

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



We call ourselves “Christians” and so it is only right that our focus is on Christ. But we need to be reminded that without the Holy Spirit our Christianity is lifeless. In his letter to the Romans St. Paul writes: “The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom 5,5). Our heart is made to love but our human efforts to love often end up in failure. Even the best expressions of this love that we find in the relationships between husband and wife, parents and children all too often witness conflict, division, resentment, and even bitter hatred. The divine love that we receive from the Holy Spirit is the one Paul refers to in his letter to the Corinthians: “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast,

it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Cor 13: 4-7). This is the gift that we receive in Baptism. But to be effective it requires my cooperation. I must consciously put aside all those feelings and attitudes, desires and thoughts such as envy, jealousy, greed, bitterness, revenge, selfishness which poison any attempt to love. If Pentecost is not just to remain just a liturgical feast, we are called to be channels of this divine love for everyone we encounter without exceptions.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

Wis 1: 7

SEQUENCE

Holy Spirit, Lord of light, from the clear celestial height thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor, come with treasures which endure, come, thou light of all that live.

Thou, of all consolers best, thou, the soul's delightful guest, dost refreshing peace bestow.

Thou in toil art comfort sweet, pleasant coolness in the heat, solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, Light divine, visit thou these hearts of thine, and our inmost being fill.

If thou take thy grace away, nothing pure in man will stay; all his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds; our strength renew; on our dryness pour thy dew; wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will; melt the frozen, warm the chill; guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore thee confess and thee adore, with thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die, give us life with thee on high; give us joys that never end.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 20:19-23

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.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

Acts 2:4,11

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers. 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 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost arrived, the Apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians — we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.’

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 104(103):1ab, 24ac. 29b-30. 31, 34. R. cf. 30

R. Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

or: Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, how great you are!
How many are your works, O LORD!
The earth is full of your creatures.

You take away their breath, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, and they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD last for ever!
May the LORD rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I will rejoice in the LORD.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Brothers and sisters: No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



AN APPEAL

285. In my fraternal meeting, which I gladly recall, with the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, “we resolutely [declared] that religions must never incite war, hateful attitudes, hostility and extremism, nor must they incite violence or the shedding of blood. These tragic realities are the consequence of a deviation from religious teachings. They result from a political manipulation of religions and from interpretations made by religious groups who, in the course of history, have taken advantage of the power of religious sentiment in the hearts of men and women... God, the Almighty, has no need to be defended by anyone and does not want his name to be used to terrorize people”. [284] For this reason I would like to reiterate here the appeal for peace, justice and fraternity that we made together:

“In the name of God, who has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and who has called them to live together as brothers and sisters, to fill the earth and make known the values of goodness, love and peace;

“In the name of innocent human life that God has forbidden to kill, affirming that whoever kills a person is like one who kills the whole of humanity; and that whoever saves a person is like one who saves the whole of humanity;

“In the name of the poor, the destitute, the marginalized and those most in need, whom God has commanded us to help as a duty required of all persons, especially the wealthy and those of means;

285. Ibid.





This parish is part of

The Catholic Deanery of Eastbourne and St Leonards

working towards implementing the Pastoral Plan

Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. Isaiah 43:5

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: 24 May 2026

Pentecost (Collection for the Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese Today)					
Sun	24th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Alen's Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	25th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	26th		St George	-	No Mass
Wed	27th		St Wilfrid	-	No Mass
Thurs	28th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Liturgy of the Word
The Most Holy Trinity					
Sun	31st	9am	St George	-	Mass: Olimpio & Filomena Forte RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Anne (Nan) McElroy

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
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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.

- ❖ Week beginning 25th, I shall be taking a few days break, so there will be no weekday Mass this week.
- ❖ *Sunday Mass will be at the usual times.*

Our Children Need You!

Leaders and helpers are urgently needed to support St George's children's liturgy during the first half of mass on a Sunday. No experience necessary. Training will be given. Just an hour or so of time a month is required mostly during the Sunday mass. Speak to Mary B or Sandra for more information.

St G's Parish Meeting will take place on Sun 7 June after Mass.

Catholic Women's League – Monthly Gathering

All ladies are warmly invited to attend the Catholic Women's League monthly gathering on **Wednesday 3rd June at 7.00pm** in the **Christ the King, Langney Parish Room** (rear of the church hall – entrance nearest the house).

LAST FEW SEATS AVAILABLE - Corpus Christi Coach Trip to Arundel – Thurs 4 June 2026. £20 per person. Book now: sandraforte40@gmail.com (names, contact number, pick-up point).

Corpus Christi Procession - Saturday 6th June

The parish of Christ the King and St Joachim invites us all to join them in a procession beginning at **St Joachim's at 2.30pm**, walking to **Christ the King for Adoration at 4.00pm**. (approx 3miles). This is a perfect opportunity to join fellow Catholics in this public witness of faith and devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, as we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**.

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

Sunday Charity Breakfast: Sun 31st May after mass at St G's when we will be supporting "Linking Lives Eastbourne". We hope you, your family and friends can support this.

Parish Over 50's Club: We next meet on Thursday 28th May, 2-4pm, Anyone over 50 is welcome, just turn up on the day.

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

17th May - Mass Attendance: St W's 120 St G's 74

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

Celebrating the Month of Our Lady

Our Lady - devotions in May

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 2.30pm, 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.

Our Lady of Ransom - Contemplative Prayer Group Mondays 4pm - 5.30pm

"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10 - Everyone is invited to join this small friendly group who meet weekly. There is a time of silent prayer where we aim to quieten our minds to hear God speak in the silence of our hearts; A time of Lectio Divina; And a time for discussion and questions. All newcomers are most welcome. Meeting venue is OLR Prayer Meeting Room. Access through the car park and Parish Hall. (Not on bank holidays/school holidays) For any more details contact lizvegh@abdiocese.org.uk

FROM FR JONATHAN MARTIN, DIOCESAN

ADMINISTRATOR: My dear brothers and sisters, It's become a regular Sunday evening 'thing' for me to flick through parish websites and social media platforms to get a glimpse of the life of our communities of faith. How blessed we are to be in such good company with one another in our discipleship of Jesus and in our service of the Gospel. I recently spent a week in Rome with the Bishops of England and Wales, amongst whom there was much talk of, and encouraging interest in our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. I know that, across the Diocese, you are working closely with your priests and deacons to help realise the beautiful vision Bishop (Archbishop) Richard set out for us in 'The Word Who is Life'. I pray for you all daily. I'm especially mindful of the people of the parishes in which I have been privileged to serve; of the specific needs, sorrows, and joys marking the life of our parish communities in any given week; and of those whose names appear in your newsletters by reason of receiving the Sacraments, or in sickness or bereavement, and the souls of those of our number who have died. All of these prayers I gather together in the Mass I am asked to offer each Sunday 'for all the people of the Diocese'. Please pray for me; and keep praying, each day, for the election of a new Bishop for our Diocese. God bless you all.

Dates for your Diary:

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 3 June, 6-7.30pm - 1st Holy Com Mtg, St W's Hall
Sun 7 June, After Mass - St George's Parish Mtg, St G's Hall.
Sat 13 June, 4pm - Fatima Devotions, Christ the King.
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.

NEW PARISH UPDATE:

Synodality is at the heart of how we will seek to work together in new parish structures. Synodality was developed firmly under Pope Francis, through the 3-year process of the Synod on Synodality and is now firmly promoted by Pope Leo as the way forward for all Church life and development. **What is synodality?** "Synodality is the walking together of Christians with Christ and towards God's kingdom, in union with all humanity. Oriented towards mission, synodality involves gathering at all levels of the Church for mutual listening, dialogue and common discernment...Synodality is the path of spiritual renewal and structural reform". **Synod Final Report §28**