), but he also shows that children's life decisions and their Christian vocation may demand a parting for the sake of the Kingdom of God (cf. Mt 10:34-37; Lk 9:59-62). Jesus himself, at twelve years of age, tells Mary and Joseph that he has a greater mission to accomplish apart from his earthly family (cf. Lk 2:48-50). In this way, he shows the need for other, deeper bonds even within the family: "My mother and my brethren are those who hear the word of God and do it" (Lk 8:21). All the same, in the concern he shows for children – whom the societies of the ancient Near East viewed as subjects without particular rights and even as family property – Jesus goes so far as to present them as teachers, on account of their simple trust and spontaneity towards others. "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18:3-4).



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



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ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

First Sunday of Advent

Sat	30th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun	1st	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Edmund Ginn RIP
Mon	2nd	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	3rd	10am	St George's—	Donor's Intention
Wed	4th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Deceased Relatives & Friends of Judy Davis
Thur	5th	11am	St George's —	Requiem Mass for Peter Andrews
Fri	6th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Mary Harnett RIP

Second Sunday of Advent

Sat	7th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
		5pm	St Wilfrid's -	First Reconciliation Service
Sun	8th	9am	St George's —	Yvonne Lodrick's Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Enza Riddiford RIP

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 hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk, 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

Amy Jenkins, Lily May, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne Holt, Margaret, Rosie Tuson, Lilian Summers, 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, Letty Booth, Thomas Pailey, Richard Streeter, Patricia Delaney, Graham, Pamela Swanston, Jean & Chris Littlewood, Michael O'Regan and George Eames.

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:

“Christmas is coming”

A very fading memory from Christmas in my “childhood”.

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat, please put a penny in the old man’s hat. If you haven’t a penny half penny will do, and if you haven’t half a penny, well God bless you. When I was a child there were people who didn’t have a penny and the poem applied to them. **The focus was upon the crib in the stable; very sincere and very much the heart of Christmas.** Since last Christmas the focus on Palestine and the people of Palestine highlights the message of the children who lost their lives during the time of the flight of the Holy family into Egypt. This was brought about by the forces of Herod. The truth is the same today as the forces of evil always seek the opportunity to inflict death and destruction upon the innocent. Our constant need remains for God’s salvation, otherwise the constant power of evil continues to prevail.

In our preparation for Christmas, so we are presented with the challenge that is bringing upheaval to our parishes. Bishop Richard has been preparing a plan for our Diocese, which is a work in progress. A lot of progress has been made and now it is our time to respond to this situation. We need to adapt. Our present situation has been impacted by the limited number of priests. This is not likely to change, so the priests will cover the different church communities. Each community will have much more responsibility to develop and grow.

For ourselves I think we are as prepared and ready, so it is time to implement this. The challenge presented to us is that we are expected to provide the results of an audit this coming Friday, so priority must be given to this. Jackie is ready to work to provide this audit, but we need to have names and contact details (email & phone number).

Present Bags at St Wilfrid’s: Following last years successful “Choose a Bag” £1 Children, £2 Adults, after our Carol Service on Saturday 14th December at 3pm, we shall have mulled wine, tea, coffee and refreshments in our hall plus our popular “Choose a Bag”. For this we shall need lots of bags please, either empty or filled. There will be a box in the church porch to receive these please. Thank you in advance.

Carol Service at St Wilfrid's will take place at 3pm on 15th December followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the hall.

Parish Christmas Lunch: Wednesday 18th December at the Kings Head, Hellingly. 12noon, £25 per person, cash only please, this includes a tip. Pay when booking to ensure a place and menu. Contact Sally Riley or Judy Davis after Sunday and weekday masses in the church porch or in St Wilfrid’s Hall. Thank you.

South Downs Singers Christmas Celebration Concert: Sat 14th December at 3.30pm at St. George’s Church, Tickets £10 on the door or pre-book by calling 01323 832767. There will be an opportunity to buy tickets after Mass each Sunday.

Dates for your Diary:

Sat 30th Nov, 3-6pm - Family Advent Workshop, St W’s Hall.
Wed 4th Dec, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.
Sat 7th Dec, 5pm - First Reconciliation Service, St W’s Church.
Sun 15th Dec, 3pm - Carol Service, St W’s Church.
Thur 19th Dec, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50’s Club, St W’s Hall.
Sat 4th Jan, 3pm - Parish Epiphany Party followed by Vigil Mass at 5pm, St W’s Hall/Church.
Wed 8th Jan, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.

Parishioners at St Wilfrid’s have decided not to send each other Christmas cards this year but instead will donate the money to a local charity, “Warming Up The Homeless”. There will be a collection of these donations on Sunday 15th December toward their Golden Ticket Christmas Appeal, which asks for donations of £10 to take a child living in temporary accommodation to a pantomime and to give them some festive treats.

Date for your diary: Epiphany Party at St Wilfrid's for all parishioners at 3pm on 4th January 2025 followed by Vigil Mass at 5pm. More details to follow next week.

Service of Reconciliation will take place at St Wilfrid's at 5pm on Saturday 7th December. Please come along and support our First Holy Communion children as they undertake this important sacrament.

Elizabeth Robinson’s requiem mass took place on Thursday 28th November at St Mary Magdelene’s. Thank you to all who were able to attend, it was such a lovely service.

St George’s Church: Christmas Cards are now on sale

Parish Over 50’s Club:

Our next tea is Thurs 19th Dec, our Christmas Party. Time 2-4pm, price £10 includes everything. If you would like to join us, you will be very welcome. Just come along and enjoy yourself. For more info. please contact Joan on 07873390944.

Sunday 24th November - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid’s 131 St George’s 70