ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down the dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 7:10-14

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R.cf. 7c, 10b

R. Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

The LORD's is the earth and its fullness. the world, and those who dwell in it. It is he who set it on the seas; on the rivers he made it firm

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD? Who shall stand in his holy place? The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose soul is not set on vain things.

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive, and right reward from the God who saves him. Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our

Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship

to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

Matthew 1:23

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel which means. God with us. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' - which means. God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar. iust as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Marv. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God,

that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) 14TH DECEMBER 2025

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



To those who knew him, Joseph all of us when presented with the or comment. He was what we could

motherhood would have been a kind man for in order not to put Mary to shame he send her away. But something more than kindness was required of him when the angel told him to take Mary as his wife. He required that is required of

the carpenter, husband of Mary astounding mystery of God taking probably didn't evoke much notice on human form and being born of a virgin. It also requires grace, the same call an ordinary man. And yet, he grace that allowed Peter to say to Jesus, has a key role to plan in the cosmic "You are the Christ, the son of the drama of salvation. Without his living God" (Mt. 16,16) and Thomas

consent Mary's divine to say, "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20,28). Let this be our request this have hit a wall. By Christmas: that we receive the grace nature, he seems to which allows us to recognise in that tiny baby of the nativity scene the axis around which the whole of human history turns, the light which was going to quietly has come into world to dispel every darkness. Pope St Paul VI said: "We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and mankind. He who has faith knows this truly; let him faith, the same faith rejoice." Yes, let us rejoice.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUT BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALI

THE DEATH PENALTY

Pope Francis' **Encyclical Letter DILEXIT NOS**



263. There is yet another way to eliminate others, one aimed not at countries but at individuals. It is the death penalty. Saint John Paul II stated clearly and firmly that the death penalty is inadequate from a moral standpoint and no longer necessary from that of penal justice. ²⁴⁶ There can be no stepping back from this position. Today we state clearly that "the death

246] Cf. Encyclical Letter Evangelium Vitae (25 March 1995), 56: AAS 87 (1995), 463-464. 247. Address on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (11 October 2017): AAS 109 (2017), 1196. 248. Cf. CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, Letter to the Bishops Regarding the Revision of No. 2267 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church on the Death Penalty (1 August 2018): L'Osservatore Romano, 3 August 2018, p. 8.

penalty is inadmissible" 247 and the Church is firmly

committed to calling for its abolition worldwide. ²⁴⁸

We cannot attain our fulfilment as human beings unless we open our hearts to others; only through love do we become fully ourselves. The deepest part of us, created for love, will fulfil God's plan only if we learn to love. And the heart is the symbol of that love.

The eternal Son of God, in his utter transcendence, chose to love each of us with a human heart. His human emotions became the sacrament of that infinite and endless love. His heart, then, is not merely a symbol for some disembodied spiritual truth. In gazing upon the Lord's heart, we contemplate a physical reality, his human flesh, which enables him to possess genuine human emotions and feelings, like ourselves, albeit fully transformed by his divine love. Our devotion must ascend to the infinite love of the Person of the Son of God, yet we need to keep in mind that his divine love is inseparable from his human love.

matur. Christopher Dawson, Chancellor, Salford. Scripture texts from the England Standard Version - Catholic Edition published by Asian Trading Corporation © 2017 by Crossway. All rights reserved. Psalms and Cartricles from Abbey Psalms and Cartricles © 2018, 2010 United States Corsistered in England and Wales. For Colloquium (CATEV) on behalf of the Catholic Esbeloys Cordineces or England and Wales. The England and Wales, and Esbeloys Cordineces of Social and Estructs from the Forman Missal © 2010 International Commission on England and Wales, and Esbeloys Cordination. All rights reserved. The Catholic Printing Corpuration Contracts Cordinate Cartes from the Forman Missal © 2010 International Commission on England and Wales, and Esbeloys Cordinate. The England and Wales, and Esbeloys Cordination. All rights reserved. The Catholic Printing Corpuration (Target Corpuration) and England and Wales, and Esbeloys Cordination. All rights reserved. The Catholic Printing Corpuration (Target Corpuration) and England and Wales. The Catholic Printing Corpuration (Target Corpuration) and Esbeloys Cordination. The Catholic Printing Company of Farnworth* Tel: 0161 873 7457 www.catholicprint.co.uk



PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

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(Answerphone service available) Email: hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk

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South Road Hailsham



WEEKLY \$ERVICE\$

		(Crib Collection - The Catholic Children's Society A&B Crisis Fund)		
Sat	20th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Open for Adoration and Confessions
Sun	21st	9am	St George's —	Tina Scanlon Anniversary RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	James Leslie Westcar RIP
Mon	22nd	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	23rd	10am	St George's -	Parish Communities' Intention
Christmas Eve		5.30pm	St Wilfrid's —	Family Service with Children's Mime
Christmas Day		9.30am	St George's —	Nativity of the Lord
Fri	26th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Holy Souls' Intention
		The Holy Family		
Sat	27th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Open for Adoration and Confessions
Sun	28th	9am	St George's —	Holy Souls' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 'O Oriens'

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, 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 and Steph Simons RIP.

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:

Do you remember the gospel from the first Sunday of Advent? That Gospel was a wakeup call to all of us Christians. We were instructed to "Stay awake!" It is very important because all of Advent is a season of great awakening, preparation, and of great expectation of the birth of the Messiah. It is a season that will end this week in an outburst of great joy. It is, a season of prayer when we turn to God in prayer. Therefore, with the psalmist, I pray for you all with the phrase from the psalm of that first Sunday: "Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, and in your palaces, peace!"

Let the Advent wreath be a visible reminder to us all of our call as people who are followers of the Light of the World. It is not just an invitation to light, but an invitation to be *bearers* of light to all. In the days ahead let us remember that it says to us: Light the candle. Pray more deeply. Love more generously. Give more freely. Christ is coming this week— as an infant, yes, but also as a king. Time is short. We need to be ready. Let us always remember, he is here now. Let these four lights be sparks of hope, peace, joy and love to all we meet. St Teresa of Avila said: "Christ has no body now but yours" so we must be the Body of Christ and let our hands and feet, our eyes and ears, each word we speak, bring compassion to the world around us.

Christmas Collection: As I am sure many of you are aware, Catholic Priests do not receive a salary and rely on your generosity at Christmas and Easter as a thank you for all they do for us. It is also possible to claim gift aid on your donation if you are a UK taxpayer and that extra 25% will go directly to Father Rory. If you aren't part of a planned giving scheme then please use the "one off" gift aid envelopes located in the porch. You can also contribute via the digital collection plate at St Wilfrid's or via the QR code or donations website link

(https://donate.mydona.com/st-wilfrids-churchhailsham) using the "Christmas Collections" tab.

New Years Day Mass - St George's Church - 10am
Epiphany of the Lord - Tuesday 6th January
Mass at St Wilfrid's Church - 10am
Requiem Mass for Christina Neyenhuizen - St George's, 11am

Hailsham Foodbank: Thank you for your support. Your harvest donations make a huge difference to people facing hardship. Happy Christmas from Hailsham Foodbank.

Christmas Flowers: We are collecting at both churches to help with the cost of the flowers in the church over the Christmas period, any donations are gratefully received. Thank you.

Advent Reconciliation Service: What a lovely little service this was. Thank you Teresa for preparing our candidates for their very first reconciliation. It was a shame only a few of our church members attended this half hour service to support our young people.

St Wilfrid's Carol Service: Again, this was a great little service, but very few of our church goers attended! Those of us who did attend enjoyed the readings and popular carols, then into our hall for refreshments and of course the very popular 'Bags'. Lots of fun and laughter was had by all. The remaining bags will be on sale after all masses in our hall, so don't miss out! £2 Adults, £1 Children. Money raised will go towards equipment in our hall.

Annette would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been asking about the operation of her knee. It was successful and she is doing the exercises, but trying to get her to rest is very difficult, as anyone who knows her will understand!

Many thanks to everyone who donated to Bethlehem University last Sunday through the second collection at St Wilfrid's and via the lucky bag sale after the Carol Concert. We have currently raised £356, but there is still an opportunity to donate this week via the digital plate. Sophie will also be selling the remaining lucky bags after Mass on Sunday.

Rorate Caeli Mass, celebrated by only candlelight every Friday in Advent at 6.30am at Our Lady of Ransom. This peaceful, beautiful tradition in honour of Our Lady is followed by breakfast in the hall. All are welcome. Families and schoolchildren are warmly encouraged to come - many attend in school uniform before heading on to school or work, with local journeys and trains still perfectly manageable. More details can be found here: Rorate Caeli Mass Information

Baptismal programmes for St George's and St Wilfrid's will run at various times during 2026. Please enquire through the parish office on 01323 841504 or email hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter is now available. Please pick up a copy from the porch if you haven't already done so. It can also be accessed online through the new parish website;

West Hub Newsletter – December 2025

Catholic Parish of Eastbourne & St Leonards Website

The December edition of the Eastbourne St Leonards Parish

Mill Hill Red Boxes to be brought to church and handed in to be counted. Make sure your name is on the box label or we will be unable to give you a receipt, which is important. The next counting will be June 2026.

St George's quarterly community meeting: We will not have this in Dec, as there is a lot going on already. Also, to help align the meetings to allow feedback from the monthly Parish Hub Meetings we have decided to hold them on the second Sunday of the month instead of the first. 2026 meetings will therefore be after mass on Sunday: January 11th; April 12th; July 12th; and October 11th.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 11th Jan, After Mass - St G's Quarterly Community Mtg, St G's 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.

Sunday 14th December - Mass Attendance: St Wilfrid's 117 St George's 77



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve - Family Service with Children's Mime St Wilfrid's Church at 5.30pm

Christmas Day – Nativity of the Lord St George's Church at 9.30am

New Years Day
St George's Church at 10am

Epiphany of the Lord
Tuesday 6th January
St Wilfrid's Church at 10am

Requiem Mass for Christina Neyenhuizen
Tuesday 6th January
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