

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon**  
Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

**Collect**  
By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,  
may we walk eagerly in that same charity  
with which, out of love for the world,  
your Son handed himself over to death.  
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 Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.'

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

**Psalms** Psalm 126 (125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R.3

**R. What great deeds the LORD worked for us!  
Indeed, we were glad.**

When the LORD brought back the exiles of Sion,  
we thought we were dreaming.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;  
on our tongues, songs of joy.

Then they said among the nations,  
'What great deeds the LORD worked for them!'  
What great deeds the LORD worked for us!  
Indeed, we were glad.

Bring back our exiles, O LORD,  
as streams in the Negeb.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
bearing seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back with a song,  
bearing their sheaves.

**Second Reading**  
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Philippians. Philippians 3:8-14

Brothers and sisters: I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

**Acclamation before the Gospel**  
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.  
Even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart,  
for I am gracious and merciful.  
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Joel 2:12-13

**Gospel**  
The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 8:1-11

At that time: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?' This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

**The Nicene Creed or The Apostles' Creed**

**Prayer over the Offerings**  
Hear us, almighty God,  
and, having instilled in your servants  
the teachings of the Christian faith,  
graciously purify them  
by the working of this sacrifice.  
**R.** Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**  
**R.** Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.  
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

Jn 8: 10-11

**Prayer after Communion**  
**R.** We pray, almighty God,  
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,  
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**Prayer over the People**

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

*The Priest continues:*

Bless, O Lord, your people,  
who long for the gift of your mercy,  
and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire  
they may receive by your generous gift.  
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

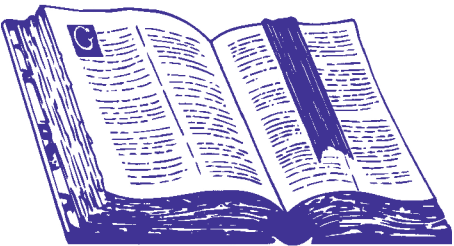
## GOSPEL REFLECTION



As we can see from the news, women are still regarded as second-class citizens in many parts of the world. We can see from reading the Gospels that, when Jesus was on this earth they were clearly regarded as inferior to men. For example,

in the episode of the feeding of the five thousand, it was the man who were counted. Jesus caused scandal by associating with a woman of ill-repute, and yet it was the women who perhaps understood who he was, probably better than the

apostles. It was to a woman that he first revealed himself after the resurrection. When, in an attempt to trick him, the scribes and the Pharisees brought the woman caught committing adultery to him, Jesus defended her and pardoned her. One might ask what happened to the man who had also committed adultery! Yet again Jesus is telling us about not judging others, because in so doing we are also condemning ourselves.



Men “play an equally decisive role in family life, particularly with regard to the protection and support of their wives and children... Many men are conscious of the importance of their role in the family and live their masculinity accordingly. The absence of a father gravely affects family life and the upbringing of children and their integration into society. This absence, which may be physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual, deprives children of a suitable father figure”.

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

### PATHS OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER

227. “Truth, in fact, is an inseparable companion of justice and mercy. All three together are essential to building peace; each, moreover, prevents the other from being altered... Truth should not lead to revenge, but rather to reconciliation and forgiveness. Truth means telling families torn apart by pain what happened to their missing relatives. Truth means confessing what happened to minors recruited by cruel and violent people. Truth means recognizing the pain of women who are victims of violence and abuse... Every act of violence committed against a human being is a wound in humanity’s flesh; every violent death diminishes us as people... Violence leads to more violence, hatred to more hatred, death to more death. We must break this cycle which seems inescapable”.<sup>211</sup>

[211] Address at the National Reconciliation Encounter, Villavicencio, Colombia (8 September 2017): AAS 109 (2017), 1063-1064, 1066.

# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



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(Answerphone service available)

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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

#### 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 Pereira RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Brian Winter RIP
		3pm	St George's -	Stations of the Cross
Mon	7th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	8th	10am	St George's —	Deceased Knights of St Columba and their wives
Wed	9th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Deceased Knights of St Columba and their wives
Thur	10th	10am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
Fri	11th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	James Kennedy RIP

#### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (Friday is a day of Fasting & Abstinence)

Sat	12th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun	13th	9am	St George's —	Dolores Dee McNabb RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Sheila Web Intention
		3pm	St George's -	Stations of the Cross and Benediction

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, Peter Mitchell, Cecelia Hyland and Sheila Jury.

**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!

<b>Fr Rory Writes:</b> Returning from the meeting of the Parish Leadership Group - 1st April 2025		
<b>Most important:</b> The Devine life of God,                      Father, Son and Holy Spirit.		
Fr Kevin began the meeting with ten minutes of silent prayer focused upon the message of Pope Francis:		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Evangelii Gaudium 28</b></p> <p>If the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be “the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters”. This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.</p>		
<b>Pilgrims of Hope Day:</b> Thank you to everyone who joined our Pilgrims of Hope day! Last Saturday, twenty-six of us gathered for a Jubilee-themed Adoration before enjoying a sunny Big Lent Walk along the Cuckoo Trail to St. George’s. Three members even completed the return journey. Together, we walked 187 km, just shy of our 200 km goal. Our Parish Team is going strong, having walked over 540 km so far! If you haven't sponsored them yet, your donations will keep them going. So far, we've raised £622 for CAFOD—thank you for your generosity! Your donations help to change lives and offer hope to those in urgent need. Special thanks to Mary Burbage, Sandra King, Shirley McCann, and Anne Hoad for the delicious lunch, and to James O’Brien, Gary Westcar and Mary Burbage for leading Adoration and the Stations of the Cross. It was a wonderful and successful day!		<b>Mens’ Way of the Cross :</b> 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 : <a href="http://www.menswayofthecross.co.uk">www.menswayofthecross.co.uk</a>
<b>News from your Diocesan Link:</b> . There is now a web edition which can be accessed from this link <b>April 2025 Newsletter</b> or <a href="https://sueschurchpage.blogspot.com/2025/03/April-News-letter.html">https://sueschurchpage.blogspot.com/2025/03/April News-letter.html</a> Diocesan Link is a way to communicate with the women of our diocese in a two way exchange, please do take a look if you think this may be of interest.		<b>Womble Day at St Wilfrid’s:</b> Sat 12th April 10am-2pm. Please do come and help to garden, clean, tidy etc. There will be enough jobs for us all to have something to volunteer for on the day. Many hands make light work - don’t assume others will do it.
<b>The South Downs Singers Spring Concert</b> is on Saturday 26th April, 3.30 pm St George's Church. Tickets available from Anne or Shirley at £10. Tickets will be available on the door. A diverse programme of Mozart, Nella Fantasia plus easy listening show tunes.		<b>Womble Day at St George’s:</b> Sat 12th April 10am-12noon. If you would like to help with weeding the car park, clearing away leaves and generally tidying the borders, do come and join us for a couple of hours. If possible bring your own tools or borrow some on the day! Thank you!
<b>Prayer Around the Cross:</b> A service of Taize Music and Prayer for Good Friday. 18th April, 8pm at the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury & English Martyrs Magdalen Rd, St Leonards.		<b>2025 Jubilee Year CAFOD Reflection and Workshop:</b> This Saturday 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.
<b>Dates for your Diary:</b> Sat 5th April, 10am - Jubilee Year CAFOD Reflection, St W’s Church. Sat 12th April, 10am-2pm - Womble Day, St Wilfrid’s & St George’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. Sun 27th April, 10am - Community Charity Breakfast, St G’s Hall. Wed 30th April, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W’s Hall. Wed 7th May, 6.30pm - Communion Day Practice, St W’s Hall.		<b>Easter Cards</b> are on sale at the back of St George’s Church .
		<b>Sunday 30th March - Mass Attendance:</b> St Wilfrid’s    104                      St George’s        72