Saints Peter and Paul (Day Mass) — 28th June 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
These are the ones who, living in the flesh,
planted the Church with their blood;
they drank the chalice of the Lord
and became the friends of God.

COLLECT
O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles
Peter and Paul
give us the noble and holy joy of this day,
grant, we pray, that your Church
may in all things follow the teaching
of those through whom she received
the beginnings of right religion.
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 12:1-11

In those days: Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, 'Dress yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM
Psalm 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R.5

R. From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

Glorify the Lord with me;
together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This lowly one called; the Lord heard,
and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who fear him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him. **R.**

SECOND READING
A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL
Alleluia, alleluia. Matthew 16:18
You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL
Matthew 16:13-19

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

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord,
accompany the sacrificial gift
that we present to your name for consecration,
and may their intercession make us devoted to you
in celebration of the sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
Cf. Mt 16:16,18

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the
Son of the living God.
And Jesus replied: You are Peter,
and upon this rock I will build my Church.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Grant us, O Lord,
who have been renewed by this Sacrament,
so to live in the Church,
that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread
and in the teaching of the Apostles,
we may be one heart and one soul,
made steadfast in your love.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This Sunday's gospel reading is centred on identity: the identity of Jesus and the identity of Peter. In both cases there is a "revelation". Amidst all the attempts to say who Jesus is (that he is John the Baptist or Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets) Peter gets it right: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". However, "flesh and blood" did not reveal this to him (in other words, his own human intelligence). It was revealed to him by the "Father who is in heaven". Jesus follows this up by revealing to Peter who he is: not the fisher of fish in the lake of Galilee but the "rock" on which the Church is built. In a similar way Paul's new identity as the preacher of the gospel to the gentiles was revealed to him. If we look at all the saints throughout the history of the Church, we find the same dynamic: their identity is not chosen but revealed. Think of Francis of Assisi who was destined to take over his rich father's business as a cloth merchant and receives the call to embrace a life of poverty and humility. Or Mother Te-resa happy in her role as a Loreto nun teaching children, who receives a second call to leave everything and go out on the streets of Calcutta to serve the poorest of the poor. The saints are our models but they are models because they are there to inspire us to follow their example. We are all called to turn to our Creator and ask the question: "Who do You say I am?". We will surely be surprised by the answer.

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

An Ecumenical Christian Prayer

O God, Trinity of love,
from the profound communion of your divine life,
pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.
Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,
in his family of Nazareth,
and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,
discovering Christ in each human being,
recognizing him crucified
in the sufferings of the abandoned
and forgotten of our world,
and risen in each brother or sister
who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves. Amen.

Given in Assisi, at the tomb of Saint Francis, on 3 October, Vigil of the Feast of the Saint, in the year 2020, the eighth of my Pontificate.

From a sermon by St. Augustine

Before his passion the Lord Jesus, as you know, chose those disciples of his whom he called apostles. Among these it was only Peter who almost everywhere was given the privilege of representing the whole Church. It was in the person of the whole Church, which he alone represented, that he was privileged to hear, To you will I give the keys of the kingdom of heaven. After all, it is not just one man that received these keys, but the Church in its unity. So this is the reason for Peter's acknowledged pre-eminence, that he stood for the Church's universality and unity, when he was told, To you I am entrusting, what has in fact been entrusted to all. To show you that it is the Church which has received the keys of the kingdom of heaven, listen to what the Lord says in another place to all his apostles: Receive the Holy Spirit; and immediately afterwards, Whose sins you forgive, they will be forgiven them; whose sins you retain, they will be retained.

Concordat cum originali: Paul Moynihan. Imprimatur: Christopher Dawson, Chancellor, Salford. Scripture texts from the England Standard Version - Catholic Edition published by Asian Trading Corporation © 2017 by Crossway. All rights reserved. Psalms and Canticles from Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018, 2010 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All rights reserved. Administered in England and Wales by Colloquium (CaTEW) on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The English translation of the Lectionary for Mass, including Headings, Psalm Responses and Acclamations before the Gospel © 2023 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and Bishops' Conference of Scotland. Extracts from the Roman Missal © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. The Catholic Printing Company of Farnworth Limited © 2026

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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: 28 June 2026

Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles
(Collection Today for Peter's Pence)

Sun	28th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Grace Fenn RIP
Mon	29th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	30th	10am	St George	-	Mass: Margaret Nevill Birthday Intention
Wed	1st	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Cecilia Hyland RIP
Thurs	2nd	10am	St George	-	Liturgy of the Word

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Collection on 12/7 for Stella Maris)

Sun	5th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Bridie Ginn's 90th Birthday 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: pfc.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 - hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk

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, Gerry Page, Amy and Ben.

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!

First Holy Communion Breakfast:
Following the 10.30am Mass Today, there will be a Communion Breakfast in the Parish hall. All parishioners are warmly invited to join the children and their families in celebrating this joyful moment in their faith journey.

St Wilfrid's Children's First Holy Communion Day: How beautiful our church was decorated for this very special occasion by Teresa and Annette who have instructed our 4 children. Not forgetting our young mum, Agata, who arranges the beautiful flowers, not only for this occasion, but every week. Thank you Agata. As Fr Paul said in his sermon last Sunday "We can be a parish where we just come together on a Sunday. Or we can be a community where we all get together and do things and help out when needed".

Baptismal programmes for St George's and St Wilfrid's will run 2-3 times a year. Please enquire through the parish office on 01323 841504 or email hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk

Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) is seeking one volunteer from this parish please to help with Sea Sunday (which falls on 11/12 July this year) in this parish. This is the day when the Church comes together to pray for seafarers, fishers and their families, and takes a second collection to support the work of Stella Maris. The volunteer will read out the appeal (which Stella Maris will provide) at the end of Masses that weekend. If you can kindly do this, please contact roland.hayes@stellamarismail.org

Sunday Charity Breakfast: Today, Sun **28th June** after mass at St G's. During the month of June we are raising funds for The Demelza Trust. There was a Demelza Charity Shop in Hailsham, but sadly had to close. This charity delivers extraordinary care to children who are facing serious or life limiting conditions. They support the children and their families at every step from first diagnosis and for as long as they are needed. Their support is as unique as every family, providing creative therapies, short breaks, practical and emotional support for families and siblings and care towards the end of life. A worthwhile charity indeed.
We hope you, your family and friends can support this.

Community Breakfasts in Hailsham, Fri 7th Aug (CMA will be present for debt advice). Taking place at Hailsham Parish Church (town centre near Costa Coffee) in the side room (go through the glass door). Children are welcome to join with their parents at this August breakfast. 10am-12pm

New & nearly new items needed: St George's table sale that raises funds for the charity of the month and youth activities is in need of new items for sale. Please leave bags marked St G's Table Sale in the church porch. Thank you.

Diocesan Link: The web edition which has more detailed news can be accessed from this link July web newsletter

21st June - Mass Attendance: St W's 168 St G's 69

OUR JOURNEY TO BECOMING A NEW PARISH:
Ultimately the new Parish will be overseen by a Priests Team, moderated by Fr Kevin Dring. They will work closely with a Leadership Team of clergy and lay reps, and with Hub Pastoral Teams of clergy and lay representatives from across our churches, in the development of our Pastoral Plan and our shared mission. The West Hub covers Eastbourne, Polegate, Hampden Park, Hailsham, and the East Hub covers St Leonards, 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
Deanery Website: www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

Parish Over 50's Club: Our meeting on Thursday 25th June was postponed due to the hot weather. We will now meet on **Thursday 2nd July**, 2-4pm, Anyone over 50 is welcome, just turn up on the day.

St Wilfrid's Church: As you leave church today there will be a "List of Jobs" where extra help is needed please. Do stop and have a look to see if you can help. Thank you.

Mill Hill Missio: Please bring all red boxes to church next Sunday for emptying. Throughout June we will collect and issue a receipt. Most importantly, please make sure your name is on the bottom of the box. Thank you Cathy.

Fatima Devotions
You are warmly invited to Christ the King in Langney for Fatima Devotions, held on the dates of Our Lady's apparitions:
Monday 13 July (5:30pm), Wednesday 19 August (5:30pm), Sunday 13 September (10:30am), and Monday 12 October (5:30pm, vigil).
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. All are very welcome to come and pray together.

Parish Magazine & Website: For news and updates on Eastbourne and St Leonards Deanery activities and events visit the website www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk You can also email **news@eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk** to submit items for the website and magazine.

Young Adults' Retreat Day on Saturday 26 September 2026 10am-6.30pm at St Wilfrid's Burgess Hill. Tickets start from £20pp.
Young Adults (18-35) from across the UK are invited to join the Youth team from Arundel and Brighton Diocese for a Retreat Day. A jam-packed day of prayer, formation, friendship, and fun as together, we will seek hearts open to His healing presence, trusting that Jesus desires to bring freedom, restoration, and transformation to our lives. As we encounter Him, we pray to discover true peace within ourselves, to become peacemakers in the world around us, and to be renewed with an apostolic fire burning brightly within our hearts. Lunch and refreshments are included in the ticket price. To book your place or find out more visit the Diocesan website events page or use this link: Young Adults Retreat (26-Sep-2026) · ChurchSuite Events Participants are very welcome to join the Parish Mass at 6.30pm, with social time at a local pub to follow.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 28 June, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
Sun 28 June, Communion Breakfast, St W's Hall.
Thurs 2 July, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.
Mon 13 July, 5.30pm - Fatima Devotions, Christ the King.
Fri 31 July, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Church
Wed 19 Aug, 5.30pm - Fatima Devotions, Christ the King.

LATEST DEANERY UPDATE:

"As the new larger parishes come into being across the Diocese, clergy are encouraged to embrace opportunities for delegation, including developing the skills and gifts of lay staff and volunteers to enable the clergy to focus on their primary mission and achieve balance in their life and ministry. This will also engage and empower laity into new roles and ministries. The new parishes will make decisions collectively. The key will be working in synodality. This emphasises relationships, collaboration and listening to the voices of all. To enable our clergy to lead, and for communities and parishioners to feel connected and involved, there will need to be some new structures, roles, teams, and communication channels". ***Diocesan Pastoral Team***

Lots more information is available in the narthex, on our website and on the website of the New Parish: www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk
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