

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 48:20

**Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.**

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
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 8:5-8, 14-17

In those days: Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

Now when the Apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 66(65):1-3a. 4-5. 6-7a. 16, 20. R.1

R. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.*or:* **Alleluia.**

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!'

'Before you all the earth shall bow down,
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God:
his wondrous deeds among the children of Adam.

He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
Let our joy, then, be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God;
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,
nor withhold from me his merciful love.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter. 1 Peter 3:15-18

Beloved: In your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for

a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. John 14:23
**If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.
Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

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 to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

- R.** May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.
- R.** Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 14:15-16

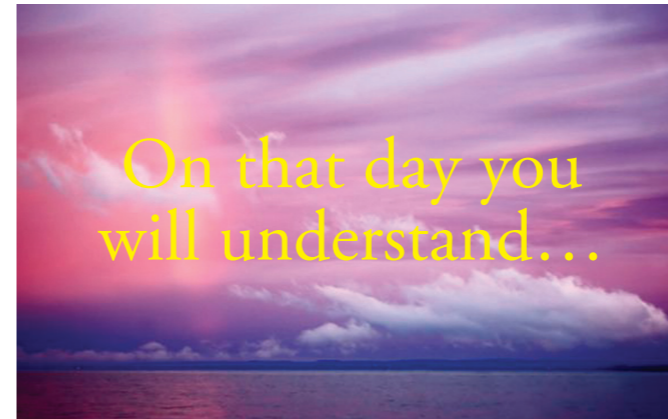
- R.** **If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- R.** Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The gospel reading for this Sunday makes it clear that as Christians we participate in nothing less than the life of the Blessed Trinity. Jesus promises his disciples that the Father will give them the gift of the Holy Spirit and that they will be in him (Jesus) and he (Jesus) is in the Father. However, there is a condition: that we keep

his commandments. And we know what is his supreme command: that we love one another as he has loved us. There is no getting around this condition. And our love cannot be mere pious sentimentality. Jesus made this clear when he, the Master, washed the feet of his disciples and told them to do the same. Nor can our love make discriminations about who to love. The parable of the Good Samaritan shows us that I am called to love whoever needs my help. Above all, this love must be reciprocal. This means that the aim of my love must not be reduced to a one-way giving.

True love always seeks a relationship. There cannot be a game of tennis unless the serve is returned. There cannot be a handshake unless the two hands come together. Jesus models this reciprocity of love for us in his relationship with the Father when he tells us that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. On Holy Thursday night Jesus prayed: "...that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us... I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one" (Jn 17:21,23).



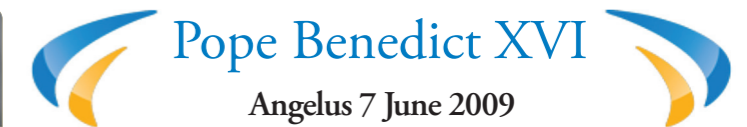
POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



RELIGION AND VIOLENCE

283. Sincere and humble worship of God "bears fruit not in discrimination, hatred and violence, but in respect for the sacredness of life, respect for the dignity and freedom of others, and loving commitment to the welfare of all".²⁸⁰ Truly, "whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 Jn 4:8). For this reason, "terrorism is deplorable and threatens the security of people – be they in the East or the West, the North or the South – and disseminates panic, terror and pessimism, but this is not due to religion, even when terrorists instrumentalize it. It is due, rather, to an accumulation of incorrect interpretations of religious texts and to policies linked to hunger, poverty, injustice, oppression and pride. That is why it is so necessary to stop supporting terrorist movements fuelled by financing, the provision of weapons and strategy, and by attempts to justify these movements, even using the media. All these must be regarded as international crimes that threaten security and world peace. Such terrorism must be condemned in all its forms and expressions".²⁸¹ Religious convictions about the sacred meaning of human life permit us "to recognize the fundamental values of our common humanity, values in the name of which we can and must cooperate, build and dialogue, pardon and grow; this will allow different voices to unite in creating a melody of sublime nobility and beauty, instead of fanatical cries of hatred".²⁸²

280. Homily, Colombo, Sri Lanka (14 January 2015): AAS 107 (2015), 139.
281. Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, Abu Dhabi (4 February 2019): L'Osservatore Romano, 4-5 February 2019, p. 7.
282. Address to Civil Authorities, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina (6 June 2015): L'Osservatore Romano, 7 June 2015, p. 7.



Three Persons who are one God because the Father is love, the Son is love, the Spirit is love. God is wholly and only love, the purest, infinite and eternal love. He does not live in splendid solitude but rather is an inexhaustible source of life that is ceaselessly given and communicated... The strongest proof that we are made in the image of the Trinity is this: love alone makes us happy because we live in a relationship, and we live to love and to be loved. Borrowing an analogy from biology, we could say that imprinted upon his "genome", the human being bears a profound mark of the Trinity, of God as Love. The Virgin Mary, in her docile humility, became the handmaid of divine Love: she accepted the Father's will and conceived the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. In her the Almighty built a temple worthy of him and made her the model and image of the Church, mystery and house of communion for all human beings.





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: 10 May 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter. Thursday is the feast of the Ascension; Holyday of Obligation.

(Collection 17/5 for World Communications)

Sun	10th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Douglas Booth
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Michael Bradley RIP

Mon	11th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
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Tues	12th		St George	-	No Mass
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Wed	13th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Dorothy Blake RIP
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Thurs	14th	10am	St George	-	Mass: Jenni Duder-Rumsey RIP
		7pm	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Simon Davis RIP

Seventh Sunday of Easter.

(Collection Today for World Communications)

(Collection for the Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese 24/5)

Sun	17th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Sonia Villaluna on her Birthday RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Parish Communities' 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!

Father Paul writes: During the month of May there will be some slight changes to the weekday Mass schedule.

- ❖ I shall be attending a family funeral on 12th, so there will be *no Mass on Tuesday 12th*.
- ❖ Thursday 14th is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, a holyday, and there will be *Mass at 10.00am at St George and 7.00pm at St Wilfrid*.
- ❖ The following week, there will be *Mass at 10.00am at Wilfrid on Thursday 21st and 10.00am at St George (funeral Mass of Pamela Whitty) on Friday 22nd*.
- ❖ The following week, beginning 25th, I shall be taking a few days break, so there will be no weekday Mass that week.
- ❖ *These changes during May affect weekday Mass only, Sunday Mass will be at the usual times.*

Rejoicing in Faith, Serving in Mission:

Congratulations to Austin, an altar server from St George's, who was among 48 young people confirmed on Sunday 3rd May at Our Lady of Ransom for the West Hub.

This joyful celebration showed how St George and St Wilfrid communities work together in mission. Thanks to Bob (Knight of St Columba) for leading the welcome ministry, David for photography, Anne and Shirley supporting Mary Lou in music, and our catechists — Phil, Mary and Sandra — who, with others, prepared the candidates through the West Hub Lumen Christi group since October.

Lumen Christi (Year 9–13) and RCIA for adults will begin again in September (details in July). Please speak to a priest or formation team member for more information.

We keep all those confirmed in our prayers and ask the Lord to strengthen our mission, sending more labourers into His harvest.

Financial Support for Young Lourdes Helpers

Are you or your child 15 to 25 and already booked to go on the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this July as a red shirt, purple shirt or young helper? The Knights of St Columba have generously provided some funds to support your costs. To apply, please email eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk, providing your name, age and contact phone number, deadline 20th June 2026.

Corpus Christi Coach Trip to Arundel – Thurs 4 June 2026

Only a few seats left - £20 per person. Visit Carpet of Flowers and attend 5:30pm Mass, and procession. Pick-ups from 1pm at Christ the King, Eastbourne Station, and Polegate. Book now: sandraforte40@gmail.com (names, contact number, pick-up point).

Parish Magazine & Website – Call for Contributions We're gathering news, stories, and upcoming event details (post 20th June events) from across the New Single Parish for the next issue.

Deadline: 1 June. Items may also be featured on the parish website. Send contributions to news@eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

3rd May - Mass Attendance: St W's 120 St G's 86

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

Special Collection Sunday 10th May:

We are delighted that Raizel and Oskar will be joining this year's Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage. Many of you will know them from their faithful service—Raizel as a reader and Oskar as an altar server.

They will be volunteering to welcome and support pilgrims in Lourdes. This week's second collection will go towards the cost of their pilgrimage. Any support is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase your donation by 25% at no extra cost through Gift Aid. If you are not part of a planned giving scheme, please use one of the "one-off" Gift Aid envelopes available in the porch.

Donations can also be made via the digital collection plate at St Wilfrid's, or online using the QR code or the donations website (<https://donate.mydona.com/st-wilfrids-church-hailsham>) under the "Parish Charity Fund" tab.



Celebrating the Month of Our Lady

May has begun with great joy across our parish as we honour Our Lady in this beautiful month dedicated to her.

On **Sunday 3 May**, both **St Wilfrid's** and **St George's** celebrated the traditional May Crowning. At St Wilfrid's, **14 children crowned Our Lady during the Offertory**, each receiving a rosary to help them grow in devotion throughout the month. At St George's, the children **carried the crown in procession to the memorial garden**, leading everyone in singing *Bring Flowers of the Rarest* as they crowned her.

The May Crowning is a treasured tradition in all our communities and a special focus of our Children's Liturgy. This week at St George's, the children will **make the floral crown** for Our Lady's statue in the remembrance garden, and all are warmly invited to join them in song as they place it upon her head.

Throughout May, we are all encouraged to deepen our devotion to Our Lady and pray the Rosary. **St George's Rosary Group** meets every **Monday at 2pm, All are welcome. Both churches** will pray the Rosary **before weekday Masses**.

May Our Lady guide and bless our communities during this month dedicated to her.

Fatima Devotions: You are warmly invited to Christ the King in Langney for Fatima Devotions, held on the dates of Our Lady's apparitions: Wed 13 May (5:30pm), Sat 13 June (4:00pm), Mon 13 July (5:30pm), Wed 19 August (5:30pm). Each gathering will include the Holy Rosary and the Litany to Our Lady of Fatima, offered in reparation for the sins of the world and for peace.

Dates for your Diary:

Wed 13 May, 5.30pm - Fatima Devotions, Christ the King.

Wed 13 May, 6-7.30pm - 1st Holy Com Mtg, St W's Hall.

Thurs 28 May, 2-4pm - Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.

Fri 29th May, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall.

Sun 31 May, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G'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]