

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
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.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah
and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the
house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the
mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the
nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house
of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that
we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Sion shall go forth the
law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge
between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many
peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up
sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 122(121):1-2. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R. cf. 1

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

I rejoiced when they said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD
as it is decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
There were set the thrones for judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray,
‘May they prosper, those who love you.’
May peace abide in your walls,
and security be in your towers.

For the sake of my family and friends,
let me say, ‘Peace upon you.’
For the sake of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will seek good things for you.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.
Romans 13:11-14a

Brothers and sisters: You know the time, that the hour has come
for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now
than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at
hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on
the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime,
not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and
sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord
Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. Psalm 85(84):8
Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you. Matthew 24:37-44

And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: ‘For as were the days of
Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those
days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying
and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the
ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept
them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then
two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.
Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one
left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day
your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the
house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming,
he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house
be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of
Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below,
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our
earth shall yield its increase. Ps 84:13

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,
you teach us by them to love the things of heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

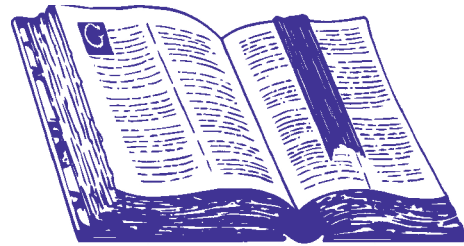
Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The theme of this Sunday’s gospel is waiting. Waiting for who? In the first of this Sunday’s readings Isaiah foretells the coming of the one who will turn implements of war into tools of agriculture, and of the time when “nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more”. If this is the case, then we are still waiting. And yet, Jesus came among us two thousand years ago. He gave us the secret to peace: that we love one another as he loved us. Perhaps this is why we celebrate Christmas every year. Each time we make present among us the birth of the one who said “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you” (Jn 14,27) we are given another opportunity to banish war forever, to use the

billions spent on armaments to feed the hungry, and build homes for the homeless. The pessimists among us will say that there has always been war and there will always be war: get used to it. If that is our belief then we are hypocrites if we continue to celebrate Christmas; or at best we can secularise it into nothing more than an occasion to eat, drink, and be merry. So, who are you waiting for this Christmas? Will the Prince of Peace find a place in your heart?



POPE FRANCIS’ ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

THE INJUSTICE OF WAR

260. In the words of Saint John XXIII, “it no longer makes sense to maintain that war is a fit instrument with which to repair the violation of justice”.²⁴³ In making this point amid great international tension, he voiced the growing desire for peace emerging in the Cold War period. He supported the conviction that the arguments for peace are stronger than any calculation of particular interests and confidence in the use of weaponry. The opportunities offered by the end of the Cold War were not, however, adequately seized due to a lack of a vision for the future and a shared consciousness of our common destiny. Instead, it proved easier to pursue partisan interests without upholding the universal common good. The dread spectre of war thus began to gain new ground.

243. Encyclical Letter Pacem in Terris (11 April 1963): AAS 55 (1963), 291.

Pope Francis’
Encyclical Letter
DILEXIT NOS

If we find it hard to trust others because we have been hurt by lies, injuries and disappointments, the Lord whispers in our ear: “Take heart, son!” (Mt 9:2), “Take heart, daughter!” (Mt 9:22). He encourages us to overcome our fear and to realize that, with him at our side, we have nothing to lose. To Peter, in his fright, “Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him”, saying, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Mt 14:31). Nor should you be afraid. Let him draw near and sit at your side. There may be many people we distrust, but not him. Do not hesitate because of your sins. Keep in mind that many sinners “came and sat with him” (Mt 9:10), yet Jesus was scandalized by none of them. It was the religious elite that complained and treated him as “a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Mt 11:19). When the Pharisees criticized him for his closeness to people deemed base or sinful, Jesus replied, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice” (Mt 9:13).

That same Jesus is now waiting for you to give him the chance to bring light to your life, to raise you up and to fill you with his strength. Before his death, he assured his disciples, “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me” (Jn 14:18-19). Jesus always finds a way to be present in your life, so that you can encounter him.

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

First Sunday of Advent

Sat	29th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Open for Adoration and Confessions
Sun	30th	9am	St George's —	Dolores McNabb RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Marian Wiktor RIP
Mon	1st	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	2nd	10am	St George's —	Joseph Patrick Perera RIP
Wed	3rd	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Husband, Relatives & Friends of Judy Davis Int
Thurs	4th	10am	St George's —	Private Intention
Fri	5th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Denis Foley RIP

Second Sunday of Advent

Sat	6th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Open for Adoration and Confessions
Sun	7th	9am	St George's —	Repose of the Souls of Edna & Peter Andrews
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Jacqueline Humphries RIP

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

Make your offertory donations go further! By simply signing up to the Gift Aid scheme, we can claim back an extra **25p** on every £1 you donate – **at no extra cost to you.** To join, contact Gerry today: pfc.hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Reps:

St George's: Maria - 07873759962

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, Cecilia Hyland, Madeleine Waters, Andrew, Gerry Page, Jeannie and Mick.

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!

Deacon John Writes:

Many of you already know that Fr Rory had a fall on Wednesday this week and has broken his left arm just below the shoulder. As a result he has been told to rest it completely for 4-6 weeks to allow the bones to mend. This week we have been able to ask Canon Paul Jennings to supply for us and he has said 'yes'. Our thanks for this are sincere and we are very grateful for this. At this time of writing we do not know what will happen at the weekends between now and January. It is a bit like Advent - wait and see! While waiting please keep him in your prayers.

Bishop Richard wrote this in a letter today: In this first part of Advent, we reflect on our hope in the coming Kingdom. This carries a particular resonance this year, perhaps, as we enter the final month of the Jubilee Year of Hope. Advent calls us to be open to the gift of hope. Hope is a virtue. Hope is a gift. It is a mark of the Christian, for our lives are a preparation for the coming of the Lord. We proclaim, every time we profess our faith in the Creed: "I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." The Christian life looks forward all the time – in hope – to the wonder of the experience of total love in the Kingdom of the Father. This hope must inform our actions, our encounters with others, our words, our prayer. It is this hope that enables us to live our Christian life, sometimes in the face of opposition and not without suffering and difficulty, here and now – to be Christ's people each and every day, as we await His coming.

May this season be a time of renewed hope for us all, bringing us to be ever more effective in the work of mission that the Lord has given to us as beacons of hope, witnesses to the coming Kingdom of Our Lord Jesus Christ. With every blessing + Richard.

Deacon John

Parishioners at St Wilfrid's have decided not to send each other Christmas cards this year, but instead will donate the money to Bethlehem University (a Catholic co-educational institution whose mission is to provide quality higher education to the people of Palestine). There will be a collection of these donations on Sunday 14th December.

Comedy and Carols

Join us for a night of Comedy & Carols on Friday, 12th Dec at St Wilfrid's. We're delighted to welcome comedian and writer Paul Karensa, who will bring laughter and festive joy to this special celebration. Tickets: £11.55 (including booking fee) — available from <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-of-comedy-and-carols-with-paul-karensa-tickets-1866934785199>

Tickets will also be available for purchase for £10 after Sunday Mass at St Wilfrid's, and at St George's on Sunday, 30th November.

St Wilfrid's Christmas Lunch: This very popular lunch will take place on Wed 17th Dec, 1pm at the Kings Head - Horsebridge. £25 pp, which will include everything. To book a place, see Sally or Judy after Sunday or weekday masses. Please pay by cash, and collect a menu to pick your requirements..

Advent Reconciliation Service: We welcome Joseph, Maya, Noah, Oliwia, and Paulina to our First Holy Communion Programme. They will be leading us in an **Advent Reconciliation Service** at 5:30 p.m. on 13th December at St Wilfrid's, during which they will receive this sacrament for the first time. We invite everyone in our community to join us in supporting them as they help us prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

Pray Eastbourne 2025 SING CAROLS with Pray Eastbourne and the Salvation Army Band.
Meeting at 5.45pm until 7pm on Thursday 11th December, near Boots on Terminus Road, Eastbourne Town Centre.
nationalweekofprayer.uk prayereastbourne.co.uk 07706 181568
prayeastbourne@aol.com

Bambinelli Sunday – 14th December, blessing during mass of Baby Jesus from our home nativities.

Dates for your Diary:

Wed 10th Dec, 6-7.30pm - 1st Holy Communion, St W's Hall.
Fri 12th Dec, 7.30pm - Comedy & Carols, St W's Hall.
Sat 13th Dec, 5.30pm - Advent Reconciliation Service, St W's Church.
Sat 13th Dec, 3.30pm - Christmas Melodies Concert, St G' Church.
Sun 14th Dec, 3pm - St W's Christmas Carol Service, St W's Church.
Wed 17th Dec, 1pm - St W's Christmas Lunch, Kings Head.
Thurs 29th Jan, 2-4pm - Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
Fri 30th Jan, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Group, St W's Hall.
Sun 25th Jan, 10am - Community Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.

The New Parish Monthly Newsletter will be distributed this Sunday. It is also available online through the new Parish website:-

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeastbourne-stleonards.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cchailsham%40abdiocese.org.uk%7C4321351252bd4b346c0008de2cce367e%7C2bf5dbc217ef4efca1c9ab2dc4edefd0%7C0%7C0%7C638997461471692186%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWU5IlYiOiJlLjAuM-DawMCisIIAiOiJXaW4zMtSikFOljoITWFpbGlldUljovFQ%3D%3D%7C60000%7C%7C&sdata=EjIDvzbW7Yf%2FOyBDMUEkHaQnsKcthjO50UVV0tyEb0s%3D&reserved=0>

ST WILFRID'S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 14th December 2025 at 3pm. You are all invited to our Service. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall afterwards.

The Festive Workshop went really well, and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came and supported me. A special thank you to Monika and Teresa for helping me set up, and to Jubi, Sandra and Amy for helping to gather the greenery for the decorations.

Jubilee of Prisoners takes place from December 12th to 14th as part of the Jubilee of Hope. You are asked to pray for Prisoners and the Justice System so that through our prayers we may bring them Peace and Hope.

Last Sunday Charity Breakfast – Today Sun 30th Nov, after Mass (10am if not attending mass). This month supporting the **Royal British Legion**. Bacon and sausage baps, croissants, tea loaf, a cuppa, and great company. No set price, donation only.

The Spotlight Players are performing "Rapunzel" by Tom Whalley Pantomimes at St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive Hampden Park on Fri 5th Dec at 7.30pm, Sat 7th Dec at 2.30pm and Sun 7th Dec at 10.30am and 3pm 2025. Tickets on Sale now www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-spotlight-players or call Trish on 07823 660 526. Adults £9, Children £4.50. Refreshments available to purchase/Raffle tickets cash only. Charity this year SCBU Conquest Hospital. Marylou.

Christmas Melodies Concert by South Downs Singers at St George's Church on Sat 13th Dec at 3.30pm. Tickets £10, purchased from Shirley or Anne at St George's or calling 01323 832767. This community choir regularly makes donations, through its concerts, to local charities and welcome your support.

Sunday 23rd November - Mass Attendance:
St Wilfrid's 126 St George's 80



JOIN US FOR COMEDY AND CAROLS

Comedy & Carols

Friday 12th December 7.30- 9.30pm
At St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Hailsham.

*Join us for a festive evening of songs and laughter with comedian and writer **Paul Karenza** (Miranda & Not Going Out), with a glass of mulled wine & mince pie.*

Recommended age 10+ years.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-of-comedy-and-carols-with-paul-karenza-tickets-1866934785199>



Lee Mack
says: 'Top
Comic, Top
Writer, Top
Man.'

