

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

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,
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works.
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 book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
In those days: Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it, all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Ezra and the Levites read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the meaning, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, 'Go on your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

R. Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life. Psalm 19(18):8. 9. 10. 15. R. John 6:63c
The law of the Lord is perfect;
it revives the soul.
The decrees of the Lord are steadfast;
they give wisdom to the simple.
R. The precepts of the Lord are right;
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear;
it gives light to the eyes.
R. The fear of the Lord is pure,
abiding for ever.
The judgements of the Lord are true;
they are, all of them, just.
R. May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer!

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Brothers and sisters: Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you'. On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honourable we bestow the greater honour, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honour to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.
Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first Apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand
Cf. Ps 95:1,6

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
The Lord has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor;
to proclaim liberty to the captives.
Alleluia.

Stand
Luke 4:18

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 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

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 our offerings, O Lord, we pray,
and in sanctifying them
grant that they may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

Cf. Ps 33:6

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, receiving the grace
by which you bring us to new life,
we may always glory in your gift.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



It is a shame that more Christians don't get involved in politics. Why? Because Jesus himself was a revolutionary politician. He came to change the world. More political and revolutionary than that you can't get. In today's Gospel he reads his manifesto in that quotation from Isaiah: '... He sent me to bring good news to the

poor...to set the downtrodden free...'. Isn't that which every socialist politician wants to do? The difference however is that Jesus' method of 'doing politics' is not through aggression and violence - it is through loving to the point of giving his life. This is why so many of the Jewish people in Palestine at the time of Jesus just could not understand that their long-awaited Messiah was not a great military leader who had come to rid them of their Roman overlords. Jesus wanted to change the world by changing people's hearts, and any form of hatred, even for one's enemies was completely contrary to his teaching. It is easy to see why in countries where there is or was

extreme oppression and injustice the so-called 'theology of liberation' was embraced. But the Church was very keen to make it clear of the dangers of mixing Marxist ideology with the teaching of Jesus. When communism finally crumbled all over Europe, it wasn't through violence. Many saw it as the influence of Pope John Paul II. Through him, God was able to bring about something which no armed uprising had been able to do.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



A NEW CULTURE

215. "Life, for all its confrontations, is the art of encounter".²⁰⁴ I have frequently called for the growth of a culture of encounter capable of transcending our differences and divisions. This means working to create a many-faceted polyhedron whose different sides form a variegated unity, in which "the whole is greater than the part".²⁰⁵ The image of a polyhedron can represent a society where differences coexist, complementing, enriching and reciprocally illuminating one another, even amid disagreements and reservations. Each of us can learn something from others. No one is useless and no one is expendable. This also means finding ways to include those on the peripheries of life. For they have another way of looking at things; they see aspects of reality that are invisible to the centres of power where weighty decisions are made.

204. VINICIUS DE MORAES, Samba da Benção, from the recording Um encontro no Au bon Gourmet, Rio de Janeiro (2 August 1962).
205. Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (24 November 2013), 237: AAS 105 (2013), 1116.

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia LOVE IN THE FAMILY

We also need to be humble and realistic, acknowledging that at times the way we present our Christian beliefs and treat other people has helped contribute to today's problematic situation. We need a healthy dose of self-criticism. Then too, we often present marriage in such a way that its unitive meaning, its call to grow in love and its ideal of mutual assistance are overshadowed by an almost exclusive insistence on the duty of procreation. Nor have we always provided solid guidance to young married couples, understanding their timetables, their way of thinking and their concrete concerns. At times we have also proposed a far too abstract and almost artificial theological ideal of marriage, far removed from the concrete situations and practical possibilities of real families. This excessive idealization, especially when we have failed to inspire trust in God's grace, has not helped to make marriage more desirable and attractive, but quite the opposite.



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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 25th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 26th	9am	St George's —	Mathew Pothew
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Anne Hoad's Intention
Mon 27th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 28th	10am	St George's —	Lyra Lissenburg RIP
Wed 29th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Agnes Knight Intention
Wed 29th	2.30pm	St George's -	Requiem Mass for Tina Scanlon
Thur 30th	10am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
Fri 31st	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Jack & Elsie Hoare RIP

The Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas

(Collection next week for the A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund)

Sat 1st	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 2nd	9am	St George's —	Gretta Loughnane RIP
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Repose of the Soul of Joseph Bateman

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/>

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.

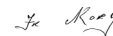
Fr Rory Writes:

“Up, Up and away, but not my best decision”

I will be away for my after Christmas break, which is an important decision. In our new position, when I fear it will be much more difficult to get a supply priest, this influenced my decision. The fact that Lent and Easter is much later this year could have allowed me to delay going until the longer evenings arrive.

In future much of the responsibility for these decisions will be with Fr Kevin, which is indication of the great amount of work and responsibility that has landed on his desk; highlights how important the challenge we all now face. This is the work that we are now engaged with. There are early signs that we are off to a good start, but it is always the outcome that is most important.

Looking forward to this challenge when I return.



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.

Diocesan Youth Project Worker - Part time. The St Philip Howard Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6RP:

Join the diocesan Central Office Team as our new P/T Youth Project Worker. The successful applicant will be responsible for two major projects - coordination of the CYMFed Faith in Action Awards across the Diocese, and the newly developing Young Adults programme. They will also be required to assist with engaging young people from across the Diocese in the ASCENT process (a three-year discipleship process for young people) and offer support to the Youth Adviser in enabling diocesan attendance at national and international events such as Flame & World Youth Day. E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk
Closing date: Wednesday 5 February 2025, Shortlisting: Thursday 6 February 2025, Interviews: Thursday 13 February 2025, Crawley. Here is the job url: www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/ypw

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.

New & nearly new items needed - the St George's table sale that raises funds for the charity of the month and youth activities is desperately in need of new items for sale. Please consider donating anything suitable. Just leave in a bag at the back of either church marked St G table sale. Both churches would also welcome any unwanted gifts that are suitable as raffle prizes for fundraising purposes at social events in 2025.

Community Charity Breakfast - St George's Today, 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.

Exploring the vocation to teaching in our diocesan schools:
If you are interested in hearing more about the vocation to teaching and what teaching in a Catholic school involves, Dave Legrand, Diocesan Secondary RE Advisor, will be running an online information event on Wednesday 12th February from 5.30-6pm. This event would be suitable for anyone considering a career change or simply interested in finding out more about the role of teachers in our Catholic schools for any age group or for any subject specialism. To book a place, please use the link: [Exploring the vocation to teaching in our diocesan schools \(12-Feb-2025\)](#) · ChurchSuite Events

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.

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.
Sun 23rd Feb, 10am - Community Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
Thur 27th Feb, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
Wed 12th March, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W's Hall.

Are you involved in Children's Liturgy? We are looking to build a network across the Diocese of those involved in this wonderful ministry to share learnings, ideas and support each other. To find out more details please contact our Marriage and Family Life Adviser – Deacon Simon South E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

Mass Attendance

Sunday 19th January - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 105 St George's 60