

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

1 Pt 2: 2
Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

COLLECT

God of everlasting mercy, who, in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. 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 Acts of the Apostles. Acts 2:42-47

The believers devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the Apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the Temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they shared their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 118(117):2-4. 13-15b. 22-24. R.1

R. Give praise to the LORD, for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.

or: Alleluia.

Let the house of Israel say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'
Let the house of Aaron say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'
Let those who fear the LORD say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'

R. They pushed me, pushed me hard to knock me down,
but the LORD was my helper.
The LORD is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and salvation
in the tents of the righteous.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter. 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

John 20:29

You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.'

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

R. Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

R. The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray,
the oblations of your people
(and of those you have brought to new birth),
that, renewed by confession of your name
and by Baptism,
they may attain unending happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

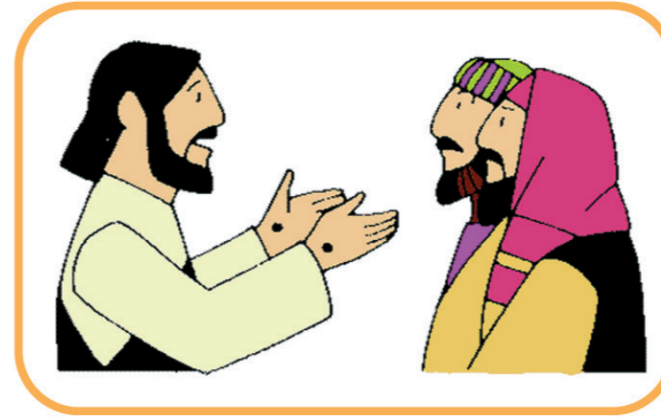
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that our reception of this paschal Sacrament
may have a continuing effect
in our minds and hearts.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



We can all understand the reaction of Thomas when the other disciples told him they had seen Jesus. When you hear something that seems incredible your first reaction often is: "I will believe it when I see it". And yet in this Sunday's gospel reading we hear Jesus saying: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed". This does not mean that belief takes place

in a vacuum. Belief is not an irrational act. There is always a reason to believe something. I believe I have two kidneys even though I have never seen them, because I accept the findings of centuries of medical science. I have never seen the Risen Lord, not even in a spiritual vision, and yet I believe he is risen. What is the "reason" for my belief? In the first letter of Peter, we read: "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope" (1 Pt 3:15). So why do you believe that Christ is risen? Throughout the centuries of Christian belief, the mystics have always been the ones to

indicate that belief in what is narrated in the gospels is never just an assent to a set of doctrines. It is not just a mechanical repetition of the words of the Creed we recite every Sunday. It is an inner experience of being transformed by an inpouring into the heart of divine love. St Catherine of Siena wrote: "The soul in love with God is transformed into God by love". I can truly believe in the Risen Lord when it is no longer I who live but the Risen Lord who lives in me.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

279. We Christians ask that, in those countries where we are a minority, we be guaranteed freedom, even as we ourselves promote that freedom for non-Christians in places where they are a minority. One fundamental human right must not be forgotten in the journey towards fraternity and peace. It is religious freedom for believers of all religions. That freedom proclaims that we can "build harmony and understanding between different cultures and religions. It also testifies to the fact that, since the important things we share are so many, it is possible to find a means of serene, ordered and peaceful coexistence, accepting our differences and rejoicing that, as children of the one God, we are all brothers and sisters".²⁷⁵

²⁷⁵. Address to the Civil Authorities, Bethlehem, Palestine (25 May 2014): Insegnamenti II, 1 (2014), 597.



St. Faustina Diary

O Most Holy Trinity! As many times as I breathe, as many times as my heart beats, as many times as my blood pulsates through my body, so many thousand times do I want to glorify Your mercy. I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection, O Lord. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbour. Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbours' souls and come to their rescue. Help me, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbours' needs and not be indifferent to their pains and moanings. Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbour, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.





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: 12 April 2026

Second, "Low", Sunday of Easter

Sun	12th	5.30pm	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	13th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	14th	10am	St George	-	Mass:
Wed	15th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Jack & Elsie Hoare RIP
Thurs	16th	10am	St George	-	Liturgy of the Word
Fri	17th	1.30pm	St Wilfrid	-	Funeral for Ronald Lloyd

Third Sunday of Easter

(Collection on 26/4 for the Education of Future Priests)

Sun	19th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Joe Storrow Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Robert Blair 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#=_

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: pfh.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!

As previously stated, Sunday 12th April, Mass is at St Wilfrid's Church at 5.30pm, St George's Church will be open at 9am for prayer only. Sunday 19th April, normal mass times will resume. 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 Fr Rory. 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.



Holy Week: What a beautiful and grace-filled Holy Week we shared together—from Palm Sunday at both our churches, to Holy Thursday at St George's, the Family Stations and Solemn Liturgy at St Wilfrid's on Good Friday, the moving Easter Vigil with bells and light, and finally the joyful, sunlit celebrations on Easter Sunday morning.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made these days so special: Fr Paul and Deacon John for your spiritual ministry, and all who served so generously in the Ministries of Welcome, music, altar serving, sacristy, flowers, cleaning, youth work, and refreshments. Your dedication and hard work brought such life and beauty to our celebrations.

As we come to the end of the Octave of Easter, we look ahead with joy to the rest of Eastertide and beyond, continuing together as friends in Christ.

Ron Lloyd: Anyone that may have any photo's of Ron and his wife, please would it be possible for you to email to Gary at garywestcar@icloud.com Thank you.

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.

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

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

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK UPDATE:

We're delighted to share that we've completed CAFOD's Big Lent Walk! We set out to walk 200km in 40 days, but with your wonderful support, we reached 275km.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has sponsored us. Your generosity and encouragement kept us going and have been a real reminder of the strength we find in our parish community and in supporting those in need.

If anyone still has outstanding sponsorship to send in, we would be very grateful if it could be passed on soon, so that we can forward the full amount to CAFOD.

With our sincere thanks and every blessing,
Gerry & Teresa Palmer

New Parish Magazine - Out Now

Our brand-new parish magazine for Eastbourne & St Leonards is out now and packed with news and stories from across the deanery. If you took a copy home and read it please return for others to read. Or for those who can read it online at: www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk (scroll to near the bottom of home page)

Take a look, join in with some of what is promoted within it across the deanery and stay connected!

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 Sunday 26th April after mass at St George's when we will be supporting "Adam's Light". 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.

Diocesan Link: The web edition which has more detailed news can be accessed from this link [April 2026 NBCW Newsletter](#)

5th April - Mass Attendance: St W's 218 St G's 100
Good Friday 10.30am - 35 & 3pm - 90, Saturday Vigil 8pm - 44

Dates for your Diary:

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
Sun 26 April, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
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.
Wed 17 June, 6-7.30pm - 1st Holy Com Mtg, St W's Hall.

NEW PARISH UPDATE:

One of the great joys of Easter is welcoming new adult members into the Church through reception of the Sacraments. There's been a definite pattern of increase this year across parishes, praise God! This shows how important it will be, as we move forward into new closer ways of working together, to focus energy and resources on **evangelisation** (rather than traditional parish maintenance!). There is a great hunger and thirst all around us to know Christ and to experience true belonging and community. As we listen to the Acts of the Apostles over Eastertide, we hear of the very human struggles, just as we have, but above all the power of the Holy Spirit at work to build the Church. Happy Easter to everybody across our 15 deanery churches! – *Fr Kevin*