

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**  
**O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.**

Cf. Is 30:19,30

**COLLECT**  
Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 11:1-10

On that day: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

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

**PSALM** Psalm 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. 7  
**R. In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgement

R.

In his days justice shall flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth.

R.

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry, the poor who have no one to help. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy.

R.

May his name endure for ever, his name continue like the sun. Every tribe shall be blest in him, all nations shall call him blessed.

R.

**SECOND READING**  
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for

his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

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

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL**  
**Alleluia, alleluia.** Luke 3:4, 6  
**Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL** Matthew 3:1-12  
The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."'

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**  
Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** Bar 5:5;4:36  
**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**  
Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

# Our Faith on Sunday

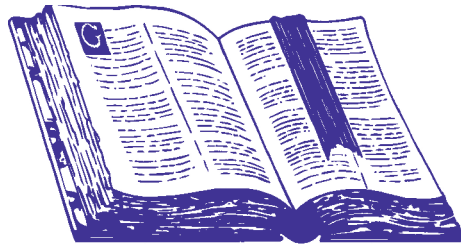
## GOSPEL REFLECTION



In this Sunday's gospel reading we hear John the Baptist preaching repentance because "the kingdom of heaven is at

hand". By now we are used to "celebrities" being forced to repent for something they posted on social media and which has caused offence to some group or other. Perhaps it is not surprising if we doubt the authenticity of their being sorry. Often, it's a matter of damage limitation and the fear of being "cancelled". This is not the sort of repentance John the Baptist is talking about. It is not the repentance that Jesus is talking about when he says, "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mk. 1,15). When we are face to face with Jesus we cannot fake repentance, for he can read the innermost thoughts of our soul. But there is more. Jesus links repentance with belief in the "good

news". Simply to wallow in regret and remorse for my past actions can easily turn into a negative concentration on myself, a case of the serpent eating its tail. The essence of the gospel message is that a new life is being offered to me. Writing to the Corinthians Paul affirms: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2Cor 5,17). This is the reason we will hear these words sung many times over the Christmas season: "Joy to the world, the Lord is come".



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

### THE INJUSTICE OF WAR

261. Every war leaves our world worse than it was before. War is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil. Let us not remain mired in theoretical discussions, but touch the wounded flesh of the victims. Let us look once more at all those civilians whose killing was considered "collateral damage". Let us ask the victims themselves. Let us think of the refugees and displaced, those who suffered the effects of atomic radiation or chemical attacks, the mothers who lost their children, and the boys and girls maimed or deprived of their childhood. Let us hear the true stories of these victims of violence, look at reality through their eyes, and listen with an open heart to the stories they tell. In this way, we will be able to grasp the abyss of evil at the heart of war. Nor will it trouble us to be deemed naive for choosing peace.

### Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter DILEXIT NOS

Many a page of the Gospel illustrates how attentive Jesus was to individuals and above all to their problems and needs. We are told that, "when he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless" (Mt 9:36). Whenever we feel that everyone ignores us, that no one cares what becomes of us, that we are of no importance to anyone, he remains concerned for us. To Nathanael, standing apart and busy about his own affairs, he could say, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you" (Jn 1:48).

Precisely out of concern for us, Jesus knows every one of our good intentions and small acts of charity. The Gospel tells us that once he "saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins" in the Temple treasury (Lk 21:2) and immediately brought it to the attention of his disciples. Jesus thus appreciates the good that he sees in us. When the centurion approached him with complete confidence, "Jesus listened to him and was amazed" (Mt 8:10). How reassuring it is to know that, even if others are not aware of our good intentions or actions, Jesus sees them and regards them highly.

# 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

#### 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
Mon	8th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	9th	<b>9am</b>	St George's -	Mrs Joy Rebello's Intention
Wed	10th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Pauline Jobson RIP
Thurs	11th	10am	St George's —	Enza Riddiford RIP
Fri	12th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Deceased Members of the Waters Family

#### Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent

Sat	13th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Open for Adoration and Confessions
		5.30pm	St Wilfrid's -	Advent Reconciliation Service
Sun	14th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Edmund Ginn RIP
		3pm	St Wilfrid's -	Carol Service

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

**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](mailto: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, Steph Simons, 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:**

We spent the month of November praying for those who have died and whose names are in the books of remembrance. During this Advent we prepare our hearts for Christ by turning away from sin and giving ourselves completely to God so that when Christ comes, or when we are called from this life, we are ready and prepared. What better way of doing this than making a good confession receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation which Fr Rory is always willing to give - just as we should all remember during this season of Advent that in Bethlehem, God was born. That the Child came to save us from sins. That His name is called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. Although he was born in an obscure village and in humble circumstances, and although He would write no books, and live publicly for only a brief three years, no person has left such a mark on human history as He did. . Let us be like the German mystic Angelus Silesius who said: "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain until He is born **IN ME.**" When we show real love, kindness, mercy and a spirit of forgiveness, we are announcing the truth that Christ is with us.

I finish with a suggestion for **Advent action**: if the opportunity presents itself, play the part of a secret Santa by delivering a small unexpected gift anonymously to a friend or relative or someone in need, this week.

With my love and prayers for a happy and holy Advent.

*Deacon John*

**Mass at St George's Church - Tuesday 9th December** will be at 9am instead of 10am.

**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**

A few tickets are still available for our Comedy & Carols evening on Friday, 12th December at St Wilfrid's, starting at 7.30 pm. If you would like to secure one of the remaining £10 tickets, please speak to Jean (St Wilfrid's) or Anne (St George's) after Mass today.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served on the night, and you're also welcome to bring your own drinks or nibbles to enjoy throughout the evening.

**Appeal for Mince Pies:** Donations of mince pies would be greatly appreciated for the Comedy and Carols event on 12th December and for the Carol Service on 14th December at St Wilfrid's. Thank you very much for your continued support.

**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.

**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.

**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 December edition of the Eastbourne St Leonards Parish 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](#)

**Christmas Tree Elves needed urgently:** We are looking for 6 –8 volunteers to help set up and decorate the Christmas trees in the church and hall at St Wilfrid's after Mass today. The task should take no more than an hour if we have enough helpers!

**ST WILFRID'S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

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

**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](#)

**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.

**Bambinelli Sunday - 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, St G's 9am & St W's 10.30am:**

Everyone invited, especially children, to bring their baby Jesus crib figure to either of our parish masses on the Third Sunday of Advent. A traditional blessing of the Bambinelli (baby Jesus) will be given. Then they go home to be wrapped up and placed under the tree. The blessed Bambinelli are then unwrapped by you as the first present on Christmas morning.

**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.

**Sunday 30th November - Mass Attendance:**

St Wilfrid's 110 St George's 80