

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

THE COLLECT

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah. Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Fear not, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Isaiah 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6 R.6

R. Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Behold, God is my salvation!
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD is my strength and my praise,
and he has been my salvation.
With joy you will draw water
from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;
make known among the peoples his deeds;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing to the LORD for he has wrought wonders;
let this be known through all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the PhilippiansPhilippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

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

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not

Stand
Phil 4:4-5

Sit

R.

R.

R.

Stand
Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Luke 3:10-18

worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

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

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.
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

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what was begun in sacred mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Stand

All bow

All bow

Cf. Is 35:4

Stand

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today we see John at work, baptising them and answering their questions about how they should live. So impressed were they with John that they began to think that he might be the Christ,

the Messiah. But John is very clear with them, that his role is simply a preparatory one, and the Christ will come and baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. There have been many great Christian writers, theologians and preachers down the centuries. There are many in our world today. There have also been plenty of 'false' preachers, people who have charisma and talents, but whose motives are purely selfish. Many have been deceived

by them. We need to be careful to discern the genuine from the false. We need to watch how someone lives their life and whether it is consistent with what they preach. But the hallmark of any true disciple of Christ is humility. It is rare quality which is very difficult to replicate artificially.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS

210. What is now happening, and drawing us into a perverse and barren way of thinking, is the reduction of ethics and politics to physics. Good and evil no longer exist in themselves; there is only a calculus of benefits and burdens. As a result of the displacement of moral reasoning, the law is no longer seen as reflecting a fundamental notion of justice but as mirroring notions currently in vogue. Breakdown ensues: everything is "leveled down" by a superficial bartered consensus. In the end, the law of the strongest prevails.

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia LOVE IN THE FAMILY

Against this backdrop of love so central to the Christian experience of marriage and the family, another virtue stands out, one often overlooked in our world of frenetic and superficial relationships. It is tenderness. Let us consider the moving words of Psalm 131. As in other biblical texts (e.g., Ex 4:22; Is 49:15; Ps 27:10), the union between the Lord and his faithful ones is expressed in terms of parental love. Here we see a delicate and tender intimacy between mother and child: the image is that of a babe sleeping in his mother's arms after being nursed. As the Hebrew word gamul suggests, the infant is now fed and clings to his mother, who takes him to her bosom. There is a closeness that is conscious and not simply biological. Drawing on this image, the Psalmist sings: "I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child quieted at its mother's breast" (Ps 131:2). We can also think of the touching words that the prophet Hosea puts on God's lips: "When Israel was a child, I loved him... I took them up in my arms... I led them with cords of compassion, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them" (Hos 11:1, 3-4).

PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



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(Answerphone service available)

Email: hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk

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

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent

Sat 14th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 15th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	James Leslie Westcar RIP (17th Anniversary)
Mon 16th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 17th	10am	St George's—	Mervyn Lissenburg RIP
Wed 18th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Deceased Members of the Steele & Neyenhuizen Families RIP
Thur 19th	11am	St George's —	Funeral of Margaret (Dee) McNabb RIP
Fri 20th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Grace Verrill RIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 'O Rex Gentium'

Sat 21st	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 22nd	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Elizabeth Robinson 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, Thomas Guy, 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:

“Gaudete Sunday; Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice”

Often much easier said than done, so we constantly return to the First Advent Candle; the Candle of Hope, it gives great purpose to our Sunday liturgy. Now the work that is being put into our communities is beginning to bear fruit, so the more we rejoice is essential. This world will constantly bombard us with evidence that there is a Kingdom of darkness, so it is so important to give expression to the Kingdom of Light.

As you would expect in the natural order, we find greatest expression of this. Evidence and examples of this great importance; the Aurora Borealis gives great expression of this. We are provided with great evidence from their experience, because there is so much evidence recorded. Now in the light of God’s Holy Spirit at work in us, when from our parishes a joint meeting took place at OLR for a meeting with people in different ministries, sharing their experience and trying to establish a plan and a pattern for us to work together. In my heart I could only say this is what we should have been doing 30 year ago.

Fr Rory

Important Information: Please could I ask that all future correspondence be sent through to our new diocesan email address as follows:- **hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk** Thank you.

There will be an Epiphany Party at St Wilfrid's at 3pm on 4th January followed by a vigil mass at 5pm. Tickets are now available at the back of church. They are free but we ask you to only take one if are definitely able to attend as numbers are limited in the hall. Thank you.

Safeguarding for Children’s Liturgy and Altar Servers: As the new year approaches it is time to renew consent forms. These are an essential part of our safeguarding procedures. I will be in the hall after Mass for the next two Sundays to facilitate this. If forms are not completed, children will still be very welcome to join these groups but they must then be accompanied by a responsible adult. Maria Hills (Safeguarding Rep).

Christmas Collection: As I am sure many of you are aware, Catholic Priests do not receive a salary and rely on your generosity at Christmas and Easter as a thank you for all they do for us. It is also possible to claim gift aid on your donation if you are a UK taxpayer and that extra 25% will go directly to Father Rory. If you aren't part of a planned giving scheme then please use the "one off" gift aid envelopes located in the porch. You can also contribute via the digital collection plate at St Wilfrid's or via the QR code or donations website link (<https://donate.myдона.com/st-wilfrids-church-hailsham>) using the "Christmas Collections" tab.



ST WILFRID’S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 15th December 2024 at 3pm. You are all invited to our Service. Refreshments will be serviced in the Church Hall afterwards. **Donations of mince pies gratefully received - please bring to the Hall for the 15th. Many thanks.**

Bambinelli Sunday - 15th Dec - St G’s 9am & St W’s 10.30am:

Everyone invited, especially children, to bring their baby Jesus crib figure to either of our parish masses on the Third Sunday of Advent. A traditional blessing of the Bambinelli (baby Jesus) will be given. Then they go home to be wrapped up and placed under the tree. The blessed Bambinelli are then unwrapped by you as the first present on Christmas morning.

Parish Over 50’s Club: Thurs 19th Dec, Christmas Party, 2-4pm, £10 includes everything. For more info. please contact Joan on 07873390944.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 15th Dec, Bambinelli Sunday, 9am St G’s, 10.30am St W’s.
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.
Sun 26th Jan, 10am - Community Charity Breakfast, St G’s Hall.
Thur 30th Jan, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50’s Club, St W’s Hall.
Fri 31st Jan, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Group, St W’s Hall.
Wed 12th Feb, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.

Warming Up The Homeless: There will be a collection at St Wilfrid’s on Sunday 15th December for the charity Warming Up The Homeless. Parishioners have decided not to send each other Christmas Cards this year but instead will be donating to the charity’s Golden Ticket appeal to give children in temporary accommodation some festive cheer. For every £10 raised they will be able to take a child to a pantomime and provide them with some treats.

St Wilfrid’s Penitential Service: Saturday 7th Dec, 5pm. When our nine first holy communion candidates made their first confession. It was such an informative little service taken by Fr Rory assisted by Teresa and Annette, giving us plenty to think about and examine our consciences, with quiet music in the background. What a shame more of our parishioners did not attend and support our children.

Tuesday 17th Dec in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne: An invitation to all parishioners to join us in a talk given recently by Fr Tony Milner on the **New Lectionary**, followed by sharing and discussions. **6.30-7.30pm** (Refreshments from 6.15pm). All will be most welcome as we start to forge new relationships within our new Parish.

Sunday 8th December - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid’s 111 St George’s 60