

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Cf. Mt 3:16-17  
**After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**

**COLLECT**  
Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may also be well pleasing to you. 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 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD: Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

‘I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.’

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

**PSALM** Psalm 29(28):1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10. R.11b

**R. The LORD will bless his people with peace.**

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly powers, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; bow down before the LORD, majestic in holiness.

The voice of the LORD upon the waters, the LORD on the immensity of waters; the voice of the LORD full of power; the voice of the LORD full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders; in his temple they all cry, ‘Glory!’ The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits as king for ever.

**SECOND READING**  
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts 10:34-38

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching

good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.’

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

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL**  
**Alleluia, alleluia.** Cf. Mark 9:7  
**The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: ‘This is my beloved Son; listen to him’. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL** Matthew 3:13-17  
The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**  
Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** Jn 1:32,34  
**Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**  
Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



When we read the gospel account of the baptism of Jesus, we can wonder with John why Jesus came forward for baptism. Isn't it part of our Christian faith that baptism

cleanses us from original sin? Surely, this did not apply to Jesus. Once again, we can marvel at the extent to which Jesus became one of us. Writing to the Corinthians Paul says: “Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf” (2Cor 5,21). However, there is more to Jesus’s baptism than simply an act of humility. The essential reality of baptism is the re-enactment of the death and resurrection of Jesus. That is why St. Paul can write to the Romans: “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (Rom 6,4). Just as happened in the waters of the Jordan

so too at our baptism the Spirit of God descends upon us. At every baptism a new creation is enacted, “the old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2Cor 5,17). However, baptism is not magic. It requires our cooperation. If we have become children of God then we must live as children of God. It is only then that we can hope to hear the voice of the Father spoken about us: “This is my beloved child with whom I am well pleased”.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

### THE DEATH PENALTY

266. Fear and resentment can easily lead to viewing punishment in a vindictive and even cruel way, rather than as part of a process of healing and reintegration into society. Nowadays, “in some political sectors and certain media, public and private violence and revenge are incited, not only against those responsible for committing crimes, but also against those suspected, whether proven or not, of breaking the law... There is at times a tendency to deliberately fabricate enemies: stereotyped figures who represent all the characteristics that society perceives or interprets as threatening. The mechanisms that form these images are the same that allowed the spread of racist ideas in their time”.<sup>255</sup> This has made all the more dangerous the growing practice in some countries of resorting to preventive custody, imprisonment without trial and especially the death penalty.

255. Address to Delegates of the International Association of Penal Law (23 October 2014): AAS 106 (2014), 840-841.

St. Francis of Sales  
Introduction to the Devout Life

Be patient, not only with respect to the main trials which beset you, but also under the accidental and accessory annoyances which arise out of them. We often find people who imagine themselves ready to accept a trial in itself who are impatient of its consequences. We hear one man say, “I should not mind poverty, were it not that I am unable to bring up my children and receive my friends as handsomely as I desire.” And another says, “I should not mind, were it not that the world will suppose it is my own fault;” while another would patiently bear to be the subject of slander provided nobody believed it. Others, again, accept one side of a trouble but fret against the rest—as, for instance, believing themselves to be patient under sickness, only fretting against their inability to obtain the best advice, or at the inconvenience they are to their friends. But, dear child, be sure that we must patiently accept, not sickness only, but such sickness as God chooses to send, in the place, among the people, and subject to the circumstances which He ordains;—and so with all other troubles.

# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF



## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



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(Answerphone service available)

Email: [hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk)

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

#### The Baptism of the Lord

Sat	10th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Open for Adoration and Confessions
Sun	11th	9am	St George's —	Christina Neyenhuizen RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	12th	2.30pm	St George's —	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	13th	10am	St George's -	Anne & Roy Eamers' Intention
Wed	14th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Betty Byrnes Daughter
Thurs	15th	10am	St George's —	Fr Rory Intention
Fri	16th	10am	St Wilfrid's —	Peter Price RIP

#### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat	17th	10am	St Wilfrid's—	Open for Adoration and Confessions
Sun	18th	9am	St George's —	Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's —	Madeleine & Bob Waters' 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#\\_=\\_](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 and Gerry Page.

**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:

Saint John Neumann's Story- feast day - Monday Jan 5th

Perhaps because the United States got a later start in the history of the world, it has relatively few canonised saints, but their number is increasing. Saint John Neumann was born in what is now the Czech Republic. After studying in Prague, he came to New York at 25 and was ordained a priest. He did missionary work in New York until he was 29, when he joined the Redemptorists and became its first member to profess vows in the United States. He continued missionary work in Maryland, Virginia and Ohio, where he became popular with the Germans. At 41, as bishop of Philadelphia, he organised the parochial school system into a diocesan one, increasing the number of pupils almost twentyfold within a short time. Gifted with outstanding organising ability, he drew into the city many teaching communities of sisters and the Christian Brothers. During his brief assignment as vice provincial for the Redemptorists, he placed them in the forefront of the parochial movement. Well-known for his holiness and learning, spiritual writing and preaching, on October 13, 1963, Saint John Neumann became the first American bishop to be beatified. Canonised in 1977, he is buried in St. Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia.

Neumann took seriously our Lord's words, "Go and teach all nations." From [Christ](#) he received his instructions and the power to carry them out. For Christ does not give a mission without supplying the means to accomplish it. The Father's gift in [Christ](#) to John Neumann was his exceptional organizing ability, which he used to spread the Good News. Today the Church is in dire need of men and women to continue in our times the teaching of the Good News. The obstacles and inconveniences are real and costly. Yet when Christians approach Christ, he supplies the necessary talents to answer today's needs. The Spirit of Christ continues his work through the instrumentality of generous Christians.

*Deacon John*

**Safeguarding Training:** **Date:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026, **Time:** 17:45 - 20:00, **Location:** Our Lady of Ransom Hall (BN21 4EU).

**Target audience:** Catechists and other church volunteers (e.g. SVP, Eucharistic Ministers) requiring Level 3 Safeguarding (first training OR refresher training) for their roles with Children AND/OR Vulnerable Adults.

**Please Note:** The actual training will start at 18:00, people should attend for registration 15 minutes ahead of the start time.

In order that we can keep a central log and an idea of numbers, please respond directly to me, Alison Parsons

[sg1.eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sg1.eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk), if you wish to attend. Thank you.

**Parish Over 50's Afternoon Tea & Games:** We will **not** be meeting in January. Our next meet will be on Thurs 26th Feb, 2-4pm, theme is Winder Wonderland. Anyone over 50 is welcome to join our merry group, just turn up on the day. All welcome.

**Room to Rent:** A lady is looking for a single room to rent in Hailsham. If anyone knows of someone who may be able to help please email [hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk) Thank you.

**Spitfire Girl Talk - 21st February 2026 - 7.30pm St Wilfrid's Church Hall:** On Saturday February 21st at 7.30pm there will be a talk on Spitfire Girl, Mary Ellis, given by Author Melody Foreman. Mary was a member of the Air Transport Auxiliary and flew many different types of aircraft including bombers single handedly during the war. Tickets £15. available from [civilaviationtrust.org](http://civilaviationtrust.org) for more information contact Gary O'Brien. Thank you.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage:** Our pilgrimage to Lourdes is one of the most significant pastoral events in our annual diocesan calendar, with hundreds of members of our community of faith visiting the Grotto together each year. Sandra and a few youths will be attending, **lets give this our maximum support**, so if you would like to join them, please apply or speak to Sandra for more information. Applications for the 2026 Pilgrimage will open in early 2026. The Pilgrimage will take place from 24-30 July. <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk>

**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](mailto:hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk)

### Dates for your Diary:

Sun 11th Jan, After Mass - St G's Quarterly Community Mtg, St G's  
Wed 14th Jan, 6-7.30pm - First Holy Communion Mtg, 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.  
Thurs 26th Feb, 2-4pm - Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.

**Community Charity Breakfast:** Our next Charity Breakfast will be Sunday 25th January after mass at St George's when we will be supporting "Warming Up the Homeless". We hope you, your family and friends can support this.

**Comedy & Carols:** Our comedy night with writer and comedian Paul Kerensa was a great success. 60 guests attended this evening of laughter and festive song. A traditional afternoon of readings, carols, mince pies, mulled wine, and cultural Christmas traditions brought further warmth to the season. A great time was had by all.

**Thank you** to Fr Rory, Deacon John and all of our parish community for all the help and support through this difficult time. Gerrard. Christina will be deeply missed and very much remembered for her kindness and her enjoyment that she received from our community. People very much enjoyed her company.

**The January 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; [Catholic Parish of Eastbourne & St Leonards Website](#)

**St George's quarterly community meeting:** We have decided to hold these 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 4th January - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 99      St George's 63