

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Stand
Lk 2:16

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
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.

Sit

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14

The Lord honoured the father above the children, and he confirmed the judgement of
the mother over her sons. Whoever honours his father atones for sins, and whoever
glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever honours his father will be
gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard. Whoever glorifies
his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother.

O son, help your father in his old age and do not grieve him as long as he lives;
even if he is lacking in understanding, show indulgence; in all your strength do not
despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will
be credited to you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 128(127):1-2. 3. 4-5. R.c.f. 1

R. Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be blessed and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the husband who fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from Zion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life!

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians. Colossians 3:12-21

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate
hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if
one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven
you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything
together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which
indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns
and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in
word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God
the Father through him.

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives,
and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases
the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Alleluia.

Stand
Colossians 3:15a, 16a

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 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when
he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was
ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did
not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then
they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when
they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they
found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking
them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his
answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him,
'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for
you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not
know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that
he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was sub-
missive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus
increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

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

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation,
humbly asking that,
through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph,
you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Bar 3:38

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,
most merciful Father,
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,
so that, after the trials of this world,
we may share their company for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand

All bow

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel is the only one
which talks about Jesus as a boy.
It is the first sign we have that he
is beginning to fulfill the mission
the father has sent him for. Apart

from anything else, this episode is
a very understandable one from a
human point of view. Many
parents have experienced a
moment of total panic when they
discover that their child has gone
missing. Then when they
eventually find him, their worry
turns to anger. But is an anger
motivated by their love for their
child. Also, when this happens in
family life, the missing child
doesn't understand why the
parent are so angry. Jesus clearly
doesn't appreciate how worried
they were and which is shown by
his seemingly inconsiderate reply.
Eventually peace is restored in the

family and they returned to
Nazareth where he "lived under
their authority". Sometimes when
we are praying and asking Jesus
for help in various ways, we don't
seem to get an answer – he seems
to have gone missing. We need to
remember that he is always about
his Father's business, and that we
are a central part of the Father's
business.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



CONSENSUS AND TRUTH

212. If something always serves the good
functioning of society, is it not because, lying
beyond it, there is an enduring truth accessible
to the intellect? Inherent in the nature of
human beings and society there exist certain
basic structures to support our development
and survival. Certain requirements thus ensue,
and these can be discovered through dialogue,
even though, strictly speaking, they are not
created by consensus. The fact that certain
rules are indispensable for the very life of
society is a sign that they are good in and of
themselves. There is no need, then, to oppose
the interests of society, consensus and the
reality of objective truth. These three realities
can be harmonized whenever, through
dialogue, people are unafraid to get to the heart
of an issue.

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia LOVE IN THE FAMILY

"Faithful to Christ's teaching we look to the
reality of the family today in all its complexity,
with both its lights and shadows...
Anthropological and cultural changes in our times
influence all aspects of life and call for an analytic
and diversified approach". Several decades ago, the
Spanish bishops noted that families have come to
enjoy greater freedom "through an equitable
distribution of duties, responsibilities and tasks";
indeed, "a greater emphasis on personal
communication between the spouses helps to
make family life more humane", while "neither
today's society nor that to which we are
progressing allow an uncritical survival of older
forms and models". It is also evident that "the
principal tendencies in anthropological-cultural
changes" are leading "individuals, in personal and
family life, to receive less and less support from
social structures than in the past".



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



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

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

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
Mon	30th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	31st	10am	St Wilfrid's—	In Thanksgiving
Wed	1st	10am	St George's—	Mary, Mother of God
Thur	2nd	10am	St George's —	In Thanksgiving
Fri	3rd	10am	St Wilfrid's —	In Thanksgiving, John & Margaret Forde's Intention

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sat	4th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
		5pm	St Wilfrid's -	Epiphany Vigil Mass
Sun	5th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Brian Winter 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 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:

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The love of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with you throughout our New Year.

Deacon John and Tessa would like to wish everyone in the parish a very Happy New Year. *Deacon John* *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.

In Our Prayers: Sadly John Bell died peacefully at home on the 17th December 2024. Our thoughts are with his friends and family. Gratitude and appreciation of John and June's generosity to our parish over the years.

Thank You: Thank you very much for the gifts and cards I have received for Christmas, they are all very much appreciated. Wishing you all a Happy New Year. Jackie

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word – Saturday 25 January 11am-4pm at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Burgess Hill (no cost)

Led by Bishop Richard. The day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. There will be a time of Lectio Divina, and the day will conclude with the celebration of Mass. Register your place here <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

SAVE THE DATE – Saturday 20 September 2025 Festival of Hope
Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese and the Universal Jubilee Year with your family and friends this September. We pray that this inspirational and uplifting event will ignite a spiritual renewal in our own lives and across our communities. Put the date in your diary now, because tickets will be allocated to Parishes in the new year! The event is taking place at Ardingly South of England Event Centre, tickets will be free of charge, with talks and activities suitable for all ages.

Parish Charity Breakfast: Next breakfast is, Sun 26th January after St George's 9am Mass. All welcome.

Parish Over 50's Club: Thurs 30th Jan is our next afternoon tea, 2-4pm. For more info. please contact Joan on 07873390944.

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.

Sunday 22nd December - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 119 St George's TBC