

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 67: 6-7, 36
**God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.**

COLLECT
O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.
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 First Book of Kings. 1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12

In those days: The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you.’ And Solomon said, ‘O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 119(118):57, 72. 76-77. 127-128. 129-130. R.97a
R. O LORD, how I love your law!

You, O LORD, are my portion;
I have promised to obey your words.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold.

Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live,
for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts,
and hate false ways.

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.

SECOND READING
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.
Romans 8:28-30

Brothers and sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL
Alleluia, alleluia. Cf. Matthew 11:25
**I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.**
Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:44-46
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 said to the crowd: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.’

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings
which we bring from the abundance of your gifts,
that through the powerful working of your grace
these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our
present way of life
and lead us to eternal gladness.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 102: 2
**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament,
the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son;
R. grant, we pray, that this gift,
which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling,
may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Picture the crowd listening to Jesus as he speaks to them about the kingdom of heaven, using examples such as the treasure hidden in the field, the precious pearl, a net filled with fish. Today we are faced with the same challenge of trying to understand what is this kingdom of heaven that Jesus is talking about.

this world” (Jn 18:36). However, as always with Jesus, we cannot take just one sentence and use it to prove a point. Jesus also said to his disciples, “love one another ” (Jn 13:34). And to show that he was talking about actions to be carried out in this world, he washed their feet and told them to do the

If it is a “heavenly” kingdom, does it have anything to do with this earth, with you and I trying to pay our bills, going for a walk, cooking a meal, putting up with an irritating work colleague? One clue to answering this question is given to us by Jesus himself when he says to Pilate: “My kingdom is not of

same with one another. In actual fact Christians are called to be in the world but not of the world. It is a delicate balance. In the early Church the desert ascetics gave a heroic witness to what St. Paul wrote to the Romans: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world” (Rom. 12:2). Times have changed and while the monastic way of life is still a gift for the Church today, more than ever it seems necessary for Christians to be in the world while aiming for its transformation through our love for one another.



POPE LEO XIV
THE HOLY SEE
APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS

CHAPTER I
A FEW ESSENTIAL WORDS

4. Jesus’ disciples criticized the woman who poured costly perfumed oil on his head. They said: “Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.” However, the Lord said to them in response: “You always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me” (Mt 26:8-9,11). That woman saw in Jesus the lowly and suffering Messiah on whom she could pour out all her love. What comfort that anointing must have brought to the very head that within a few days would be pierced by thorns! It was a small gesture, of course, but those who suffer know how great even a small gesture of affection can be, and how much relief it can bring. Jesus understood this and told the disciples that the memory of her gesture would endure: “Wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her” (Mt 26:13). The simplicity of that woman’s gesture speaks volumes. No sign of affection, even the smallest, will ever be forgotten, especially if it is shown to those who are suffering, lonely or in need, as was the Lord at that time.

Pope Francis Angelus
30 July 2023

Realizing [the] immense value [of the precious pearl, the merchant] sells everything, he sacrifices all his goods just to have it. He radically changes the inventory of his warehouse; there is no longer anything other than that pearl: it is his only wealth, the meaning of his present and his future. This too is an invitation for us. But what is this pearl for which one can renounce everything, the one of which the Lord speaks to us? This pearl is Him: it is the Lord! Seeking the Lord and finding the Lord, encountering the Lord, living with the Lord. The pearl is Jesus: He is the precious pearl of life, to be sought, found and made one’s own. It is worth investing everything in him because, when one encounters Christ, life changes. If you meet Christ, your life changes... Do I know how to spend myself for Jesus? Is he in first place for me, is he the greatest good in life? It would be nice to say to him today: “Jesus, You are my greatest good”. Each one of you in your heart, say now: “Jesus, you are my greatest good”.

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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: 26 July 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	26th	9am	St George	-	Mass: John in Thanksgiving for his Ministry
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention

Mon	27th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
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Tues	28th	10am	St George	-	Mass: Leon Hosang RIP
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Wed	29th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Jim Ayres RIP
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Thurs	30th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Liturgy of the Word
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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	2nd	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass:

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.

Angela and Mike would like to thank you all for your support and kind messages following the death of their mother, Sylvia Winter. Thank you also for donations to St Wilfrid's Hospice, which currently stand in excess of £630.

The Celebration for Deacon John's 25 years of ordination was most wonderful last Sunday at St George's. The children presented him and Tessa with gifts from the parish and their family joined us for breakfast in the hall. We all joined together to thank him for his many years of love and service.

No Bereavement Group Meeting until the last Friday in September, 25th.

Sunday Charity Breakfast: Our next Breakfast will be Sun 27th September after mass at St G's. During the month of June we raised a total of £140 for Demelza and in July we raised £170 for Care for Carers. Thank you to everyone who supports us with these breakfasts.

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

Please note that we will not meet on the last Thursday of July, but we will meet on Thursday 27th August as usual. Thank you.

19th July - Mass Attendance: St W's 108 St G's 84

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

Sacramental Enrolment Forms for confirmation in 2027, via the West Hub's RCIA (adult formation group) and Lumen Christi (Youth group Year 9 to Year 13) are now available in both church porches.

We wish Maeve, Loretta and Oskar the most blessed time in Lourdes this week as they pilgrimage with 750 others from our Diocese taking our prayers and petitions with them. You can follow the journey and access the pilgrimage handbook through Facebook, Instagram and the diocese website (link below). 2026 Handbook | News <https://share.google/s4ycqPBll57RdvY0F>

Children's Liturgy will return in September 2026.

St George's quarterly community meeting: Next meeting will be Sunday 6th September after mass.

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/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!



CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Do you enjoy working with children and young people?

Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in our Catholic schools and churches to bring alive their sense of global justice?

Could you give an assembly or a workshop in a local school?

Supported by CAFOD with training and resources, you will discuss issues of global justice, add to parish and school life whilst complementing the work of teachers, priests and catechists. Email: arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

Website: [Schools volunteers \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://Schools%20volunteers%20(cafod.org.uk)) [Sign up to volunteer](#)

Dates for your Diary:

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

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

Sun 6 Sept, After Mass - St G's Quarterly Mtg, St G's Hall.

Sun 13 Sept, 10.30am - Fatima Devotions, Christ the King.

Fri 25 Sept, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall

Sun 27 Sept, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.

Sat 3 Oct, 4-6.45pm - Lumen Christi 1st Meeting, OLR Hall.

Sat End Oct TBC, 9-10.15am - RCIA Meeting, OLR 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.