

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Ps 65:4

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us;
to all who did receive him,
he gave the authority to become children of God.
Alleluia.

John 1:14a, 12a

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.
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 49:3, 5-6

The LORD said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him — for I am honoured in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength — he says: 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 40(39):2, 4ab. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. R.8a, 9a

R. Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the LORD,
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

You delight not in sacrifice and offering,
but in an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering.
Then I said, 'Behold, I have come.'

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me:
'I delight to do your will, O my God;
your instruction lies deep within me.'

Your uprightness I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O LORD.

SECOND READING

The beginning of the First Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called by the will of God to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus,
and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in
Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints
together with all those who in every place call upon the name
of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you
and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

R. Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that we may participate worthily in these mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.

R. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIphon

Cf. Ps 22:5

R. You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,
and in your kindness
make those you have nourished
by this one heavenly Bread
one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

18TH JANUARY 2026

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



GOSPEL

John 1:29-34

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: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me." I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In today's gospel reading John the Baptist points to Jesus and says: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". When Jesus is described as a "lamb" it brings to mind two things: his innocence and his being sacrificed. solely in terms of a transaction where Jesus pays a debt to the Father on our behalf. In speaking about the crucifixion, we can never leave out the resurrection. The taking away of the sin of the world is in fact the transformation of the whole cosmos,

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE DEATH PENALTY

267. Here I would stress that "it is impossible to imagine that states today have no other means than capital punishment to protect the lives of other people from the unjust aggressor". Particularly serious in this regard are so-called extrajudicial or extralegal executions, which are "homicides deliberately committed by certain states and by their agents, often passed off as clashes with criminals or presented as the unintended consequences of the reasonable, necessary and proportionate use of force in applying the law".²⁵⁶

256. Ibid., 842.

St. Francis of Sales

Introduction to the Devout Life



Depend upon it, it is better to learn how to live without being angry than to imagine one can moderate and control anger lawfully; and if through weakness and frailty one is overtaken by it, it is far better to put it away forcibly than to parley with it; for give anger ever so little way, and it will become master, like the serpent, who easily works in its body wherever it can once introduce its head. You will ask how to put away anger. My child, when you feel its first movements, collect yourself gently and seriously, not hastily or with impetuosity. Sometimes in a law court the officials who enforce quiet make more noise than those they affect to hush; and so, if you are impetuous in restraining your temper, you will throw your heart into worse confusion than before, and, amid the excitement, it will lose all self control ... We must not only speak gently to our neighbour, but we must be filled, heart and soul, with gentleness; and we must not merely seek the sweetness of aromatic honey in courtesy and suavity with strangers, but also the sweetness of milk among those of our own household and our neighbours; a sweetness terribly lacking to some who are as angels abroad and devils at home.

PARISH COMMUNITIES OF ST GEORGE POLEGATE AND ST WILFRID HAILSHAM

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Weekly Services

Saturday 17 January

10:00am St W Adoration and Confession

Sunday 18 January: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am St G Mass: Parish Communities' Int

10:30am St W Mass: Madeleine & Bob Waters' Int

Monday 19 January

2:30pm St G Rosary Group: All welcome

Tuesday 20 January

10:00am St G Mass: Donor's Intention

Wednesday 21 January

10:00am St W Mass: Joyce Lissenburg RIP

Thursday 22 January

10:00am St G Mass: Deacon John & Tessa's Int.

Friday 23 January

10:00am St W **No Mass**

10:30am St W Requiem Mass - Tina Hobden

Saturday 24 January

10:00am St W Adoration and Confession

Sunday 25 January: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am St G Mass: Parish Communities' Int

10:30am St W Mass: John & Margaret Forde's Int

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell and those named in the books in our churches:
Amy Jenkins, Lily May, Joshua Hardy, Peter and 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 and Chris Littlewood, Jean Skelton, Jennifer, Peter Mitchell, Cecilia Hyland, Madeleine Waters, Andrew, and Gerry Page

Hub Newsletter: the next edition of the monthly Hub Newsletter will be delayed from February to March.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal : Enjoy a simple soup and bread lunch in St Wilfrid's Hall after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 22nd Feb. All are welcome to join us for fellowship and Family Lenten activities while supporting CAFOD's Lent Appeal.

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 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>

Last Sunday 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.

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.

Pilgrimage to Poland: 26 May to 1 June 2026. £995pp sharing or £1200pp in a single room, includes flights, one suitcase, half board, excursions and a travel representative. If you are interested speak to Ilona 07904 680885 for more details or to sign up.

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

Dates for your Diary:

Fri 30 Jan, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Group, St W's Hall.

Sun 25 Jan, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.

Wed 4th Feb, 7-8.30pm - F.H.C. Parents Mtg, St W's Hall.

Wed 11 Feb, 6-7.30pm - 1st Holy Com Mtg, St W's Hall.

Thurs 26th Feb, 2-4pm - Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.

Wed 11 March, 6-7.30pm - 1st Holy Com Mtg, St W's Hall.

Fri 3rd April, Family Stations of the Cross, St W's.

Sun 12 April, After Mass - St G's Quarterly Com Mtg, St G's.

Sunday 11th January - Mass Attendance:

St Wilfrid's 94 St George's 64