

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

## Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

Cf. Ps 90:15-16

## Collect

Grant, almighty God,  
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,  
that we may grow in understanding  
of the riches hidden in Christ  
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.  
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 Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses spoke to the people: 'The priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. And you shall make response before the LORD your God, "A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labour. Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me." And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 91(90):1-2. 10-11. 12-13. 14-15. R. cf 15b

**R. Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,  
and abides in the shade of the Almighty,  
says to the LORD, 'My refuge,  
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!'

Upon you no evil shall fall,  
no plague approach your tent.  
For you has he commanded his angels  
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.  
On the lion and the viper you will tread,  
and trample the young lion and the serpent.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him,  
protect him, for he knows my name.

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will be with him in distress;  
I will deliver him, and give him glory.

## Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans. Romans 10:8-13

Brothers and sisters: What does Scripture say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For, 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Acclamation before the Gospel

Matthew 4:4b

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.  
One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

## Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

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, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were over, he was hungry.

The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone."'

And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, 'To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."'

And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' And Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."'

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

## The Nicene Creed or The Apostles' Creed

## Prayer over the Offerings

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray,  
to make these offerings,  
for with them we celebrate the beginning  
of this venerable and sacred time.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Communion Antiphon

Mt 4:4

**R. One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**

## Prayer after Communion

**R. Renewed now with heavenly bread,  
by which faith is nourished, hope increased,  
and charity strengthened,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that we may learn to hunger for Christ,  
the true and living Bread,  
and strive to live by every word  
which proceeds from your mouth.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.****

## Prayer over the People

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

## The Priest continues:

May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray,  
come down upon your people,  
that hope may grow in tribulation,  
virtue be strengthened in temptation,  
and eternal redemption be assured.  
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 Jesus' being tempted by the devil. It seems very strange to us that Jesus was tempted, but it was a part of his 'human' experience. In itself, temptation is not a sin, it only becomes such when we give in to it. The affluent

consumer society in which we live assails us with temptations of every type. Often we succumb to temptation when we let ourselves be convinced that we really need a new smart phone, a new car, a new house and that these possessions will increase our happiness. The advertising companies are expert at creating desires, or rather, of making us confuse desire with need. The

pornographers promise us sexual nirvana, the drug peddlars promise ecstasy, but the facts tell us that the results are completely the opposite. It is not very fashionable nowadays to speak about the devil, but he is present just as much today as he was at the time of Jesus. If we act as if he didn't exist, we will fall very easily into his trap.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

RECOVERING  
KINDNESS

222. Consumerist individualism has led to great injustice. Other persons come to be viewed simply as obstacles to our own serene existence; we end up treating them as annoyances and we become increasingly aggressive. This is even more the case in times of crisis, catastrophe and hardship, when we are tempted to think in terms of the old saying, "every man for himself". Yet even then, we can choose to cultivate kindness. Those who do so become stars shining in the midst of darkness.

Pope Francis'  
Amoris Laetitia  
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

Here I would also like to mention the situation of families living in dire poverty and great limitations. The problems faced by poor households are often all the more trying.<sup>36</sup> For example, if a single mother has to raise a child by herself and needs to leave the child alone at home while she goes to work, the child can grow up exposed to all kind of risks and obstacles to personal growth. In such difficult situations of need, the Church must be particularly concerned to offer understanding, comfort and acceptance, rather than imposing straightaway a set of rules that only lead people to feel judged and abandoned by the very Mother called to show them God's mercy. Rather than offering the healing power of grace and the light of the Gospel message, some would "indoctrinate" that message, turning it into "dead stones to be hurled at others".



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

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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

#### First Sunday of Lent (Friday is CAFOD Lent Fast Day, Collection next Sunday)

Sat	8th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun	9th	9am	St George's —	Wilfredo Villaluna Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		3pm	St George's -	Stations of the Cross
Mon	10th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	11th	10am	St George's —	Gabriel Doonan Intention
Wed	12th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Encinas Family Intention
Thur	13th	10am	St George's —	Rosina Wilson Family Intention
Fri	14th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Joseph Finn

#### 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 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:**

**Parish Pastoral Plan Update**

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*

**CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday March 14th**

By praying, eating simply and giving to CAFOD we will be helping to support CAFOD in their vital work helping local experts to provide simple, effective solutions to the toughest problems facing many of the poorest peoples around the world. This year's focus is on helping to train communities in creating drought resistant vegetable gardens in East Africa following the devastating effects of drought. Envelopes are available at the back of church. Please return them with your donations on March 16th. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation, please sign the back of your donation envelope. The government will add an additional 25%. Alternatively, you can scan this QR code to make your donation. Thank you.



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

In this **Jubilee Year of Hope**, Pope Francis invites us to be **Pilgrims of Hope**, journeying in faith and solidarity. Join us for a **day of prayer and walking** as we take part in the **Big Lent Walk for CAFOD**.

The day begins at **10:00 am** at **St. Wilfrid's Church** with **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession**, followed by our **5km walk along the Cuckoo Trail to St. George's**. There, we'll share a simple soup lunch before our youth lead us in a **Family Stations of the Cross**.

Together, we aim to walk **200km**, so we need **40 walkers**—please join us! To sign up or sponsor, visit: [CAFOD Walk Link](#) or scan the QR code.

If you can't walk, your **prayers and sponsorship** are greatly appreciated. Sponsor forms are available at the back of the church. Thank you for being a **Pilgrim of Hope!**



**Lent has begun:** Perhaps an extra weekday Mass, quieter than a Sunday; plus tea/coffee in the hall to get to know each other. Many of our parishioners need your prayers please, many illnesses and operations amongst us. Thank you.

**St George's Parish Meeting – Sunday, March 16**  
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.

**Parish Over 50's Club:** Lovely to have our normal numbers back after all the illnesses. **Our Next Meeting has unfortunately had to be cancelled. Please await further notice for the next date.**

**St Patrick's Day celebration** will be at St Wilfrid's on Sunday March 16th after the 10.30am Mass. Start time 11.30 to 3pm. Tickets on sale now; £5 adults, children free. Come and join us with games, music, raffle and fun with food provided. Bring your alcoholic drinks. Raffle tickets available now, after Mass in the porch or church hall.

**Parish Pilgrimage to Arundel Cathedral – Corpus Christi, June 19, 2025:**

We plan to arrange a coach trip with Lynns Travel for the Feast of Corpus Christi, returning after the 5:30 pm Mass, procession, and benediction. Estimated cost: £21 per person.

Interested? Provide your name, number of seats, and contact details to Jean (St. Wilfrid's) or Sandra (St. George's). Final details to follow based on interest departure expected approx 11am return 8pm.

**Flame 2025:** Please pray for the 87 youth and leaders from our deanery on their Pilgrimage of Hope to Flame 2025 Catholic Youth Congress on Saturday, March 15th.

**Dates for your Diary:**

- Wed 12th March, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W's Hall.
- Sun 16th March, After St G's Mass - St G's Parish Mtg, St G's Hall.
- Wed 26th March, After Mass - CAFOD Gathering + Soup Lunch.
- 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.
- Wed 30th April, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W's Hall.

A heartfelt thanks for your generous support—£610 raised at St. George's quiz and £340 at the OLR breakfast. We hope to raise more with a future event at CTK. Donations are welcome via envelopes marked "Flame Fundraiser" in the collection. Any surplus will support future youth pilgrimages.

<b>Mass Attendance</b>	
<b>Sunday 2nd March - Mass Attendance:</b>	
St Wilfrid's 134	St George's 70