

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 12:1, 12-13; Ps 23:9-10

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

*Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

*Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in 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 50:4-7

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 22(21):8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24. R.2a

R. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me; they curl their lips, they toss their heads: 'He trusted in the LORD, let him save him; let him release him, for in him he delights.'

For dogs have surrounded me; a band of the wicked besets me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet; I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them, they cast lots for my robe. But you, O LORD, do not stay afar off; my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my kin, and praise you in the midst of the assembly; 'You who fear the LORD, give him praise; all descendants of Jacob, give him glory; revere him, all you descendants of Israel.'

SECOND READING

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

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

THE PASSION

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Matthew 26:14-27:66

At the end: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord, may our reconciliation with you be near at hand, so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds, yet by this sacrifice made once for all, we may feel already the effects of your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 26:42

R. Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, just as through the death of your Son you have brought us to hope for what we believe, so by his Resurrection you may lead us to where you call.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Every year the liturgy for the celebration of Palm Sunday includes a reading of the Passion narrative. The crowd shouting, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" is contrasted with the crowd demanding "Crucify him". "Hosanna in the highest" is contrasted with "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?". In reality, the contrast is even

more extreme than the one expressed by the fickleness of the crowd. God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity is there dying a shameful death on the cross condemned as a criminal, crying out his forsakenness before all the world. The writer G.K. Chesterton comments that for an instant God himself seemed to be an atheist. St Paul tells the Corinthians, "He became sin who knew no sin" (2 Cor 5:21). All scripture is revelation so what is being revealed to us in the dying of the forsaken Jesus on the cross? One of the great mysteries of our faith is the incarnation. God becoming man. What sort of a man did God become?

He did not become a powerful man, a rich man, a successful man. He did not come down to earth as a prince, an emperor, a king. He came down to earth as a man who experienced being forsaken by God. This is what Jesus reveals to us regarding the mystery of his incarnation in his cry of abandonment. He reveals to us the man he became: a man who was rejected, humiliated, spat upon, nailed to a cross, utterly alone, so alone that he feels that even his God has abandoned him. Who could fail to love such a man?



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

277. The Church esteems the ways in which God works in other religions, and "rejects nothing of what is true and holy in these religions. She has a high regard for their manner of life and conduct, their precepts and doctrines which... often reflect a ray of that truth which enlightens all men and women".²⁷¹ Yet we Christians are very much aware that "if the music of the Gospel ceases to resonate in our very being, we will lose the joy born of compassion, the tender love born of trust, the capacity for reconciliation that has its source in our knowledge that we have been forgiven and sent forth. If the music of the Gospel ceases to sound in our homes, our public squares, our workplaces, our political and financial life, then we will no longer hear the strains that challenge us to defend the dignity of every man and woman".²⁷² Others drink from other sources. For us the wellspring of human dignity and fraternity is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. From it, there arises, "for Christian thought and for the action of the Church, the primacy given to relationship, to the encounter with the sacred mystery of the other, to universal communion with the entire human family, as a vocation of all".²⁷³

271. SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions *Nostra Aetate*, 2.
272. Ecumenical Prayer Service, Riga, Latvia (24 September 2018); *L'Osservatore Romano*, 24-25 September 2018, p. 8.
273. *Lectio Divina*, Pontifical Lateran University, Rome (26 March 2019); *L'Osservatore Romano*, 27 March 2019, p. 10.

Jubilee of Seminarians

Bishop Robert Barron
(Gospel Reflection - Sunday, April 13, 2025
- Word on Fire)

Friends, how dark are the readings for Palm Sunday! We read through [the] Passion narrative, leaving out the good news of the Resurrection. To get to the bottom of this emphasis on suffering, to decipher its religious meaning, is to uncover the theological significance of this day. Do you remember the first time that life really knocked you around? It might have been an extraordinary failure; it might have been the first time you confronted real violence or real hatred; it might have been a massive disappointment; it might have been the death of someone that you loved. This mess, this problem, bedevils all of us. The biblical approach is clear: God sets about a rescue operation—the formation of a holy people Israel who would follow his commands, worship him aright, and thereby become a magnet to the world. They would teach and show the way out of the dilemma. He would form a people ready to receive him; he would gradually effect a unity between divinity and humanity; and one day, a servant of Yahweh would appear, someone despised and reviled by men. And this mysterious figure would solve the problem by bearing away the sins of the world, by carrying them off through his suffering.





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: 29 MARCH 2026

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
Mon	30th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass:
		2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	31st	10am	St George	-	Mass: Philip & Aley Kutty RIP
		Maundy Thursday	10am	St Wilfrid	-
Good Friday		8pm	St George	-	Mass of the Lord's Supper
		10am	St George	-	Morning Prayer & Office of Readings
10.30am		St Wilfrid	-	Family Stations of the Cross	
Holy Saturday		3pm	St Wilfrid	-	Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion
		10am	St Wilfrid	-	Morning Prayer & Office of Readings
8pm		St Wilfrid	-	Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter	
Easter Sunday					
Sun	5th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: In Thanksgiving

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.

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:

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).

Easter 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 the clergy. 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.myдона.com/st-wilfrids-church-hailsham>) using the "Easter Collections" tab.



Talk on Battle of Britian 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 Britian Spitfire. Tickets cost £15 available from www.civilaviationtrust.org or at the door.

Grandparents Pilgrimage, The Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation & St Francis, West Grinstead, Wednesday 17 June 11am – 3pm

A day of sharing and prayer with other Grandparents to include Mass, Benediction, Rosary, tours of the secret chapel and lots of chat. Please bring a packed lunch. To register, go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events or scan the QR code on the poster. If you have any questions about the day please contact Deacon Simon South, Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Adviser E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

The Diocese sends out a weekly E-Bulletin newsletter which includes details of formation and events taking place across the Diocese and our wider Catholic community. Please do sign up, it's a great way to stay in touch! You can click on the link to sign up mailchi.mp/7529e811ae63/joinourlist

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>

Augustinian Weekend at Michelham Priory: June 13th/14th, 10am to 5pm. Celebrating the life of the Augustinian Canons who lived and prayed there. If we can get a group of 10 or more to go, we can get a discount on tickets.

Sunday Charity Breakfast: Our next Charity Breakfast will be **Today - Sunday 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 30th April, 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

22nd March - Mass Attendance: St W's TBC St G's TBC

Dates for your Diary:

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.
Fri 24 April, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall.
Sat 25 April, 7.30pm - Talk, Battle of Britian Spitfire, St W's
Thurs 30 April, 2-4pm - Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
Wed 13 May, 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.