

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 97:1-2

**O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.**

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
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 6:1-7

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 33(32):1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R.22

**R. May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.**

or: Alleluia.

Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just;
for praise is fitting from the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp;
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

The word of the Lord is upright,
and all his works to be trusted.
The LORD loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter.

1 Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they

disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL**Alleluia, alleluia.**

John 14:6

**I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 14:1-12

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glorify to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

- R.** O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray,
R. that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

R. COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 15:1,5

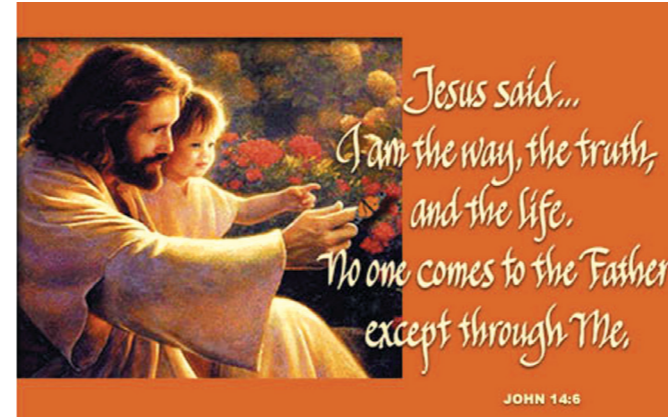
**I am the true vine and you are the
branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him,
bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray,
O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with
heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



One of the central themes of the gospel of John is the relationship of Jesus with his Father. It is this very relationship which Jesus offers to his disciples. He tells them: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be" (Jn 14:3). Our access to the Father

is through Jesus. As he tells Thomas: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). Here on earth Jesus models for us the journey to the Father. Jesus is constantly turned towards his Father. He has come on earth to do the will of his Father. He wants us to know that his Father is not only all powerful but above all, He is all loving. This is the message of the parable of the Prodigal Son, or we could say, the parable of the Merciful Father. No matter how far we stray from Him, our Father is always there waiting for our return. The Greek

philosopher, Aristotle spoke of God as the "unmoved mover". Today there are those who speak of God as some type of transcendent "cosmic energy". For us Christians, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). God is "our Father". And because of this we can truly say that we are all brothers and sisters of the one human family. Isn't this what we mean by the "good news" of the message of Jesus? What greater mission could we have as Christians than the one of giving witness to this through our love for one another?



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



RELIGION AND VIOLENCE

282. It follows that "we believers need to find occasions to speak with one another and to act together for the common good and the promotion of the poor. This has nothing to do with watering down or concealing our deepest convictions when we encounter others who think differently than ourselves... For the deeper, stronger and richer our own identity is, the more we will be capable of enriching others with our own proper contribution".²⁷⁹ We believers are challenged to return to our sources, in order to concentrate on what is essential: worship of God and love for our neighbour, lest some of our teachings, taken out of context, end up feeding forms of contempt, hatred, xenophobia or negation of others. The truth is that violence has no basis in our fundamental religious convictions, but only in their distortion.

279. Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Querida Amazonia (2 February 2020), 106.



[Jesus] is the centre of history and of the world; he is the one who knows us and who loves us; he is the companion and the friend of our life. He is the man of sorrows and of hope. It is he who will come and who one day will be our judge and - we hope - the everlasting fulness of our existence, our happiness. I could never finish speaking about him: he is the light and the truth; indeed, he is «the way, the truth and the life» (Jn. 14:6). He is the bread and the spring of living water to satisfy our hunger and our thirst. He is our shepherd, our guide, our model, our comfort, our brother. Like us, and more than us, he has been little, poor, humiliated; he has been a worker; he has known misfortune and been patient.





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: 3 May 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Mon	4th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
-----	-----	--------	-----------	---	----------------------------

Tues	5th		St George	-	No Mass
------	-----	--	-----------	---	----------------

Wed	6th		St Wilfrid	-	No Mass
-----	-----	--	------------	---	----------------

Thurs	7th	10am	St George	-	Liturgy of the Word
-------	-----	------	-----------	---	---------------------

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 Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Dorothy Blake 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!

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

- ❖ I shall be attending a conference in connection with my diocesan work so there will be *no weekday Mass on 5th and 6th.*
- ❖ 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.*

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 Today, 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/>

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.

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.

All are welcome to join the Roses Walking Pilgrimage from Middlesbrough to Blackburn, 15th to 30th August 2026. The route links the cathedrals of Middlesbrough, Ripon and Blackburn, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. We follow the lower Tees valley and Vale of York before crossing the Pennines and cutting through the Forest of Bowland, so expect some great scenery. There are rest days in Ripon and Skipton. The organisers are Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages who have run an annual pilgrimage since 1975 in different parts of England and Wales. Come with us and experience walking as part of our travelling Christian community, whether for a fortnight or just an afternoon! The walk is guided and luggage is forwarded. The cost is £350 to walk with us all the way, or £33 per night to book a shorter spell. To find out more and book your place, visit www.thepilgrims.org.uk/book

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

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 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.

Fatima Devotions will take place at CTK on the days of Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima: 13 May, 13 June, 13 July, 19 August, 13 September and the vigil of the last appearance, on 12 October. We will pray the Rosary and a Litany to Our Lady of Fatima, with an intention of reparation for the sins of the world and for peace. Times for each day are available on cards in each church. Everyone welcome.

26th April - Mass Attendance: St W's 128 St G's 95

Dates for your Diary:

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.
Sun 28 June, Communion Breakfast, 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:

'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]