

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

## Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

Cf. Ps 24: 15-16

## Collect

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,  
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving  
have shown us a remedy for sin,  
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,  
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,  
may always be lifted up by your mercy.  
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 Exodus.

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

Psalm 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8, 11. R.8a

## R. The LORD is compassionate and gracious.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all within me, his holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and never forget all his benefits.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

The LORD does deeds of justice,  
gives full justice to all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
and his deeds to the children of Israel.

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.

## Second Reading

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but

they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Acclamation before the Gospel

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.  
Repent, says the Lord,  
for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Matthew 4:17

## Gospel

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.

Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'

And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?" And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

## The Nicene Creed or The Apostles' Creed

## Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,  
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,  
may take care to forgive our neighbour.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

Cf. Ps 83: 4-5

## Prayer after Communion

As we receive the pledge  
of things yet hidden in heaven  
and are nourished while still on earth  
with the Bread that comes from on high,  
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,  
that what is being brought about in us in mystery  
may come to true completion.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

R.

R.

R.

R.

## Prayer over the People

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

*The Priest continues:*

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful,  
and in your kindness grant your servants this grace:  
that, abiding in the love of you and your neighbour,  
they may fulfil the whole of your commands.  
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



Recently I saw a fig tree in the South of England which, to my surprise, had figs on its branches. Most of the fig trees here never produce any fruit, and any amount of waiting will not change that. Sometimes we may feel like the

is necessary to get us there. So why do we often feel we face an impossible task? We think we can do it with our own willpower and determination, despite the fact that we know from experience that this doesn't work. In John's Gospel,

barren fig trees and that we will always be the same and that no amount of praying or masses or confessions will help us change. But God never sets us a task that is impossible to achieve. We are made for heaven, for life with him and he will do whatever

Jesus says, "Without me you can do nothing." He doesn't say "you can't do much," he says "nothing". So the key is in doing things with him. When it comes to difficulties and temptations we find almost impossible to deal with, we must hand them over to him. If we could have managed to succeed under our own steam, then his dying in agony on the cross would have been futile. But his suffering and death enabled us to enter into a relationship with God and gave us the possibility of rising with him.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



## RECOVERING KINDNESS

224. Kindness frees us from the cruelty that at times infects human relationships, from the anxiety that prevents us from thinking of others, from the frantic flurry of activity that forgets that others also have a right to be happy. Often nowadays we find neither the time nor the energy to stop and be kind to others, to say "excuse me", "pardon me", "thank you". Yet every now and then, miraculously, a kind person appears and is willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference. If we make a daily effort to do exactly this, we can create a healthy social atmosphere in which misunderstandings can be overcome and conflict forestalled. Kindness ought to be cultivated; it is no superficial bourgeois virtue. Precisely because it entails esteem and respect for others, once kindness becomes a culture within society it transforms lifestyles, relationships and the ways ideas are discussed and compared. Kindness facilitates the quest for consensus; it opens new paths where hostility and conflict would burn all bridges.

Pope Francis'  
Amoris Laetitia  
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

Drug use was also mentioned as one of the scourges of our time, causing immense suffering and even breakup for many families. The same is true of alcoholism, gambling and other addictions. The family could be the place where these are prevented and overcome, but society and politics fail to see that families at risk "lose the ability to act to help their members..."



# 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 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 -	Stations of the Cross
Mon 24th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 25th	<b>11.30am</b>	St George's —	Requiem Mass for Sheila Bree
Wed 26th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Cecilia Hyland Intention
Thur 27th	10am	St George's —	Margaret Nevill Intention
Fri 28th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Repose of the soul of Sheila Bree

#### Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent

Sat 29th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 30th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Margaret Nevill 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#\\_=\\_](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, Jean Skelton, Jennifer and Peter Mitchell.

**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:

“Rejoice and be glad”

Well it was not St Patrick’s Day, but it was St Patrick weekend; the celebrations after the 10.30am mass were well fit for purpose, truly enjoyable. There is a human streak that would say, “but where was the bacon and cabbage”, which some of parishes will say “well we had it”. The food was truly excellent, and again I have a most grateful heart for all the times our caterers come up trumps. They are brilliant and we are so blessed to have such a parish group. Gary O’Brien added the extra touch; providing his guitar and musical skills for the occasion. Better than that he is at work providing a music ministry for the 10.30am mass. Rehearsals have started on a Saturday morning, 10am to 11am in St Wilfrid’s Church Hall, and now provide a platform for some young people to join. With flexibility and goodwill, this will be a great blessing and bonus for our liturgy.

All good news coming from St George’s church last Sunday. They had their meeting after mass; it was a very fruitful setting in place, plans and progress to be made. Certainly all are prepared to do their very best, and we have to rely upon the leadership providers so that we can bear fruit, fruit that will last, by the fruit that shall know them, they are my disciples.

*Fr Rory*

**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!



**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.

**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.

**Thank you** to everyone who attended St George’s meeting last Sunday. Minutes are available at the back of the church. The meeting will be held quarterly and the next meeting will be after Mass on Sunday, 1st June.

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

**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. Patrick’s Day Celebration** We had a fantastic time! A huge thanks to our wonderful helpers for the delicious food—hot jacket potatoes, Annette’s amazing St. Patrick’s cake, and tasty treats. The afternoon was filled with quizzes, Irish Bingo, and a good old sing-along with Gary O’Brien on guitar. Thanks to all who donated raffle prizes—winners can collect theirs from the porch. We raised £200 towards a new hall sound system! Due to its success, we’re planning a **WWII 80th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, 4th May**. Sign up in the porch for tickets.

**Jubilee Year Pilgrimage – Arundel Cathedral:** Join us on **Thursday, June 19th**, for **Corpus Christi** at Arundel Cathedral! Visit the Carpet of Flowers, and take part in Mass, Eucharistic procession, and Benediction. **Coach departs: 11:30am** from St Wilfrid’s; **11:45am** from St George’s and returns after **5:30pm Mass & Benediction**. **Cost:** £20 (coach travel only; cathedral entry free). Mass seating is first come, first served. Reserve your coach seat by emailing [sandraforte40@gmail.com](mailto:sandraforte40@gmail.com) or adding your name & contact details to the list at the back of the church. Payment due in April.

**Flame 2025 Catholic Youth Congress** did not disappoint! A huge thank you to the young people who joined us—you returned filled with **HOPE and Unstoppable!** Make sure you tell your parents and friends all about it. Special thanks to Sophie, Angela, Agata, Mary and Sandra for leading and supporting our youth. **More youth liturgy leaders are needed** to provide our young people with faith led opportunities in our church—if you’re interested, speak to one of our current leaders to learn more.

**Dates for your Diary:**

- Thurs 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.
- Thurs 24th April, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50’s Club, St W’s Hall.
- Wed 30th April, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall.

**Over 50’s Afternoon Tea:** Thurs 24th April, 2-4pm. Theme St George; wear something red if you wish.

**Sunday 16th March - Mass Attendance:**  
St Wilfrid’s 130 St George’s 70