

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 32:5-6

**The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.**

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
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 2:14a, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: 'Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.' And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R.1

R. The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or: **Alleluia.**

The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD'S own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter. 1 Peter 2:20b-25

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten,

but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. John 10:14
**I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.
I know my sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

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: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

R. Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**R. The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In this Sunday's gospel reading Jesus uses the image of the sheep and the shepherd to speak about our relationship with him. Jesus warns his disciples about being led astray by false shepherds. His warning is relevant today because we are always in danger of giving our allegiance to those who promise to solve all our

problems: personal, social, economic, political. It is as if they proclaim: "Follow me, I am the way, the truth, and the life". How many of these "gurus" preaching messages of peace and love have been found to be serial abusers, manipulators, those who are psychologically vulnerable. What often make these leaders attractive to their followers is the promise of solving their problems without having to face up to personal weaknesses and failures and the need for conversion. This is not the way of Jesus. He doesn't ever hide the fact

that being his disciple means denying ourselves and taking up our cross. It means saying no to all forms of selfish egoism and saying yes to loving our neighbour, even our enemy. It means turning the other cheek and going the extra mile. And yet, if we are willing to do this Jesus promises us the fullness of joy and the gift of his peace. We will have no hesitation in repeating the words of the psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want".



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



RELIGION AND VIOLENCE

281. A journey of peace is possible between religions. Its point of departure must be God's way of seeing things. "God does not see with his eyes, God sees with his heart. And God's love is the same for everyone, regardless of religion. Even if they are atheists, his love is the same. When the last day comes, and there is sufficient light to see things as they really are, we are going to find ourselves quite surprised".²⁷⁸

278. From the film Pope Francis: A Man of His Word, by Wim Wenders (2018).



Christ says: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (Jn 10:11). We know that these words were confirmed during his passion. Christ laid down his life on the cross. And he did so with love. Above all, he wished to respond to the love of the Father, who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). Carrying out "this charge... received from my Father" (Jn 10:18) and revealing his love, Jesus, too, felt, in a particular way, the Father's own love. He affirms this in the same discourse, when he says: "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again" (Jn 10:17). The sacrifice on Calvary is, above all, the giving of himself; it is the gift of his life, which, remaining in the power of the Father, is restored to the Son in a splendid new form.





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: 26 April 2026

Fourth 'Good Shepherd' Sunday of Easter

(Collection for the Education of Future Priests Today)

Sun	26th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Don, Vera & Alan Koolman RIP

Mon	27th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
-----	------	--------	-----------	---	----------------------------

Tues	28th	10am	St George	-	Mass: Jim Ayres RIP
------	------	------	-----------	---	---------------------

Wed	29th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Cecilia Hyland RIP
-----	------	------	------------	---	--------------------------

Thurs	30th	10am	St George	-	Liturgy of the Word
-------	------	------	-----------	---	---------------------

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sun	3rd	9am	St George	-	Mass: Jessie Lissenburg RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Ron Lloyd RIP

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!

A very big thank you to everyone involved in helping with the preparation and hard work for the Mass and Wake on Friday 17th April for Ron. His family are very much appreciative of everything that everyone has done for him.

Please keep in your prayers St George's altar server Austin and the other 46 young people who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of Ransom on Sunday 3rd May at 2pm. The mass will be livestreamed for those who may wish to watch it <http://ourladyofransom.org.uk/mass-live-streaming/>

HOSPITAL MINISTRY: The monthly multi-denominational prayer service at EDGH will be led this month by the Catholic Church of Christ the King on Sunday 26 April at 3.00pm. All are welcome.

Corpus Christi in Arundel – Coach Trip (Thurs 4 June 2026)

The Eastbourne Churches Catholic Women's League invites you all (not just women) to join them on a coach trip to Arundel Cathedral for the Feast of Corpus Christi, featuring the beautiful Carpet of Flowers, Mass at 5:30pm, and procession to the Castle for Benediction. £20 per person (coach travel only). Departures from 1pm with pick up at Christ the King, Eastbourne Station, and Polegate.

Spaces are limited. To book, email sandraforte40@gmail.com with names, contact number, and pick-up point.

Gerry and Teresa Palmer would like to share a further update on their CAFOD Big Lent Walk.

Having recently gathered together all the offline donations—from sponsorship forms, cheques, and the parish digital collection—we have been truly touched by the generosity shown. An additional £395 has been added, bringing the total raised to £765.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed. Through your kindness, we have helped raise enough to provide clean water for a whole community—an inspiring reminder of what can be achieved together.

If there is any outstanding sponsorship still to come in, we would be very grateful if it could be passed on soon. The JustGiving page also remains open for anyone who may still wish to contribute.

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

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 with Mass, Benediction, Rosary, tours of the secret chapel and lots of chat.

Please bring a packed lunch. To register: [Grandparents' Pilgrimage to West Grinstead \(17-Jun-2026\) · ChurchSuite Events](#). If you have any questions about the day please contact Deacon Simon South, Marriage & Family Life Adviser E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

Keep up to date on what's going on across our new single parish by visiting eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk.

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

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. Email: hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk

Sunday Charity Breakfast: Today, 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.

Parish Magazine and Website – Call for Contributions

If you have any news, stories, or items to share from recent parish events, or details of forthcoming events for the diary, we would be delighted to hear from you. Contributions from across the New Single Parish help us share and celebrate what is happening in our communities and encourage others to take part.

The next magazine will be published in mid-June, but items may also be used on the parish website, so please do send them in as soon as you have them and keep sending!

Please email contributions to: news@eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

Catholic Women's League – Monthly Gathering

All ladies are warmly invited to attend the Catholic Women's League monthly gathering on **Wednesday 6th May at 7.00pm** in the **Christ the King, Langney Parish Room** (rear of the church hall – entrance nearest the house).

Community Breakfasts in Hailsham are happening this year on Friday 1 May (CAB will be present for legal advice), Friday 7 August (CMA will be present for debt advice), and Friday 6 November (Sussex Energise will be present for fuel bills advice). All of these will be at the Hailsham Parish Church (town centre near Costa Coffee) in the side room (go through the glass door).

The breakfasts are on a drop-in basis and people can come in anytime between 10am-12pm to enjoy tea, coffee and breakfast. We have some funding for the breakfasts, we ask people to contribute £1-£3 if they can, but if they can't then it's totally free.

For the August Community Breakfast children are also welcome to join with their parents.

19th April - Mass Attendance: St W's 138 St G's 84

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 26 April, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
Wed 29 April, 10.30am - Social Committee Mtg, St W'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.
Fri 29th May, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall.
Wed 17 June, 6-7.30pm - 1st Holy Com Mtg, St W's Hall.
Sun 21 June, 1st Holy Communion Service, St W's Church.
Thurs 25 June, 6-7.30pm - 1st Holy Com Mtg, St W's Hall.

NEW PARISH UPDATE:

'Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan is not a re-structuring for survival, but the lens through which we view everything, so that our parishes and communities can thrive in the new situation of the change of era. During this time when the world is becoming ever more polarised and the Gospel itself can be weaponised to support ideology, our parishes, however we configure them, have to become that place of truth and calm, able to respond to the restlessness and curiosity that we see around us. For this we need the courage to nudge us out of our comfort zones and to try something new and Spirit-led. Yet none of this is in our own strength, which is why the first pillar of the Pastoral Plan will always be prayer.' [Canon Kieron O'Brien, Episcopal Vicar for Implementation of the Pastoral Plan]