

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 32:5-6
**The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.**

COLLECT
Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts 13:14, 43b-52

In those days: Paul and Barnabas went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, 'It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."' And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Saint Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 100(99):1-2. 3. 5. R.3c

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.
or:
Alleluia.

Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the LORD, is God.
He made us; we belong to him.
We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Indeed, how good is the LORD,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age.

SECOND READING
A reading from the Book of Revelation. Revelation 7:9, 13a, 14b-17

I, John, looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL
Alleluia, alleluia. John 10:14
**I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.
I know my sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia.**

GOSPEL John 10:27-30
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said, 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
**The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.**

R.
Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
R.
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Through Christ our Lord.
R.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In the Gospel of John Jesus speaks frequently about his relationship with the Father. He has total trust in the Father. He has come

only to do the will of the Father. In today's very short Gospel reading, wants to reassure those who 'belong' to him that they will never be lost. And the guarantee of this that no one can steal them from the Father. As with all guarantees, there are conditions. With Jesus however, there is no small print. He states quite clearly that we follow him, we will have eternal life. He explains elsewhere that anyone who

wants to follow him must take up their cross. This requirement sounds very uncompromising – and it is. Life as Christian is not all plain sailing. There are moments of calm and moments of turbulence. Jesus wants us to recognize that when the boat starts to rock, it is a sign to abandon ship, but a moment to renew our faith in him.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF PEACE

232. There is no end to the building of a country's social peace; rather, it is "an open-ended endeavour, a never-ending task that demands the commitment of everyone and challenges us to work tirelessly to build the unity of the nation. Despite obstacles, differences and varying perspectives on the way to achieve peaceful coexistence, this task summons us to persevere in the struggle to promote a 'culture of encounter'. This requires us to place at the centre of all political, social and economic activity the human person, who enjoys the highest dignity, and respect for the common good. May this determination help us flee from the temptation for revenge and the satisfaction of short-term partisan interests".²¹⁸ Violent public demonstrations, on one side or the other, do not help in finding solutions. Mainly because, as the Bishops of Colombia have rightly noted, the "origins and objectives of civil demonstrations are not always clear; certain forms of political manipulation are present and in some cases they have been exploited for partisan interests".²¹⁹

218. Meeting with Authorities, the Diplomatic Corps and Representatives of Civil Society, Bogotá, Colombia (7 September 2017): AAS 109 (2017), 1029.
219. BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF COLOMBIA, Por el bien de Colombia: diálogo, reconciliación y desarrollo integral (26 November 2019), 4.

Pope Francis'
Amoris Laetitia
LOVE IN THE FAMILY

"Jesus, who reconciled all things in himself, restored marriage and the family to their original form (cf. Mt 10:1-12). Marriage and the family have been redeemed by Christ (cf. Eph 5:21-32) and restored in the image of the Holy Trinity, the mystery from which all true love flows. The spousal covenant, originating in creation and revealed in the history of salvation, takes on its full meaning in Christ and his Church. Through his Church, Christ bestows on marriage and the family the grace necessary to bear witness to the love of God and to live the life of communion. The Gospel of the family spans the history of the world, from the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26-27), to the fulfilment of the mystery of the covenant in Christ at the end of time with the marriage of the Lamb (cf. Rev 19:9)".

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 'Good Shepherd' Sunday of Easter (Collection Today for the Education of Priests)

Sat	10th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun	11th	9am	St George's —	Deacon John's 90th Birthday Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Pope Leo XIV Intention 1st Holy Communion Service
Mon	12th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	13th	10am	St George's —	Jim Ayres RIP
Wed	14th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Margaret Madams RIP
Thurs	15th	10am	St George's —	Deacon John's Intention
Fri	16th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities Intention

Fifth Sunday of Easter

(Collection next Sunday for the Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese)

Sat	17th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Church Open for Confessions and Veneration
Sun	18th	9am	St George's —	Douglas Booth RIP (5th Anniversary)
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' 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#_=_

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, 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!

Fr Rory Writes:

“Thanks be to God for the life of Pope Francis”

We have a new beginning with Pope Leo XIV. For this I am sure we can be grateful.

Each year we begin by lighting the First Candle; the Candle of Hope, and the new Pope is a great ambassador for Hope. With the help of God, we can build on this and by the help of God, it will bear much fruit, fruit that will last.

Grace and peace.

Fr Rory

You are warmly invited to join our **Parish Pilgrimage to Arundel Cathedral** on the **Feast of Corpus Christi, Thursday, June 19, 2025**. We will travel by coach with Lynns Travel, departing at **1:00pm from St George's Church, Polegate** (parking available in the church car park; the coach will leave from the bus stop opposite). On arrival, there will be time to **view the stunning Carpet of Flowers** inside the cathedral before the **5:30pm Mass**, followed by the **Corpus Christi procession and benediction**. Return is expected at approximately **8:30pm. Cost: £20 per person.**

Limited availability – those who have already signed up have been allocated places but please arrange payment. All other seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

To book your place, please provide the following **with full payment** by Sunday 18th May: Names of all in your party, a primary contact number, an email address.

Payments and details should be given to **Jean (St Wilfrid's)** or **Sandra (St George's)** or deliver in an envelope clearly marked Arundel Pilgrimage to the parish office.

We hope you can join us for this beautiful celebration of our faith at the heart of our diocese.

Deacon John celebrates his 90th birthday in May. A Mass will be held for him at St George's on Sunday 11th May at 9.00 am, followed by a birthday breakfast in the hall. All are welcome to attend from both communities, but if you are attending from St Wilfrid's, please could you let Jackie know so we have an idea of numbers for catering purposes. Thank you.

First Holy Communion:

A special welcome to Autumn, Boston, Callie, Hannah, Lilyanna, Maksymilian, Oscar, Paris, Sarah and Rio who will be receiving their First Communion today, Sunday's 10.30 am mass. Please remember them, their families and the Catechists, who have prepared them for this special day, in your prayers.

Anne Fielder: Sadly Anne died on Easter Sunday. We will be holding a memorial service at St Wilfrid's Church on Thursday 5th June at 11.30am followed by refreshments in our church hall.

NEW PARISH OPEN MEETING - POSTPONED: this meeting will now be rescheduled to a later date, soon to be advised. Thanks and sorry for any inconvenience.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 11th May, 9am - Deacon John's Birthday Mass/B/Fast, St G's.
Sun 11th May, 10.30am - 1st Holy Com Service, St W's Church.
Wed 14th May, 7pm - 1st Communion Lesson, St W's Hall.
Sun 18th May, 1st Communion Breakfast, St W's Hall.
Thurs 22nd May, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
Sun 25th May, 10am - Community Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
Fri 30th May, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Group, St W's Hall.
Sun 1st June, After Mass - Womble Day, St W's.

Grandparents' Pilgrimage - Worth Abbey - 11 June 10am - 3.30pm: You are warmly invited to join the Grandparent Parish Groups at our annual day of reflection and friendship. Join us for Mass, time to pray together and the wonderful opportunity to talk to fellow grandparents, sharing your experience and the joys and challenges of family life. To register your place, scan the QR code on the poster or go to the Diocesan website events calendar, through which places for events can be booked. This can be found at W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events> and then follow the Grandparents' Pilgrimage link. We look forward to seeing you there. For more details contact Deacon Simon South, Marriage and Family Life Adviser
E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk, M: 07415 306222.

The South Downs Singers cancelled their Spring Concert last Saturday at St George's in respect of the funeral of Pope Francis. It was very moving that non Catholics within this lovely choir were so vocal in saying respect must be shown to the Catholic community at St George's and immediately contacted Fr Rory to express this. If you purchased a ticket, a refund will be given by the seller. We perform again at our Summer Concert on 26th July, Carter's Corner Farm. If you prefer, your ticket from the Spring Concert can be used there.

Community Charity Breakfast - Our next breakfast will be Sunday 25th May after mass at St George's - this month our charity is Mary's Meals. We hope you, your family and friends can support this breakfast.

Mass Attendance:

Sunday 4th May

St Wilfrid's 129

St George's 80