

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The Jewish people had been living for centuries in expectation of the Messiah, and

when John the Baptist appeared on the scene many of them thought that John was he. However, John makes it very clear that he is not the Messiah and that someone “much more powerful than him” would come and baptise them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. All of us who are baptised Christian have been baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire, but how many of us ever think of this? Today would be a very good day to reflect on this and to see how much, if at all, we feel the Holy Spirit present in our lives. Jesus tells us that all we have to do to have the Holy Spirit is to ask for him. Only

then will be able to release the graces we received at our baptism. But the Holy Spirit is a gentle spirit, who inspires us, but who doesn't force himself on us. In order to hear his voice, we need to put out of our heads all the ‘noise’ which surrounds us and create an inner silence so that we can discover what he is prompting us to do.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Stand

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

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

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may also be well pleasing to you. 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 Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD: Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. 'I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 29(28):1-2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10. R.11b

R. The LORD will bless his people with peace.

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly powers,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
bow down before the LORD, majestic in holiness.

R.

The voice of the LORD upon the waters,
the LORD on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the LORD full of power;
the voice of the LORD full of splendour.

R.

The God of glory thunders;
in his temple they all cry, 'Glory!'
The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits as king for ever.

R.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 10:34-38

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Stand

Alleluia, alleluia.
The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: 'This is my beloved Son; listen to him'.
Alleluia.

Cf. Mark 9:7

GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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: 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 worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

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.

Stand

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.

All bow

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.

All bow

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, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 1:32,34

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,
that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son,
we may be your children in name and in truth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



CONSENSUS AND TRUTH

214. To agnostics, this foundation could prove sufficient to confer a solid and stable universal validity on basic and non-negotiable ethical principles that could serve to prevent further catastrophes. As believers, we are convinced that human nature, as the source of ethical principles, was created by God, and that ultimately it is he who gives those principles their solid foundation.²⁰³ This does not result in an ethical rigidity nor does it lead to the imposition of any one moral system, since fundamental and universally valid moral principles can be embodied in different practical rules. Thus, room for dialogue will always exist.

203. As Christians, we also believe that God grants us his grace to enable us to act as brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia LOVE IN THE FAMILY

As Christians, we can hardly stop advocating marriage simply to avoid countering contemporary sensibilities, or out of a desire to be fashionable or a sense of helplessness in the face of human and moral failings. We would be depriving the world of values that we can and must offer. It is true that there is no sense in simply decrying present-day evils, as if this could change things. Nor it is helpful to try to impose rules by sheer authority. What we need is a more responsible and generous effort to present the reasons and motivations for choosing marriage and the family, and in this way to help men and women better to respond to the grace that God offers them.



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JG

Tel: (01323) 841504

(Answerphone service available)

Email: hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk

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

ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

The Baptism of the Lord

(Collection for Pax Christi next Sunday)

Sat 11th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 12th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Corazon Pura RIP & Encinas Family
Mon 13th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 14th	10am	St George's —	Deceased Members of the Lodrick Family RIP
Wed 15th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Don, Vera & Alan Koolman RIP
Thur 16th	10am	St George's —	Connie & Tom Murphy's Intention
Fri 17th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Fr Rory's Intention

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Collection for Pax Christi Today)

Sat 18th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 19th	9am	St George's —	Len Brotherwood RIP (1st Anniversary)
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention

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 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:

**“Fr Kevin Dring Writes”
Becoming a Single Parish - How will it affect YOU?**

As Dean of Eastbourne & St Leonard’s Deanery, as we presently are, Bishop Richard has asked me to take on role of Moderator of the new Single Parish. Last November we formally began to come together from what were currently 8 individual parishes, from Eastbourne to Rye, into a SINGLE PARISH. This will be a BIG Parish and a BIG challenge for all of us, clergy and laity together.

Firstly, this is about all of us together discerning what we need to do to make this work well. We won’t be looking at making any unnecessary changes (“change for change’s sake”) but instead, only what looks to be genuinely good and helpful for everybody in the parish. We won’t be about “closing down” but building up what we already have, sharing all our good resources, especially our many good and gifted people. We’ll do this by listening to people’s views and concerns and then discerning the steps forward we need to take.

Fr Rory

Confirm your Contact Details - To help us communicate all we will be doing effectively, to as many of you as possible, if you have not already done so, please take time to complete the parish contact forms available at the back of church and on our website.

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.

Epiphany Party & Mass: What a great success, the new table arrangement was more sociable, much talk and laughter and plenty of party food! Then into the church for our Vigil Mass including a mince pie by the children of the 3 Kings, very entertaining. Please take the newsletter home and look out for our next social event.

A message from a parishioner: “Sending BIG thanks for the wonderful party. On arriving the hall looked so appealing and tables beautifully decorated and lovely food and copious cups of tea provided. The quiz was intriguing, and pass the parcel great fun. It was so nice to see the children being entertained - you thought of everything and I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon with my newfound friends at St Wilfrid’s”.

Request for more young peoples help for any of the social events we organise for our parish. When the next social event is in our newsletter, perhaps you would get in touch and offer a little help please. Contact Joan on 07873390944. Thank you.

Parish Over 50’s Club: Thurs 30th Jan is our next afternoon tea, 2-4pm. Theme is “Scottish”, wear a kilt if you fancy! Thinking of joining us? Then just turn up, you will be very welcome.

A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development:
2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD’s Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop’s Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD’s Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD’s Head of Africa) and more for lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. [Register here for free.](#)

Dates for your Diary:
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.
Wed 12th March, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.

The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope”. As a Parish Community, we Hope and Pray that the year will see more of our parishioners, their family and friends taking part in our masses on Sundays and also making time to be part of Jubilee recognised pilgrimages near and far. Our Parish social committee and youth leaders will be looking at organising pilgrimages for us locally to Arundel Cathedral, Worth Abbey and the 60th Celebrations of the Diocese on September 20th. We also will be helping financially towards our youth attending Lourdes in July (we have funds still available from last year’s fundraising for this) applications are currently open on the diocese website. We have a coach of youth attending Flame and will also be organising for as many who are able to, to be part of the walking pilgrimage which celebrates 50 years this year and ends at Eastbourne.

Community Charity Breakfast - St George’s Sunday 26th January after mass - this month our charity is Linking Lives, we hope you, your family and friends can support this breakfast and vital service to those who are lonely within faith communities in our town. All are welcome, any friends or family who are not attending mass can arrive from 9.45am in the hall to enjoy the delicious food and company of others.

The Parish of Christ the King & St Joachim’s is holding their annual pantomime “Cinderella” week commencing 18th/19th January. Takes place in CTK Hall; Sat 18th at 2pm & 7.30pm, and on Sun 19th at 2pm. Performers include some of St George’s parishioners. For tickets contact Sandra on 07791627368, Adults £5 and £3 for Children (includes tea and coffee). There will also be a raffle at each performance. Please support if you can.

Mass Attendance
Epiphany Vigil Mass - St Wilfrid’s - 40
Sunday 5th January - Mass Attendance:
St Wilfrid’s 76 St George’s 49