

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

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,
we humbly implore your majesty
that, just as your Only Begotten Son
was presented on this day in the Temple
in the substance of our flesh,
so, by your grace,
we may be presented to you with minds made pure.
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 Prophet Malachi. Malachi 3:1-4
Thus says the LORD God: Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his Temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 24(23):7. 8. 9. 10. R.10bc

R. The LORD of hosts, he is the king of glory!

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is this king of glory?
The LORD, the mighty, the valiant;
the LORD, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is this king of glory?
He, the LORD of hosts,
he is the king of glory.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Hebrews 2:14-18
Since the children share in flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.
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.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Cf. Ps 47:10-11

And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'

And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed — and a sword will pierce through your own soul also — so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.'

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the Temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.

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

May the offerings made with exultation by your Church
be pleasing to you, O Lord we pray,
for you willed that your Only Begotten Son
be offered to you for the life of the world
as the Lamb without blemish.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

By these holy gifts which we have received, O Lord,
bring your grace to perfection within us,
and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation
that he would not see death
until he had been privileged to welcome the Christ,
so may we, going forth to meet the Lord,
obtain the gift of eternal life.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand

All bow

All bow

Lk 2:30-31

Stand

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Although many of the Jews who came across Jesus refused to believe that he was the long-awaited Messiah, there were some who had the grace to understand

who he really was. In today's Gospel we see the first of these – Simeon and Anna. They were both able to see that this tiny child was Christ the Lord. Simeon had a deeper understanding of Jesus's role than even Jesus did initially. He says: "my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel." It would be good to ask ourselves if we really understand that Jesus came for each of us and

what our response should be. Believing in Jesus is much more than just accepting the fact that he was born and died in Israel more than 200 years ago. He came to call us to follow him on his return journey to the Father. Perhaps we should ask ourselves whether or not we are on the journey or not.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



ENCOUNTER THAT BECOMES CULTURE

217. Social peace demands hard work, craftsmanship. It would be easier to keep freedoms and differences in check with cleverness and a few resources. But such a peace would be superficial and fragile, not the fruit of a culture of encounter that brings enduring stability. Integrating differences is a much more difficult and slow process, yet it is the guarantee of a genuine and lasting peace. That peace is not achieved by recourse only to those who are pure and untainted, since "even people who can be considered questionable on account of their errors have something to offer which must not be overlooked".²⁰⁶ Nor does it come from ignoring social demands or quelling disturbances, since it is not "a consensus on paper or a transient peace for a contented minority".²⁰⁷ What is important is to create processes of encounter, processes that build a people that can accept differences. Let us arm our children with the weapons of dialogue! Let us teach them to fight the good fight of the culture of encounter!

²⁰⁶ Ibid., 236; AAS 105 (2013), 1115.
²⁰⁷ Ibid., 218; AAS 105 (2013), 1110.

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

The weakening of faith and religious practice in some societies has an effect on families, leaving them more isolated amid their difficulties. The Synod Fathers noted that "one symptom of the great poverty of contemporary culture is loneliness, arising from the absence of God in a person's life and the fragility of relationships. There is also a general feeling of powerlessness in the face of socio-cultural realities that oftentimes end up crushing families... Families often feel abandoned due to a lack of interest and attention on the part of institutions. The negative impact on the social order is clear, as seen in the demographic crisis, in the difficulty of raising children, in a hesitancy to welcome new life, in a tendency to see older persons as a burden, and in an increase of emotional problems and outbreaks of violence. The State has the responsibility to pass laws and create work to ensure the future of young people and help them realize their plan of forming a family".



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 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
Mon	3rd	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	4th	10am	St George's —	Margaret Madams RIP
Wed	5th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Bridie Ginn's Intention
Thur	6th	10am	St George's —	Liturgy of the Word
Fri	7th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Liturgy of the Word

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Collection today for the A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund)

Sat	8th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun	9th	9am	St George's —	Jacqueline McGrath RIP
		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: 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.

The Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land, the local Church Leaders write: “We sincerely hope that this ceasefire marks the beginning of a new path towards reconciliation, justice and sustainable peace. May this be the first step on a path that promotes healing and unity among all the people of the Holy Land.

We eagerly await the return of pilgrims to the Holy Places in the Holy Land. The Holy Places are meant to be places of prayer and peace, and we long for the day when pilgrims can visit them again in safety and spiritual joy.

Despite the pain we have suffered, we continue to look to the future with unwavering hope. May this ceasefire inspire new efforts for dialog, mutual understanding and lasting peace for all. At the beginning of the Jubilee Year dedicated to hope that does not disappoint, we read in this event a sign that reminds us of God’s faithfulness.

Finally, we call on political leaders and the international community to develop a clear and just political vision for the post-war period. A future built on dignity, security and freedom for all peoples is a prerequisite for true and lasting peace.

We urge all parties to implement the immediate steps and negotiate the future steps of the agreement in good faith. May the Lord bless this land with peace and lead us all on the path of reconciliation and healing.”

Deacon John Writes: Today we are encouraged to embrace God's call and love others deeply. It also reminds us that faith can be challenging but is worth the effort. We are called to live out our faith with courage and love, even in difficult times. Remember that the Holy Spirit is always with us to help and guide us in our efforts to follow God’s call. Last week we were told what we are to do and the readings today encourage us in our efforts.

Deacon John

Can you Help? - as we move towards a Single Parish of many communities, good communication to all our parishioners is an essential element. A deanery newsletter was initiated last Lent and is set to help with this. It does need a team of people to prepare it in a timely way with the right mix of information within it. Please consider can you offer a few hours of your time to every season? To find out more please contact Sandra on 07791627368 or email sandraforte40@gmail.com. A small team working together from all parishes will make a big difference!

Ukraine Help:

If you have any old candles around...any size, shape colour, they will be melted down and used to make Trench Candles for the soldiers. Also any unwanted warm coats. Please leave in a bag at the back of the church, many thanks Paula.

Newsletter: We will be reverting back to the old size print from 16th February 2025.

Appeal for more help with preparing and running St Wilfrid’s & St George’s Social Occasions: Thank you to the few who answered the call, you are very welcome. Details of any social events will be given in our newsletter. Perhaps more volunteers will come forward when these are announced.

Parish Over 50’s Club: Thurs 27th Feb is our next afternoon tea, 2-4pm. All welcome.

Altar Servers and Young Readers at St Wilfrid’s:How very fortunate we are to have many good and sincere Altar Servers trained by David Hoad. We do appreciate you helping Fr Rory at Mass on a Sunday. Young Readers, we are very blessed with many who do the readings loud and clear, especially at the family mass on the last Sunday in the month. Thank you once again to Teresa and Annette for helping our children at the liturgy. They are stretched as they live full lives already. Please would some of you volunteer to lend them a hand occasionally if our children are to benefit from religious teaching to the standard they enjoy now. Many hands make light work!

Dates for your Diary:

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.
Fri 28th Feb, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Group, St W’s Hall.
Wed 12th March, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.

Youth led Fundraiser for Flame 2025: We are delighted that over 80 of our Catholic youth and their leaders from our Deanery will be attending FLAME 2025, the Catholic youth Congress in Wembley, during Lent. The £29 ticket price has been paid by the attendees, however they are looking to raise the money to fund the coaches to travel there, over £2000 needed.

Fundraising events include:

St George’s - Souper quiz night - Friday 28th Feb, 6pm doors open and quiz starts at 6.30pm. Soup and sweet treats will be served between rounds. Tickets £7 adults, under 14s £3 on sale after mass or available to reserve via parish office hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk Team size max 8 and can be formed in advance or on the night.

Our Lady of Ransom Eastbourne Pancakes and Bacon/sausage Bap breakfast - after 10.15am mass on Sunday March 2nd.

Christ the King - Bingo date and time TBC. Please support us if you can. Donations of raffle prizes are also welcomed (mark "youth fundraiser" and leave with welcomers to pass on). Thank you.

Community Charity Breakfast - Thank you to everyone who supported the Linking Lives breakfast last weekend, £200 was raised and the charity is very grateful. Our next breakfast at St George's is 23rd February after mass - this month our charity is Care International, a disaster emergency charity, we hope you, your family and friends can support this breakfast and vital Care Packages the charity brings to war torn communities worldwide. All are welcome.

Mass Attendance

Sunday 19th January - Mass Attendance:
St Wilfrid’s 124 St George’s 80