

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Cf. Is 66: 10-11

Collect

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 Joshua.

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

In those days: The LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.' While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R.9a

R. Taste and see that the LORD is good.

I will bless the LORD at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth. In the LORD my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the LORD with me; together let us praise his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This lowly one called; the LORD heard, and rescued him from all his distress.

Second Reading

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Brothers and sisters: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you'. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Luke 15:18

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me." And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a

severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

'But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."'

'And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound." But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, "Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!" And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Nicene Creed or The Apostles' Creed

R. Prayer over the Offerings

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

R. Communion Antiphon

Lk 15: 32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

Prayer after Communion

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer over the People

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

The Priest continues:

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good.
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 recounts perhaps the best known and most powerful of all Jesus' parables.

God is love and because he is love he is also mercy. Mercy and forgiveness are key to our understanding of Jesus and his mission. No matter how low we have sunk, how many sins we have committed, God will always forgive us. The younger son in today's Gospel has gone against his father in every way possible. He has spent his inheritance on women and drink and abandoned his family. Only when he finds himself destitute does he recognise what he has done. His father would have every right to

disown him and to refuse to have him back in his household. Yet, the very opposite happens. The father welcomes him back with open arms and prepares a banquet to celebrate his return. When we go 'off the rails' in one way or another we can be sure that when we choose to get back on track, the whole of heaven is celebrating our return. This parable tells us that God's mercy is free and completely unmerited, but available to all who turn back to him.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



PATHS OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER

225. In many parts of the world, there is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.

Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia

LOVE IN THE FAMILY

No one can think that the weakening of the family as that natural society founded on marriage will prove beneficial to society as a whole. The contrary is true: it poses a threat to the mature growth of individuals, the cultivation of community values and the moral progress of cities and countries. There is a failure to realize that only the exclusive and indissoluble union between a man and a woman has a plenary role to play in society as a stable commitment that bears fruit in new life. We need to acknowledge the great variety of family situations that can offer a certain stability, but de facto or same-sex unions, for example, may not simply be equated with marriage. No union that is temporary or closed to the transmission of life can ensure the future of society. But nowadays who is making an effort to strengthen marriages, to help married couples overcome their problems, to assist them in the work of raising children and, in general, to encourage the stability of the marriage bond?



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road
Polegate



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

ST WILFRID

South Road
Hailsham



WEEKLY SERVICES

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
Mon 31st	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues 1st	10am	St George's —	Canon Paul Jennings Intention
Wed 2nd	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Sean Cleary RIP (USA)
Thur 3rd	10am	St George's —	Joseph Finn RIP
Fri 4th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Norman & Angela Wright RIP

Fifth ('First Passion') Sunday of Lent (Next week is Holy Week)

Sat 5th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun 6th	9am	St George's —	Jose Alberto Perelra RIP
	10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Brian Winter RIP
	3pm	St George's -	Stations 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#_=_

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 & 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:**'Another step in the right direction'**

On behalf of Fr Kevin Dring, Jackie met with some of the parish secretaries on Monday at Our Lady of Ransom. This first meeting was to establish what jobs are currently undertaken and to try and put a plan in place so that we can all work together as one, sharing and helping each other in various tasks. The meeting went well and we will communicate any further information as and when it is available.

Alongside this, preparation for both our communities are progressing well. St George's community had an excellent meeting after mass on Sunday and plan to have four meetings each year, or what ever meets the good purpose. Equally St Wilfrid's had their meeting and plans in place to fulfil its purpose.

The reality is that the new dispensation is on its way and we can do our best to make the most of it.


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.

Community Charity Breakfast - Today, 30th March after mass at St George's - this month our charity is Toilet Twinning, we hope you, your family and friends can support this breakfast. All are welcome.

A huge thank you to all those who responded to the plea for more cleaners for our lovely church. We now have a strong and supportive group of people keeping St George's looking spick and span. It really is true, many hands make light work. God bless you all.

Mens' Way of the Cross : Join the men of the deanery and beyond as we take part in a Lenten way of the cross over the South Downs on April 11th, starting in OLR. 9.00pm – Registration, Adoration and Confessions; 10.00pm – Holy Mass; 11.00pm – Way of the Cross Starts! Hearty breakfast served on return! The 2024 event was a great success with amazing contemplative time. More information see : www.menswayofthecross.co.uk

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.

2025 Jubilee Year CAFOD Reflection and Workshop: We are pleased to announce that we will 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. The programme for the day is as follows;

- 10.00 Opportunity for Adoration
- 10.30 Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary for the Jubilee Year
- 11.00 Welcome and Coffee
- 11.30 Reflection and Worship
- 13.00 Light Lunch

We look forward to sharing this meaningful time with you.

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 or adding your name & contact details to the list at the back of the church. Payment due in April.

Dates for your Diary:

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.
 Sat 12th April, 10am-2pm - Womble Day, St Wilfrid's.
 Fri 18th April, 10am - Family Stations of the Cross, St W's Church.
 Thurs 24th April, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
 Fri 25th April, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Group, 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 23rd March - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 127 St George's 70