

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

Ps 69: 2, 6

COLLECT
Draw near to your servants, O Lord,
and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness,
that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide,
you may restore what you have created
and keep safe what you have restored.
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 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord: ‘Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 145(144):8-9. 15-16. 17-18. R. cf. 16

R. You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand and satisfy
the desire of every living thing.

The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth.

SECOND READING
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.
Romans 8:35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL
Alleluia, alleluia. Matthew 4:4b
One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 14:13-21
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 heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.’ But Jesus said, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ They said to him, ‘We have only five loaves here and two fish.’ And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

R. PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray,
and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice,
make of us an eternal offering to you.
R. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Wis 16: 20
**You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Accompany with constant protection, O Lord,
those you renew with these heavenly gifts
and, in your never-failing care for them,
make them worthy of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In the account of the multiplication of the loaves and the fish let’s contrast the attitude of Jesus with that of his disciples. We can understand the mindset of the disciples when at the end of the day they suggest to Jesus that he send the crowds away. It seems as if

Jesus had completed his day’s work and he could switch off and relax; as if now that his “professional” obligations were fulfilled he had the right to his own privacy. Jesus had done his “9 to 5” job of preaching the good news and healing the sick. He had every right to send the people home. But that is not what Jesus does. His ministry is not confined to a set of activities, a task to be carried out, a job to be done. He himself is the ministry and he is love. Very often our human way of seeing things is to separate what we are

from what we do. This is what makes hypocrisy possible: I can preach one thing but practice another. Externally I can tick all the right boxes but be full of envy, jealousy, spite on the inside. It is precisely in that moment when Jesus tells his disciples not to send the crowds away that he reveals once again that his whole being is nothing but love which is then expressed in his every word and deed. This is exactly what each one of us who call ourselves Christians is called to imitate. We are called not just to “act” as Christians but to “be” Christians.



A FEW ESSENTIAL WORDS

5. Love for the Lord, then, is one with love for the poor. The same Jesus who tells us, “The poor you will always have with you” (Mt 26:11), also promises the disciples: “I am with you always” (Mt 28:20). We likewise think of his saying: “Just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me” (Mt 25:40). This is not a matter of mere human kindness but a revelation: contact with those who are lowly and powerless is a fundamental way of encountering the Lord of history. In the poor, he continues to speak to us.



Pope Francis Angelus
19 June 2022

Sometimes, there is the risk of confining the Eucharist to a vague, distant dimension, perhaps bright and perfumed with incense, but distant from the straits of everyday life. In reality, the Lord takes all our needs to heart, beginning with the most basic. [In the multiplication of the loaves and the fish] he wants to set the example for his disciples, by saying, “You give them something to eat” to those people who had listened to him during the day. Our Eucharistic adoration comes alive when we take care of our neighbour like Jesus does. There is hunger for food around us, but also for companionship; there is hunger for consolation, friendship, good humour; there is hunger for attention, there is hunger to be evangelized. We find this in the Eucharistic Bread — Christ’s attention to our needs and the invitation to do the same toward those who are beside us. We need to eat and feed others.





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: 2 August 2026

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	2nd	9am	St George	-	Mass: Deceased Members of the Lodrick Family
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	3rd	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	4th	12noon	St George	-	Mass: Christina Neyenhuizen RIP
Wed	5th	12noon	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Margaret Madams RIP

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Next Sunday will be the feast of Our Lady's Assumption)

Sun	9th	5.30pm	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Parish Communities' 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, 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. Arrangements have been made to 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
Sept 6 th	Mass at St George'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.

All are welcome on Saturday 15th August to attend a pilgrimage to the **Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation** at West Grinstead organised by the Union of Catholic Mothers and the Knights of St Columba. Canon Tom Treherne will give a talk at 11am, Holy Mass at 12 noon, followed by a picnic, rosary and benediction.

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. We will be raising funds for the Foodbank. Thank you to everyone who supports us with these breakfasts.

Over 50's Club, last Thursday of every month, 2-4pm. We will next meet on Thursday 27th August. Thank you.

Elite Mobility Scooter excellent condition, cost over £3000 and used 3/4 times, folds down easily to go in a Car Boot, Polegate area. £800 ono. Please ring: Bill Swindell 01313 485257

St Wilfrid's Church - Help with various jobs: A very disappointing result, only a very few of you came forward to help!

26th July - Mass Attendance: St W's 111 St G's 79

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

St Wilfrid's Hall will be closed for redecoration from Monday 3rd August, and there will be no refreshments after Mass until September. On Mass days, access to the hall toilets will be available via the garden gate and the hall emergency exit door.

First Holy Communion Programme 2026-2027

Registration is now open for children in Year 3 and above who wish to prepare to receive their First Holy Communion. An introductory session for parents only will take place on **Thursday 24th September** at 7.00pm in St Wilfrid's Church Hall. If you would like your child to join this year's programme, please complete an enrolment form, available at the back of church, and return it by **Friday 18th September**. We look forward to welcoming you as your family begins this special journey of faith.

All men are invited to the meeting of the **Knights of St Columba** at 7.45pm on 14th August in the committee room at Our Lady of Ransom.

Thank You: Deacon John and Tessa say thank you so much for the generous gifts on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee and Retirement, which was a wonderful occasion.

Catholic Women's League: On Wednesday 5th August at 6pm all ladies are invited to join the Eastbourne Section of the Catholic Women's League for Ice-cream at Flavoroso Ice Cream Parlor, Carlisle Road, followed by an optional seafront stroll who wish to (weather permitting). For more information contact sandraforte40@gmail.com.

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.

Children's Liturgy will return in September 2026.

Deanery 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.

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.
Thurs 24 Sept, 7pm - Parents FHC Meeting, St W's Hall.
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.