

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

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: The sisters of Lazarus sent to Jesus, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.'

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.' Jesus was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

R.

R.

R.

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

R.

Hear us, almighty God,
and, having instilled in your servants
the teachings of the Christian faith,
graciously purify them
by the working of this sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 11, 26

**Everyone who lives and believe in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray, almighty God,
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

COLLECT

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
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 Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R.7bc

**R. With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the sound of my pleadings.

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

I long for you, O LORD,
my soul longs for his word.
My soul awaits the Lord
more than watchmen for daybreak.

More than watchmen for daybreak,
let Israel hope for the LORD.
For with the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Romans 8:8-11

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 11:25a, 26

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

**Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Everyone who believes in me shall never die.
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.**

Our Faith on Sunday

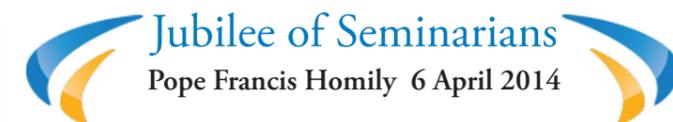
GOSPEL REFLECTION



For those without any faith in God, or those who adhere strictly to a materialist philosophy death has the final word. And yet, who has ever had a mother, father, brother, sister, loved one who has passed away and who does not desire to see them again? What could be more heartbreaking than to have loved someone and to never meet them again? If God is

This is also the case with Lazarus whom Jesus restores to life. It is this very occasion which gives Jesus the opportunity to proclaim: "I am the resurrection and the life". Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead not simply to manifest his majestic power but because he loves Lazarus. This is true for you and me. It is because he loves us that Jesus grants us the gift of

truly love isn't it eternal life. Of course, this requires only logical that he faith to see beyond the evidence of would not allow this a dead body being lowered into the to happen? Many grave. It requires hope that death is events narrated in not the end. But it is a hope that does the gospels such as not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. It is because of our anticipations of the experience of love, of God's own love the "new heaven and that we can be convinced that death is nothing more than the passage to the new earth" that is eternal life. This is the message of the God has promised. Easter season.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE ULTIMATE FOUNDATION

276. For these reasons, the Church, while respecting the autonomy of political life, does not restrict her mission to the private sphere. On the contrary, "she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines" in the building of a better world, or fail to "reawaken the spiritual energy" that can contribute to the betterment of society.²⁶⁶ It is true that religious ministers must not engage in the party politics that are the proper domain of the laity, but neither can they renounce the political dimension of life itself,²⁶⁷ which involves a constant attention to the common good and a concern for integral human development. The Church "has a public role over and above her charitable and educational activities". She works for "the advancement of humanity and of universal fraternity".²⁶⁸ She does not claim to compete with earthly powers, but to offer herself as "a family among families, this is the Church, open to bearing witness in today's world, open to faith hope and love for the Lord and for those whom he loves with a preferential love. A home with open doors. The Church is a home with open doors, because she is a mother".²⁶⁹ And in imitation of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, "we want to be a Church that serves, that leaves home and goes forth from its places of worship, goes forth from its sacristies, in order to accompany life, to sustain hope, to be the sign of unity... to build bridges, to break down walls, to sow seeds of reconciliation".²⁷⁰

266. BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter Deus Caritas Est (25 December 2005), 28; AAS 98 (2006), 240. 267. "Man is a political animal", ARISTOTLE, Politics, 1253a 1-3. 268. BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter Caritas in Veritate (29 June 2009), 11; AAS 101 (2009), 648. 269. Address to the Catholic Community, Rakovski, Bulgaria (6 May 2019); L'Osservatore Romano, 8 May 2019, p. 9. 270. Homily, Santiago de Cuba (22 September 2015); AAS 107 (2015), 1005.

Before the sealed tomb of his friend Lazarus, Jesus "cried with a loud voice: 'Lazarus, come out!'. And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth". This decisive cry is addressed to all men, because we are all marked by death, all of us; it is the voice of the One who is master of life and wants that all we all may "have it abundantly". Christ does not resign himself to the tombs that we have built for ourselves with our choice for evil and death, with our errors, with our sins. He is not resigned to this! He invites us, almost orders us, to come out of the tomb in which our sins have buried us. He calls us insistently to come out of the darkness of that prison in which we are enclosed, content with a false, selfish and mediocre life. "Come out!", he says to us, "Come out!". It is an invitation to true freedom, to allow ourselves to be seized by these words of Jesus who repeats them to each one of us today.





Catholic Parish of Eastbourne & St Leonards

Churches of St George - Polegate & St Wilfrid - Hailsham

Parish Clergy: Fr Rory Kelly, St Wilfrid's Presbytery, South Road, Hailsham, BN27 3JG

Parish Secretary: Jackie **Parish Office:** St Wilfrid's Presbytery, South Road, Hailsham, BN27 3JG

Hours: Mon, Wed & Fri 9am-12.30pm **Email:** hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk **Telephone:** 01323 841504

Website: <https://saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk>

Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Maria, 07873 759962

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: 22 MARCH 2026

Fifth 'First Passion' Sunday of Lent

(Next week is Holy Week)

Sun	22nd	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Christopher Glynn RIP
		3pm	St George	-	Stations of the Cross
Mon	23rd	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	24th	10am	St George	-	Mass: Christina Neyenhuizen RIP
Wed	25th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: William & Mary Humphries RIP
Thurs	26th	10am	St George	-	Stations of the Cross & Liturgy of the Word

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

(Friday is a day of Fasting & Abstinence)

(Collection for the Holy Places Today)

Sun	29th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Catholic Women's League Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		3pm	St George	-	Stations of the Cross & Benediction

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) 832577

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, 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, 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!

Fr Paul Writes: This weekend, the 5th in the holy season of Lent, begins the last week before Holy Week and next Sunday is Palm Sunday. At Mass this weekend you will be given the full programme of times and places where our parish will celebrate the great events of our salvation, the death and resurrection of the Lord. Please make sure you take the handout home with you so that you know when and where to join the parish family for its celebration of Holy Week and Easter.

The week after Easter, that is, the week beginning April 6th, I have a long-standing commitment to say Mass at Hove, so the Mass on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th will be at 12noon and not 10am as usual. I shall be saying Mass in Hove on the Saturday evening and in Bexhill in the morning on Sunday 12th so there will be just one Mass in the parish on Sunday 12th and that will be at 5.30pm at St Wilfrid's. These are commitments I made some time ago, long before our situation here in Hailsham and Polegate arose, so I hope you will understand.

If you need a Sunday morning Mass on 12th, there is Mass in Eastbourne at 9am (St Gregory, Victoria Drive); 9.30am (St Joachim, Brodrick Road, Hampden Park) 10.15am (Our Lady of Ransom, Grange Road); 11.30am (St Agnes, Whitley Road); 11.30am (Christ the King, Princes Road).

Parish Spring Fair on 28th March

Our Spring Fair is only a matter of days away, so many thanks to all who donated their goods or time to make this day a success. We are still looking for donations for specific stalls, most notably;

Bottles and Gifts for the Tombola

Nearly new toys and games

Jams and Preserves

Spring Items such as Easter Cards, plants, bulbs, gardening gloves and small garden tools etc

Homemade cakes (on the day)

Please bring donations to church this **Wednesday (after 10am mass)** or on **Friday 27th March (12.30 to 2.30)**. **Perishable items (homemade cakes and plants etc)** can be brought on the **Friday afternoon** or **before 9.30 on the day of the fair**.

Our parish fair is not only a wonderful community event but also an important fundraiser for the life of the church — but it can only happen with your support. Thank you to everyone who has already offered help.

CAFOD: Thank you to everyone who has generously sponsored us as we work towards our 200km target as part of the CAFOD Big Lent Walk. Your donations have kept us motivated and we are now over halfway into the challenge and have already completed 155km. We're hoping for a bit of sunshine to carry us through the final stretch. If you would still like to support us, sponsor forms are available at the back of the church, or you can donate online. Every penny raised goes directly to CAFOD. Thank you again for your kindness and encouragement.
Gerry & Teresa Palmer



Good Friday Family Service: Join us for a family friendly Stations of the Cross at St Wilfrid's on Good Friday, 3rd April at 10:00am. After the service, enjoy hot cross buns and refreshments in the hall.

New Parish Magazine Out Now

The first issue of our new *Single Parish Magazine* is now available and includes news and interesting articles from across the churches in our deanery. It also includes a full list of deanery holy week services.

A small number of printed copies are available at the back of the church. Please take one to read, but please also kindly return it afterwards so others may also enjoy it.

You can also read the magazine on the parish website: <https://saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk> from Sunday 22nd March 2026.

St Patrick's Day Tea – Today - Sunday 22 March

Come and join us after the 10:30 Mass at St Wilfrid's for a warm and cheerful St Patrick's Day Tea. We'll have Irish music, tea, and plenty of cakes, and a chance to enjoy good company together. There may even be a little singing and dancing for those who feel inspired. Everyone is very welcome — do come along and celebrate with us!

Sunday Charity Breakfast: Sun 29th March after mass at St George's when we will be supporting "Smile Train". We hope you, your family and friends can support this.

Parish Over 50's Club: We next meet on Thursday 26th March, 2-4pm, Anyone over 50 is welcome, just turn up on the day.

Catholic Women's League Cheese & Wine Evening: All ladies are warmly invited to join us for a Cheese & Wine evening on Wed 8th April, 7pm, Christ the King Church Hall, Langney. Come along for an enjoyable social evening together - share good company, delicious refreshments and discover more about the League, what we do in support of one another, our parish community and wider charitable mission. Contact Sandra for more information 07791 627368

Talk on Battle of Britain Spitfire: 25th April 2026 at 7.30pm, St Wilfrid's Hall, Andy Saunders will give a talk on the recovery and restoration of a Battle of Britain Spitfire. Tickets cost £15 available from www.civilaviationtrust.org or at the door.

15th March - Mass Attendance: St W's 118 St G's 86

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 22 March, After 10.30am Mass, St Patrick's Day Tea, St W's

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

Fri 27 March, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall.

Sat 28 March, 10am-2pm - Spring Fair, St W's Hall.

Sun 29 March, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G'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.

Thurs 16 April, 6-7.30pm - 1st Holy Com Mtg, St W's Hall.

OUR NEW PARISH

The New Parish will be overseen by a Clergy Team, moderated by Fr Kevin Dring. The team will work closely with Hub Secretaries, Hub Leadership Groups and lay representatives to support pastoral planning, governance and the shared mission of the Parish. The West Hub covering Eastbourne, Polegate, Hampden Park, Hailsham and the East Hub; St Leonard's, Hastings, Bexhill, Battle and Rye.

East Hub Secretary: Elizabeth Fitch

stleonards@abdiocese.org.uk 01424 602077

West Hub Secretary: Cheryl Wood

eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk 01323 723222

New Parish Website: www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

NEW PARISH UPDATE: one of the really fruitful areas of work in recent months has been that of small Focus Groups, bringing together reps from the larger Hub Leadership Groups. We have Focus Groups looking at: Prayer & Worship, Formation & Mission, Communications, Pastoral Care, Finance & Stewardship. They are identifying lots of tangible ways we can work across our churches to enhance the service we want to provide to parishioners and to reach out to those who are not (yet) part of our communities. Soon you will all be invited, through ministries you're already exercising or as brand-new volunteers, to help in rolling out the fruits of the work of these Focus Groups. We are also just about to launch a new quarterly Parish Magazine spotlighting good news from across all our churches.