

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 16:15

**As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.**

COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. 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 Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Psalm 65(64):10a-d. 10e-11. 12-13. 14. R. Luke 8:8

R. Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

You visit the earth, give it water;
you fill it with riches.
God's ever-flowing river brims over
to prepare the grain.

And thus you prepare it:
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty.
Abundance flows in your pathways;
in pastures of the desert it flows.
The hills are girded with joy.

The meadows clothed with flocks.
The valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy; yes, they sing!

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Romans 8:18-23

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole

creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL****Alleluia, alleluia.**

**The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
all who find him will live for ever.**

Alleluia.**GOSPEL**

Matthew 13:1-9

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: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

R. Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant that, when consumed by those who believe, they may bring ever greater holiness.

R. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 83: 4-5

R. **The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



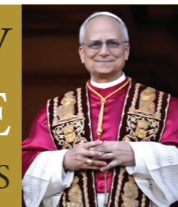
In the gospel reading for this Sunday the Word of God is compared to a seed and we are compared to the soil. A seed is meant to bear fruit and so the question that is being asked of us in this reading is whether or not the Word is bearing fruit in my own life. And what are those fruits? We don't have to go any further than

those mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Galatians: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The parable of the sower and the seed shows us that we cannot take these fruits for granted. It is not enough that I attend mass on Sunday and listen to the Word of God. Jesus speaks about those who "understand" the Word. He is not referring to a purely intellectual understanding. When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, he told them to go and do the same. Truly understanding the words and actions of Jesus reported in the gospels means

repeating those words and actions in our own lives. In his explanation of the parable Jesus warns us to be on our guard against getting caught up in "the cares of the world" and "the deceitfulness of riches". Once again, we are reminded that being a Christian requires a choice. On another occasion Jesus tells us that we cannot serve God and money. We are called to "seek first the kingdom of God". Putting God before everything else is the "good soil" in which the Word will truly bear fruit.



POPE LEO XIV
THE HOLY SEE
APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS



TO ALL CHRISTIANS ON LOVE FOR THE POOR

2. This declaration of love, taken from the Book of Revelation, reflects the inexhaustible mystery that Pope Francis reflected upon in the Encyclical *Dilexit Nos* on the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ. There we saw how Jesus identified himself "with the lowest ranks of society" and how, with his love poured out to the end, he confirms the dignity of every human being, especially when "they are weak, scorned, or suffering."¹ As we contemplate Christ's love, "we too are inspired to be more attentive to the sufferings and needs of others, and confirmed in our efforts to share in his work of liberation as instruments for the spread of his love."²

1. Francis, Encyclical Letter *Dilexit Nos* (24 October 2024), 170: AAS 116 (2024), 1422.
2. *Ibid.*, 171: AAS 116 (2024), 1422-1423.



We are used to calculating things – and at times it is necessary – but this does not apply in love! The way in which the "wasteful" sower [in the parable] throws the seed is an image of the way God loves us. Indeed, it is true that the destiny of the seed depends also on the way in which the earth welcomes it and the situation in which it finds itself, but first and foremost in this parable Jesus tells us that God throws the seed of his Word on all kinds of soil, that is, in any situation of ours: at times we are more superficial and distracted, at times we let ourselves get carried away by enthusiasm, sometimes we are burdened by life's worries, but there are also times when we are willing and welcoming. God is confident and hopes that sooner or later the seed will blossom. This is how he loves us: he does not wait for us to become the best soil, but he always generously gives us his word. Perhaps by seeing that he trusts us, the desire to be better soil will be kindled in us.





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: 12 July 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Collection Today for Stella Maris)

Sun	12th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Bridie Ginn's 90th Birthday Intention
Mon	13th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	14th	10am	St George	-	Mass: Christina Neyenhuizen RIP
Wed	15th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Chris Fenn RIP
Thurs	16th	11am	St Wilfrid	-	Requiem Mass for John Forde

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	19th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Sylvia & Brian Winter 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: 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, Tom Woodrow-Spencer, Laurey Stimpson, Nicole McCutchan, Nellie Oakshott, Jean Molloy, Alan Smith, Julie Martin, Gill Standen, Letty Booth, Thomas Pailey, Thomas Guy, Michael O'Regan, Patricia Delaney, Graham, Pamela Swanston, Jean & Chris Littlewood, 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!

During August, Father Paul is committed to supply and say Mass at the parish in Hove. This was a commitment he made in October last year and which he must honour. Recently Fr Paul, Father Kevin, Shirley and Gerry met in order to make arrangements which would ensure that there will be at least one Sunday Mass in our parish on those Sundays when Fr Paul will be at Hove.

Following a discussion of all the options and possibilities it was decided to put the following plan in place during the month of August:

August 9 th	Mass at St Wilfrid's	5.30pm
August 16 th	Mass at St George's	5.30pm
August 23 rd	Mass at St George's	9.00am
	Mass at St Wilfrid's	5.30pm
August 30 th	Mass at St Wilfrid's	5.30pm

There will be weekday Mass at St George's and St Wilfrid's on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as usual, but this will be at 12.00 noon and not 10.00am.

When Mass will not be celebrated at a particular church on a Sunday, that church will be open at the usual time so that those who really cannot attend Mass elsewhere are able to come for a time of reflection and prayer based on the readings for that Sunday. This will not be a eucharistic liturgy and it will not replace the expectation that you attend Sunday Mass unless it really is not possible.

Sunday Mass will be celebrated in Eastbourne area at *Our Lady of Ransom* 10.15am and 5.30pm; *St Gregory* 9.00am; *St Agnes* 11.30am; *Christ the King, Langney* 11.30 and *St Joachim, Hampden Park* 9.30am

This will be a temporary arrangement for the month of August only, we hope that you understand the situation and thank you for your cooperation.

Photos: If you have any pictures of the late John Forde, please could you email them to garywestcar@icloud.com as soon as possible. Thank you.

Bridie's 90th Birthday Party: Such a happy time was had by all who attended this event last Saturday. What a wonderful buffet table laden with all sorts of goodies. Our catering team did her proud.

For Sale: There are several handheld fans for sale £2 each, kindly donated by Dennis, on the small round table in the hall. Money to go to a charity, please pop money in "small pink box". Thank you.

Sunday Charity Breakfast: Sun 19th July after mass at St G's. During the month of July we are raising funds for "Care for Carers". We hope you, your family and friends can support this.

What great news. The Pope has provided us with Bishop Elect Stephen Wang who asks us to pray for him as he prepares to join the diocese as our new shepherd.

Herewith a message to us all from Bishop-elect Stephen. He has also recorded a video message for parishes which can be watched here: <https://vimeo.com/1206416223>

5th July - Mass Attendance: St W's 152 St G's 88

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

Sea Sunday 2026: Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Today is Sea Sunday. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage: some of us will be journeying to Lourdes at the end of this month (24-31 July) for the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, always a special experience. I will be celebrating a Mass on Friday 17 July at 6.15 pm in OLR (after end of Adoration), followed by tea / coffee in the hall, for any pilgrims who would like to come and meet others who will be going. Also, if anyone would like a small Prayer Petition taken to the Grotto, please leave in the **Parish Office at OLR** in an envelope marked LOURDES PETITION (no money enclosed) by Monday 20. Thanks – Fr Kevin

Deanery Magazine – Latest Issue

The latest issue of the Deanery Magazine is now available on the parish website and printed copies are in our churches from today. As well as including a single parish update it also has lots of good news stories, forthcoming events and opportunities for prayer, formation and mission.

If you take a copy away to read please return it or pass it on to a friend who may be interested, or even leave it in a local community centre, medical practice waiting room or another public place where others in our community might discover and enjoy it too. Thank you for helping to share the Good News more widely!

St Wilfrid's Church: So sorry no one was there to take your name and number against any job you think you might lend a hand. There will definitely be a table in the porch this Sunday with lists of jobs that need extra help please. Do take a look to see if you would like to help us out. Thank you.

Over 50's Club, last Thursday of every month, 2-4pm.

A table laden with homemade cakes and sandwiches, cheese/fruit scones, sausage rolls/pork pies and quiche. Then a quiz sheet and picture bingo for everyone. Music in the background, lots of talk and laughter. A free raffle all for £10 each. Catholics and Non Catholics very welcome, why not come along to our next meeting, you will be most welcome.

Dates for your Diary:

Mon 13 July, 5.30pm - Fatima Devotions, Christ the King.

Fri 17 July, 6.15pm - Lourdes Pilgrimage Mass, OLR.

Fri 31 July, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Church

Sun 19 July, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.

Wed 19 Aug, 5.30pm - Fatima Devotions, Christ the King.

Thurs 27 Aug, 2-4pm - Parish Over 50's Club, St W's Hall.

SUMMER DEANERY UPDATE: A final short update, as we come towards the summer holiday season. Thanks to everyone from across our Deanery churches who have been working hard to help us prepare for change and re-organisation. We realise as time goes by that we are in for a long-distance run rather than a quick sprint, quite rightly so as change needs to happen in a way that makes sense for people. We have just had news of appointment of our new Bishop-Elect, Stephen Wang. I know him well and am confident he will be a great new Shepherd for us all. Just to end with some encouraging words he shares with us on his appointment: "There are many challenges ahead, but I am full of hope. I've seen so many times what God can do when people pray and work together, and when they put their trust in him. If we listen to one another, and to the Lord, then he will show us the way forward" We pray for him as he prepares to join us after the summer.