

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down the dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

## THE COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,  
your grace into our hearts,  
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son  
was made known by the message of an Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross  
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.  
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 Micah.

Micah 5:2-5a

Thus says the LORD: You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

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

## PSALM

Psalms 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. 18-19. R.4

**R. Bring us back, O God;  
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.  
Rouse up your might and come to save us.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the stock your right hand has planted,  
the son you have claimed for yourself.

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

## ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

**Alleluia, alleluia.  
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;  
let it be to me according to your word.  
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.**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Stand*

Cf. Is 45:8

*Sit*

## THE HOMILY

## 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 Holy Spirit, O Lord,  
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,  
just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,  
we pray, almighty God,  
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,  
so we may press forward all the more eagerly  
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*Sit*

*Stand*

*All bow*

*All bow*

Is 7:14

*Stand*

## Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



In today's Gospel we see the elements of the prayer that became the Hail Mary spoken by Mary's cousin Elizabeth. This is one of the few passages in the Gospels, apart from the story of

the Annunciation, which speaks in any depth about Mary. Although she is very much a background figure, her presence and also her silence are key to the life of her son. We can only imagine what life was like in the little house in Nazareth where Mary and Joseph brought up the child who was the son of God. The episode of the wedding feast at Cana shows how Mary was able to persuade Jesus to save the wedding hosts from embarrassment by changing the water into wine, although he had

said that it was not yet his time to perform any miracles. This is one of the reasons why Mary is asked by believers to 'intervene' for us when we want to make a petition to the Lord. She is often called the 'model' Christian because of her total dedication to doing the will of God.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
**FRATELLI TUTTI**  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

CONSENSUS  
AND TRUTH

211. In a pluralistic society, dialogue is the best way to realize what ought always to be affirmed and respected apart from any ephemeral consensus. Such dialogue needs to be enriched and illumined by clear thinking, rational arguments, a variety of perspectives and the contribution of different fields of knowledge and points of view. Nor can it exclude the conviction that it is possible to arrive at certain fundamental truths always to be upheld. Acknowledging the existence of certain enduring values, however demanding it may be to discern them, makes for a robust and solid social ethics. Once those fundamental values are acknowledged and adopted through dialogue and consensus, we realize that they rise above consensus; they transcend our concrete situations and remain non-negotiable. Our understanding of their meaning and scope can increase – and in that respect, consensus is a dynamic reality – but in themselves, they are held to be enduring by virtue of their inherent meaning.

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia  
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Its daily life had its share of burdens and even nightmares, as when they met with Herod's implacable violence. This last was an experience that, sad to say, continues to afflict the many refugee families who in our day feel rejected and helpless. Like the Magi, our families are invited to contemplate the Child and his Mother, to bow down and worship him (cf. Mt 2:11). Like Mary, they are asked to face their family's challenges with courage and serenity, in good times and bad, and to keep in their heart the great things which God has done (cf. Lk 2:19, 51). The treasury of Mary's heart also contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us understand the meaning of these experiences and to hear the message God wishes to communicate through the life of our families.



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



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(Answerphone service available)

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

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

## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### 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
Mon 23rd	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 24th	<b>5.30pm</b>	St Wilfrid's—	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
Wed 25th	<b>9.30am</b>	St George's—	<b>Nativity of the Lord</b>
Thur 26th	10am	St George's —	<b>St Stephen, First Martyr</b>

Burial of Ashes for Peter Andrews RIP

Fri 27th 10am St Wilfrid's — Mary Mathew RIP

#### The Holy Family

Sat 28th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 29th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Marian Wiktor 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#\\_=\\_](https://m.facebook.com/gary.westcar#_=_)

**Newsletter items:** Please send to Jackie at [hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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: [galmer2703@gmail.com](mailto:galmer2703@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 Neyenuizen, 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:

**To all our Ministries and all who have responsibilities for the organisation, support and wellbeing of our Parish. All our love and blessings at the joyful season of Christmas.**

Many thanks for all your kindness and generosity over the year. This especially includes your Christmas offerings, gifts and cards. I am most grateful, but my biggest thanks is for all that is done to celebrate and enhance the life of our community. This is the best expression of our hope, trust and confidence in God.

*Fr Rory*

**St Wilfrid's Church:** Please wear a warm winter coat to church as we have a heating problem and not sure when it will be fixed.

**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.

**St George's** had a weekend of wonderful preparation for Christmas. The South Downs Singers performed a sell out concert on Saturday. The church was beautifully decorated and the singing was a fabulous range of sacred and seasonal music. Reviews were highly complimentary with Deacon John requesting a reprise of "Christmas Sanctus" to be incorporated into his homily on Christmas morning. Shirley and Marylou are happy to oblige! On Monday evening we were honoured to host a Civic Carol Service on behalf of Polegate Town Council. The Lord Lieutenant, High Sherriff, County and District Council Chairs, plus five Mayors and other dignitaries were in attendance and a warm welcome was extended to all. There was a beautifully prepared service of readings and favourite carols, Two local charities, First Responders and Linking Lives benefitted to donations amounting to £400. In the hall a splendid buffet prepared by Sandra and her team awaited; table beautifully decorated, candles glowing adding to a cosy and friendly ambience. The evening is best summed up by an email sent to thank us from Mayor Dan Dunbar. "Sincere thanks for making my vision of the carol service a reality. Without St George's this would not have been possible. People were blown away with the refreshments, the Lord Lieutenant saying it was one of the best he has seen."

**St Wilfrid's, 15th Dec at 3pm:** Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway to make our Special Carol Service such a success. Short, simple and enjoyable. It is a shame more of you didn't attend, you surely missed a "Christmas Special". Then it was into our hall for mulled wine, mince pies and special biscuits. Then the "Gift Bag Sale", my goodness there were some very good prizes hidden in the bags!! May we take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who helps us in anyway to make these special occasions so special and successful. In the New Year we would be very happy if more of you would volunteer to help us in someway. Many of us are too old now to be of much help, we need more young people to help please. "God loves a willing helper" and we all agree that we get a lot of fun helping out on the various events. If you would like to help, please get in touch with Joan on 07873390944 or see me in the hall after Mass. The proceeds of the bags will be equally divided between the children's liturgy and the parish project, taking homeless children to the pantomime + treat.

**Dates for your Diary:**

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.

**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.mydona.com/st-wilfrids-church-hailsham>) using the "Christmas Collections" tab.



**Warming up the Homeless:**

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the Golden Ticket appeal to send homeless children to a pantomime this Christmas. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity. In total we raised £760, which means that 76 children can look forward to a festive treat this year. The distribution centre was also very grateful to receive your donations of clothing and winter essentials. Big thank you to all those who have contributed. Our focus now moves on to how we can warm up the homeless to help them survive the harsh winter months ahead. Our efforts will now be concentrated on our Epiphany masses (4th and 5th January). In the same way that the Three Wise Men provided gifts to the newborn king we would like to present our offerings as an act of love to vulnerable people in our community. In particular we are looking for donations for their satellite food banks which feed around 800 people a week. **Wanted items are; UHT Milk (Not Skimmed), Sugar, Coffee, Tea, Cereal, Tin Meats, Rice, Pasta, Soup, Baked Beans, Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and Treats. Many of these people do not have cooking facilities so they are also looking for Kettles, Toasters, Microwaves. Air Fryers, and Thermos Flasks.** In addition we will also be collecting good quality second hand clothing and gifts for their charity shops. There will be a collection box for these items at the back of church and in St Wilfrid's Hall for the Epiphany party on 4th January.

**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).

**Sunday 15th December - Mass Attendance:**

St Wilfrid's 97 St George's 60