

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

## Entrance Antiphon

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

Cf. Ps 26:8-9

## Collect

O God, who have commanded us  
to listen to your beloved Son,  
be pleased, we pray,  
to nourish us inwardly by your word,  
that, with spiritual sight made pure,  
we may rejoice to behold your 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.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

A reading from the Book of Genesis. Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

In those days: God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards  
heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.'  
Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed  
the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

And he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the  
Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD,  
how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me  
a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three  
years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought him all  
these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But  
he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on  
the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And  
behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun  
had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a  
flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD  
made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this  
land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 27(26):1. 7-8b. 8c-9c. 13-14. R.1a

## R. The LORD is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread?

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer me.  
Of you my heart has spoken,  
'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O LORD, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.  
Dismiss not your servant in anger;  
you have been my help.

I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD; be strong;  
be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD!

## Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians. Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes  
on those who walk according to the example you have in us.  
For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even  
with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is  
destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame,  
with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven,  
and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will  
transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power  
that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore,  
my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and  
crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Acclamation before the Gospel

**Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.  
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:  
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.  
Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.**

## Gospel

Luke 9:28b-36

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: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went  
up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance  
of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.  
And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who  
appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to  
accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him  
were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw  
his glory and the two men who stood with him.  
And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus,  
'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one  
for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing  
what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and  
overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the  
cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son,  
my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken,  
Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in  
those days anything of what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

## The Nicene Creed or The Apostles' Creed

## Prayer over the Offerings

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse us of our faults  
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind  
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Communion Antiphon

Mt 17:5

**This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.**

## Prayer after Communion

As we receive these glorious mysteries,  
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,  
for allowing us while still on earth  
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Prayer over the People

*The Deacon, or the Priest, says:*  
Bow down for the Blessing.

*The Priest continues:*

Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord,  
with a blessing that endures for ever,  
and keep them faithful  
to the Gospel of your Begotten Son,  
so that they may always desire and at last attain  
that glory whose beauty he showed in his own Body,  
to the amazement of his Apostles.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.  
**Amen.**

*Then the Deacon, or the Priest, says:*

Go forth, the Mass is ended.  
Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.  
Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.  
Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

Or:  
Or:  
Or:

## Our Faith on Sunday

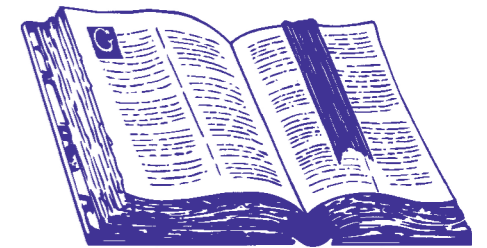
## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel reading seems  
rather a strange one for the season  
of Lent. Luke describes Jesus being  
transfigured and shown in all his  
glory. Peter in his spontaneous,  
impulsive way wants to set up tents  
and stay there, but that is not what

Jesus intends. Both Matthew and  
Mark describe the same episode in  
similar ways, but what is strangely  
missing from Luke's account is the  
reference to the resurrection. If  
ever we feel we haven't understood  
Jesus, and especially his death on

the cross, we can find consolation  
in Peter. On many occasions he  
reacts angrily, or speaks out of  
turn, or just gets it wrong. He even  
denies Jesus almost immediately  
after promising he would never do  
so. And yet Jesus chose him as the  
rock on which his Church would  
be built. Peter's 'saving grace' was  
that he always returned to Jesus.  
As we live, with Jesus, the horror  
story of his passion and death  
on the cross, we need to remind  
ourselves that it didn't all end  
there – it finished in glory.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



## RECOVERING KINDNESS

223. Saint Paul describes kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22). He uses the Greek word *chrestotes*, which describes an attitude that is gentle, pleasant and supportive, not rude or coarse. Individuals who possess this quality help make other people's lives more bearable, especially by sharing the weight of their problems, needs and fears. This way of treating others can take different forms: an act of kindness, a concern not to offend by word or deed, a readiness to alleviate their burdens. It involves "speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement" and not "words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn".<sup>208</sup>

208. Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (19 March 2016), 100: AAS 108 (2016), 351.



The responses given to the two pre-synodal consultations spoke of a great variety of situations and the new challenges that they pose. In addition to those already mentioned, many of the respondents pointed to the problems families face in raising children. In many cases, parents come home exhausted, not wanting to talk, and many families no longer even share a common meal. Distractions abound, including an addiction to television. This makes it all the more difficult for parents to hand on the faith to their children. Other responses pointed to the effect of severe stress on families, who often seem more caught up with securing their future than with enjoying the present. This is a broader cultural problem, aggravated by fears about steady employment, finances and the future of children.



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



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Tel: (01323) 841504

(Answerphone service available)  
Email: [hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk)

Website: [www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk)

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

## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### Second, 'Transfiguration' Sunday of Lent (Collection for CAFOD Today)

Sat 15th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 16th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Bridie Ginn's Intention
	3pm	St George's -	Stations of the Cross
Mon 17th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 18th	10am	St George's —	Jim Ayres RIP
Wed 19th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	All Souls Intention
Thur 20th	10am	St George's —	Family Intention
Fri 21st	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Norman & Angela Wright RIP

#### Third Sunday of Lent

Sat 22nd	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 23rd	9am	St George's —	Sheila Bree RIP
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	3pm	St George's -	Station of the Cross

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#\\_=\\_](https://m.facebook.com/gary.westcar#_=_)

**Newsletter items:** Please send to Jackie at [hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 & those named in the books in our churches

Amy Jenkins, Lily May, Joshua Hardy, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne Holt, Margaret, Rosie Tuson, Lilian Summers, Sue Nye, Tom Woodrow-Spencer, Chris Neyenhuizen, Laurey Stimpson, Nicole McCutchan, Nellie Oakshott, Jean Molloy, Alan Smith, Julie Martin, Holly Leone, Deborah Osbourne Walker, Gill Standen, Letty Booth, Thomas Pailey, Thomas Guy, Michael O'Regan, Richard Streeter, Patricia Delaney, Graham, Pamela Swanston, Jean & Chris Littlewood, Terry & Anne Oglethorpe and Jean Skelton.

**Warm Welcome!** We're glad to have you at Mass, especially visitors.

New to the parish or looking to reconnect? Fill out a welcome form in the porch or speak to Fr. Rory - we'd love to meet you and help in any way!

Fr Rory Writes:

“Life Goes On”

Actually it was Gerry who was responsible for my piece last week. So it is a good sign that we are singing from the same page, and it is really important to recognise this. There is a reason why we are in our present situation, and we did not have a meeting of our Parish Finance Committee that was scheduled.

The Parish Pastoral Plan was launched over a year ago, with plans for our new parish, "Eastbourne and St Leonards," set to begin in November 2024, led by our parish Moderator, Father Kevin Dring from OLR.

In January, Father Kevin introduced a Parish Development Plan outlining the goals for the next six months. A Parish Leadership Group, including clergy and lay members, was formed and began meeting in February. For administrative purposes, the new parish will be split into two leadership hubs: Eastbourne (seven churches, including St George & St Wilfrid’s) and St Leonards (eight churches from Battle to Rye). At this level we looked at developing the goals up to June.

This is a long-term process, and all parishioners are encouraged to contribute. Father Kevin opened last week’s PLG meeting with a reading from Ephesians: "Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong." Let’s all grow strong together to make this plan a success.

*Fr. Rory*

**DEANERY RECONCILIATION SERVICE WITH BISHOP RICHARD: Thurs 3 April, 7pm at Our Lady of Ransom Church, Eastbourne.** The Bishop, to mark the Jubilee Year of Hope, will be leading a Lenten Service of Reconciliation in every Deanery. Please come and support this important prayer opportunity as we move together towards becoming a new Single Parish.

**The Lent/Easter issue of the deanery newsletter** is now available to download on our website, for those who have not received by email. If you didn't get an email but want us to send items like this to you please complete the consent form at the back of church.

**CAFOD Lent Appeal:** Collection this Sunday. Please return your envelopes or scan the QR code to make your donation. If you are able to gift aid, please sign the back of the envelope. Thank you for your support.



**Pilgrims of Hope for CAFOD – Saturday, March 29**

To mark this Jubilee Years theme of ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ we invite you to join us for a day of prayer and walking on Saturday, March 29th. The outline of the day is:

**10.00am** - St Wilfrid’s – Adoration and opportunities for Confession **12.30pm** - St George’s - Soup Lunch

**11.00am** - Big Lent Walk from St Wilfrid’s to St George’s **1.45pm** - St George’s - Family Stations of the Cross

You are invited to join us for any part of the day you are able to. Please indicate on the sign up sheet if you would like to walk with us or join us for soup lunch.

So far, we only have a small team of walkers for the Big Lent Walk who will be helping us to achieve a collective target of 200km on the day. We need 40 people in total. Please join us! For more information about sponsorship and how to join our walking team please follow this link:

<https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-wilfrid-and-st-george-big-lent-walk> or collect a sponsor form.

If you can’t walk, your prayers and sponsorship are greatly appreciated. The team sponsor form is at the back of the church or you can scan this QR code to make your donation. Thank you for being a Pilgrim of Hope!



**Baptism:** Do you or will you have a baby wishing to be baptised this year? We will be holding sessions twice a year. We are looking at the next one to commence in May/June with another later in the year- These will be 3 x one hour meetings after mass at St Wilfrid's. Please contact Mary on 07789464817 or Angela on 07582 267546 for further details.

**St George's Parish Meeting – Today:** Join us in the hall after the 9am Mass for a parish update on ministries, activities, and social plans. This will be the first of our planned quarterly meetings to strengthen collaboration in our parish community.

**Sheila Bree’s Funeral** will take place on Tuesday 25th March, 11.30am, St George’s Church.

**St Patrick’s Day celebration** after Mass this Sunday in St Wilfrid’s Hall. All is set for a good time, hope to see you there. Plenty of good prizes to be won in the raffle. Enjoy the menu and celebrate St Patrick’s Day.

**I have Bishop Robert Baron's set of 10 DVD’s on Catholicism:** They are very informative and interesting to watch. At present they are being used by St. Wilfred's after prayer group after the 10am mass on Mondays. If anyone else is interested in coming together as a group to watch these in Polegate please contact Mary 07789464817. I will try to find a time and place that suits all.

**2025 Jubilee Year CAFOD Reflection and Workshop:** We are pleased to announce that, in place of the previously scheduled gathering on March 26th, we will now be hosting a special Jubilee Year of Reflection and Worship for the new parish of Eastbourne and St Leonards. This event will take place at St Wilfrid's Church on Saturday, April 5th, starting at 10:00 am. It will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a parish community to reflect on the significance of the Jubilee Year 2025 and what it means to be a ‘Pilgrim of Hope’. We encourage as many parishioners as possible to join us for this special occasion of prayer, reflection, and fellowship. More details will follow soon. We look forward to sharing this meaningful time with you.

**Dates for your Diary:**

- Sun 16th March, After St G’s Mass - St G’s Parish Mtg, St G’s Hall.
- Sun 16th March, After St W’s Mass - St Parick’s Day Celebrations.
- Thur 27th March, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50’s Club, **Cancelled.**
- Fri 28th March, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Group, St W’s Hall.
- Sun 30th March, 10am - Community Charity Breakfast, St G’s Hall.
- Wed 2nd April, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.
- Sat 5th April, 10am - Jubilee Year CAFOD Reflection, St W’s Church.
- Wed 30th April, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.

**Mass Attendance**

**Sunday 9th March - Mass Attendance:**  
St Wilfrid’s 154 St George’s 80