

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



John the Baptist is a unique character. Dressed in animal skins and living off wild fruits in the wilderness, he was given a very special role in the story of our redemption. He precedes his cousin Jesus by a few months and then is has the task of preparing the way for the Lord. He is also Jesus and especially in his innocent martyrdom. He offers a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The people of the time, unlike the people of

today (at least in the Western world), have a great awareness of evil and sin, so many of them responded to John's appeal. But one was more aware than John, of his unworthiness in front of Jesus. Such unworthiness is what we all feel (or should feel). It is only when we really feel unworthy that God can work in us and through us.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Stand

Cf. Is 30:19,30

THE COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 Baruch.

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God: 'Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look towards the east and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R.3

R. What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion, we thought we were dreaming. Then was our mouth filled with laughter; on our tongues, songs of joy.

Then they said among the nations, 'What great deeds the Lord worked for them!' What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

Bring back our exiles, O Lord, as streams in the Negeb. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, bearing seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back with a song, bearing their sheaves.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

Stand

Luke 3:4, 6

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 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."' "

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

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Bar 5:5;4:36

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Stand

All bow

All bow

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS

209. Otherwise, is it not conceivable that those fundamental human rights which we now consider unassailable will be denied by those in power, once they have gained the "consensus" of an apathetic or intimidated population? Nor would a mere consensus between different nations, itself equally open to manipulation, suffice to protect them. We have ample evidence of the great good of which we are capable, yet we also have to acknowledge our inherent destructiveness. Is not the indifference and the heartless individualism into which we have fallen also a result of our sloth in pursuing higher values, values that transcend our immediate needs? Relativism always brings the risk that some or other alleged truth will be imposed by the powerful or the clever. Yet, "when it is a matter of the moral norms prohibiting intrinsic evil, there are no privileges or exceptions for anyone. It makes no difference whether one is the master of the world or the 'poorest of the poor' on the face of the earth. Before the demands of morality we are all absolutely equal". 202

202. SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter Veritatis Splendor (6 August 1993), 96: AAS 85 (1993), 1209.

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia LOVE IN THE FAMILY

Jesus himself was born into a modest family that soon had to flee to a foreign land. He visits the home of Peter, whose mother-in-law is ill (cf. Mk 1:30-31) and shows sympathy upon hearing of deaths in the homes of Jairus and Lazarus (cf. Mk 5:22-24, 35-43; Jn 11:1-44). He hears the desperate wailing of the widow of Nain for her dead son (cf. Lk 7:11-15) and heeds the plea of the father of an epileptic child in a small country town (cf. Mk 9:17-27). He goes to the homes of tax collectors like Matthew and Zacchaeus (cf. Mt 9:9-13; Lk 19:1-10), and speaks to sinners like the woman in the house of Simon the Pharisee (cf. Lk 7:36-50). Jesus knows the anxieties and tensions experienced by families and he weaves them into his parables: children who leave home to seek adventure (cf. Lk 15:11-32), or who prove troublesome (Mt 21:28-31) or fall prey to violence (Mk 12:1-9). He is also sensitive to the embarrassment caused by the lack of wine at a wedding feast (Jn 2:1-10), the failure of guests to come to a banquet (Mt 22:1-10), and the anxiety of a poor family over the loss of a coin (Lk 15:8-10).



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



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

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

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
Mon	9th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	10th	10am	St George's—	Deceased Family & Friends of Nicholas & Yolen Cooray
Wed	11th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Repose of the Soul of Elizabeth Robinson RIP
Thur	12th	10am	St George's —	Mrs Joy Rebello's Intention
Fri	13th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Repose of the Soul of Dennis Foley RIP

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)

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: 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 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:

**“Lighting the First Candle of the New Week
The Candle of Hope; hope springs eternally”.**

Please God, hope is one of the realities that endures all the trials and tribulations that life brings. Sometimes it is the only thing that stands out as a beacon of light. **On Saturday last, the workshop prepared and lead by our children’s liturgy groups was simply outstanding** - a true godsend, but also reality. **We are so dependant upon a small overworked group crying out for help.**

As part of their liturgical commitments, they had prepared a prop reminding us of the homeless sleeping rough. When I was in the church saying a quiet prayer of my own, I was so, **so moved**, the figure in the tent appeared to be breathing.

This is where I appear to never learn, because they had put so much work into it, I took it for granted that they would leave it there for Sunday morning. Their understanding “the sanctuary”, the sanctuary would be too full, cluttered up. But what a powerful statement; what a powerful reminder, putting the homeless, the deprived at the centre of our concerns the heart of Christmas.
We are blessed to have this team.

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.

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.

Present Bags at St Wilfrid’s: Following last years successful “Choose a Bag” £1 Children, £2 Adults, after our Carol Service on Saturday 15th 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.

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 this week or 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.

James Leslie Westcar RIP: 17th Anniversary on Fri 13th Dec.

South Downs Singers Christmas Celebration Concert: Sat 14th Dec at 3.30pm at St. G’s Church, Tickets £10 on the door or pre-book; call 01323 832767. Or buy tickets after Sunday Mass.

Dates for your Diary:

- Sat 7th Dec, 5pm - First Reconciliation Service, St W’s Church.
- 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.

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.

A Big Thank You to everyone who contributed in anyway to make this annual event so successful. Our hall was buzzing with activities and people from both parishes making items for Christmas. Then into our church for a “Children’s Mime” to prepare us for the “coming of our Saviour” this Christmas. Whilst we were there a team were working very hard to prepare a “banquet” for us jacket potato with all the trimmings and delicious puddings. Pots were available to collect offerings towards the charity “Warming Up the Homeless” a very good and worthwhile charity.

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. **With winter upon us they are also asking for items such as Tents, Metal Thermos Flasks, Men’s socks and underpants, Sleeping Bags, Roll Mats, Wet wipes, Roll on deodorant, Shower gel/shampoo/conditioner. We are also collecting good quality second hand toys and clothes for their charity shop. If you are able to donate any of these items then please bring them to St Wilfrid's next Sunday and we will pass them on to the charity.**

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

Sunday 1st December - Mass Attendance:
St Wilfrid’s 108 St George’s 60