

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion. Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

Stand

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 on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. 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 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all round, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13. R.cf. 11

R. All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth.

The kings of Tarshish and the islands shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him.

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry, the poor who have no one to help. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy.

SECOND READING

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

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

**Alleluia, alleluia.
We saw his star when it rose
and have come to worship the Lord.
Alleluia.**

Stand
Matthew 2:2

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."' Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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.**

**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

Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

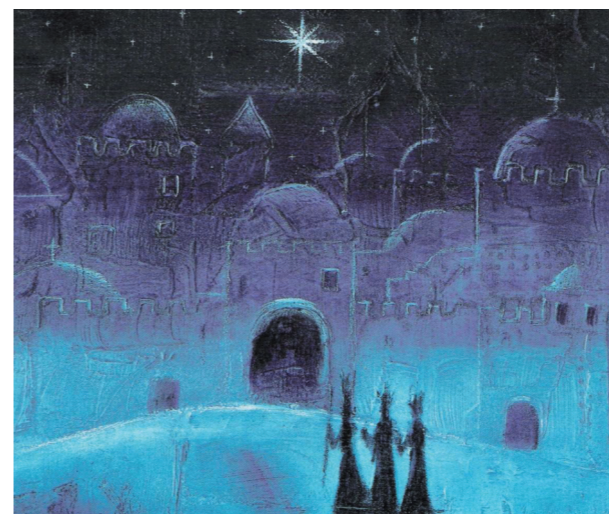
**We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.**

Cf. Mt 2:2

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand



In today's Gospel we hear about another dream which comes to the rescue of Jesus. The wise men from the East are warned not to report back to Herod, but to return home by another route.

Crib scenes the world over show three kings, but the Gospel does not tell us how many they were, nor that they were kings. Perhaps the most significant point of this episode is that the wise men were not Jews, they came from the East, probably from what are nowadays Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia or Yemen. The fact that they were Gentiles shows how open non-Jews were to the arrival of the Messiah and how they recognised him as such when the Jewish authorities could not.

The gifts the wise men brought were highly symbolic: Gold – associated with royalty and therefore recognising the kingship of Jesus Frankincense – used in worship and thus showing that Jesus should be worshipped Myrrh – a perfume used in the embalming of dead bodies foreseeing the death of Jesus



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



CONSENSUS AND TRUTH

213. The dignity of others is to be respected in all circumstances, not because that dignity is something we have invented or imagined, but because human beings possess an intrinsic worth superior to that of material objects and contingent situations. This requires that they be treated differently. That every human being possesses an inalienable dignity is a truth that corresponds to human nature apart from all cultural change. For this reason, human beings have the same inviolable dignity in every age of history and no one can consider himself or herself authorized by particular situations to deny this conviction or to act against it. The intellect can investigate the reality of things through reflection, experience and dialogue, and come to recognize in that reality, which transcends it, the basis of certain universal moral demands.

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia LOVE IN THE FAMILY

On the other hand, "equal consideration needs to be given to the growing danger represented by an extreme individualism which weakens family bonds and ends up considering each member of the family as an isolated unit, leading in some cases to the idea that one's personality is shaped by his or her desires, which are considered absolute".¹² "The tensions created by an overly individualistic culture, caught up with possessions and pleasures, leads to intolerance and hostility in families".¹³ Here I would also include today's fast pace of life, stress and the organization of society and labour, since all these are cultural factors which militate against permanent decisions. We also encounter widespread uncertainty and ambiguity. For example, we rightly value a personalism that opts for authenticity as opposed to mere conformity. While this can favour spontaneity and a better use of people's talents, if misdirected it can foster attitudes of constant suspicion, fear of commitment, self-centredness and arrogance. Freedom of choice makes it possible to plan our lives and to make the most of ourselves. Yet if this freedom lacks noble goals or personal discipline, it degenerates into an inability to give oneself generously to others. Indeed, in many countries where the number of marriages is decreasing, more and more people are choosing to live alone or simply to spend time together without cohabiting. We can also point to a praiseworthy concern for justice; but if misunderstood, this can turn citizens into clients interested solely in the provision of services.



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 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
Mon	6th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	7th	10am	St George's —	Private Intention
Wed	8th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	James Lissenburg RIP
		11.30am	St George's	Requiem Mass for Robert Whitty RIP
Thur	9th	10am	St George's —	Margaret Madams RIP
Fri	10th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Catherina Gilbert RIP
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

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:

“Most important, God’s Salvation”

As we continue our journey of life there is so much conflict and anxieties, real reasons for apprehension, the outcome of our Christmas celebrations are of the utmost importance. The Son of God, Jesus, has come down from heaven with the assurance of bringing to us God’s salvation. His words are “I am the way, the truth, and the life. I will be with you always”. From the beginning after his birth in Bethlehem, the Holy Family had to take flight down into Egypt as the force of darkness, then under the threat of Herod, brings about the massacre of the Holy Innocent. Here we are over 2000 years later confronted with the massacre of children in the place of Jesus’s birth. At times it is heart breaking to listen to it. This is amplified by many things including global warming, and the constant threat of war.

It is at this time our faith takes hold of His promise “I am with you always”. He is our rock, our strength and gives solid direction to our lives. Our Christmas celebrations were very helpful, life giving and a solid foundation to build upon. This weekend it the Epiphany Party which helps us to begin the new year with a good sense of purpose, and to prepare us for what the new year brings. Which will be different, and we must be ready to take one step at a time and continue to build our communities of faith. So we simply have to rely upon God’s providence to make the most positive, energetic effort to build up our lives through the strength of our faith. Our churches, our halls and whatever else may be required to strengthen our lives of faith.

With the help of God we will be capable of doing this.



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.

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.

Warming up the Homeless

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.

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 07791626368, 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

Christmas Eve - St Wilfrid’s - 133

Christmas Day - St George’s - 110

Sunday 29th December - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid’s 96

St George’s 66