

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 47: 10-11

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

COLLECT

O God, who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin
you bestow eternal gladness.
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 Zechariah. Zechariah 9:9-10

Thus says the Lord: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is
coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble
and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I
will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from
Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall
speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 145(144):1-2. 8-9. 10-11. 13c-14. R.cf. 1

R. I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.

or Alleluia.

I will extol you, my God and king,
and bless your name for ever and ever.
I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.

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.

All your works shall thank you, O LORD,
and all your faithful ones bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,
and declare your mighty deeds.

The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and holy in all his deeds.

The LORD supports all who fall,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.
Romans 8:9, 11-13

Brothers and sisters: You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit,
if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does
not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If the
Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life
to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the
flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according
to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death
the deeds of the body, you will live.

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 11:25-30

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 declared, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of
heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from
the wise and understanding and revealed them to little
children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All
things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no
one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows
the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son
chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labour and are
heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon
you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy,
and my burden is light.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation dedicated to your name
purify us, O Lord,
and day by day bring our conduct
closer to the life of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

R. COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 11: 28
**Come to me, all who labour and are burdened,
and I will refresh you, says the Lord.**

R. PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, having been replenished by such great gifts,
we may gain the prize of salvation
and never cease to praise you.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



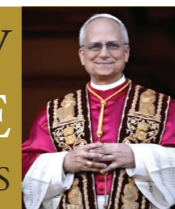
In the gospel reading for this Sunday Jesus invites all those "who labour and are heavy laden" to come to him. In exchange he will give us another "burden" to bear, but it is "light". That might seem paradoxical when we take into account that on another occasion Jesus asks his

disciples to take up their "cross" and follow him. Don't we all find our daily crosses heavy to bear, sometimes almost too heavy to bear? Let us remember what Jesus is inviting us to do: he is inviting us to come to him. If the death of Jesus on the cross means anything, surely it means that he too suffered, suffered to the point of feeling that he had been abandoned by his Father. He knows what it is like to reach a point where the only word that escapes from the darkness is "Why?" This is the Jesus who is calling out to us in our suffering to come to him. He is the one who lifts the great burden that weighs us down when we feel that we are

alone in carrying our cross. Another way of saying this is that what will make our burden "light" is love. Love is the only real answer to suffering. When a child falls on the ground and runs crying to a parent, what is it that stops the crying? Not so much the ointment applied to the bleeding knee; what stops the crying is the loving embrace of the parent. When it comes to our relationship with our Father in heaven Jesus invites us to become "little children". This means that whenever we find ourselves suffering, we can turn to Him sure that we will be embraced by his love.



POPE LEO XIV
THE HOLY SEE
APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS



TO ALL CHRISTIANS ON
LOVE FOR THE POOR

1. "I HAVE LOVED YOU" (Rev 3:9). The Lord speaks these words to a Christian community that, unlike some others, had no influence or resources, and was treated instead with violence and contempt: "You have but little power... I will make them come and bow down before your feet" (Rev 3:8-9). This text reminds us of the words of the canticle of Mary: "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (Lk 1:52-53).

Pope John XXIII
Christmas Message 1959

Human efforts in the matter of universal peace-making are still far from the point where heaven and earth meet... The fact is that true peace cannot come save from God. It has only one name: the peace of Christ. It has one aspect, that impressed on it by Christ who, as if to anticipate the counterfeits of man, emphasized: "Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you" (John 14:28). The disturbances which unsettle the internal peace of nations trace their origins chiefly to this source: that man has been treated almost exclusively as a machine, a piece of merchandise, a worthless cog in some great machine or a mere productive unit... No peace will have solid foundations unless hearts nourish the sentiment of brotherhood which ought to exist among all who have a common origin and are called to the same destiny. The knowledge that they belong to the same family extinguishes lust, greed, pride and the instinct to dominate others, which are the roots of dissensions and wars. It binds all in a single bond of higher and more fruitful solidarity.





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: 5 July 2026

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
Mon	6th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	7th	12noon	St George	-	Mass:
Wed	8th	11.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Requiem Mass for Sylvia Winter
Thurs	9th	10am	St George	-	Liturgy of the Word
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

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!

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.

Eastbourne Council 433 of The Knights of St Columba will be meeting on Friday, 10th July at 7.45pm in the Parish Meeting Room at Our Lady of Ransom. All interested Catholic men are welcome to attend. Further details from Flavio (07854932595)

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.

The South Downs Singers Open Air Summer Concert on Saturday 11 July at 3.30pm: Carters Corner Farm, Cowbeech, BN27 4JA Tickets £12.

Bring a picnic and enjoy the beautiful grounds of Heather and Nigel's home. Tickets available from Shirley and Anne after Mass if anyone would like to buy them.

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

Diocesan Link: The web edition which has more detailed news can be accessed from this link [July web newsletter](#)

28th June - Mass Attendance: St W's 138 St G's 70

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

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. See letter attached.

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>

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!

Phil & Paula Bell ask for prayers of thanksgiving as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary this weekend.

Last Sunday's First Communion Breakfast in our hall was a very joyous occasion. Annette had made and decorated a beautiful cake with the children's names and plenty of other cakes and sandwiches. Teresa provided platters of all sorts of healthy goodies. The hall was decorated with 12 tables for members of our congregation, it was lovely to see so many of our parishioners together with plenty of children who took home all the balloons that decorated the hall!

St Wilfrid's Church: As you leave church today (on the table in the porch) please take a look at the list of jobs and see if you could put your name to help 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:

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

SEDE VACANTE

The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Chancery Office
The St Philip Howard Centre
4 Southgate Drive
Crawley
RH10 6RP

Telephone: (01293) 651142
Email: vg@abdiocese.org.uk

2 July 2026

My dear brothers and sisters,

With the greatest possible joy, I am delighted to pass on to you the news that the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has appointed Father Stephen Wang, until now the Rector of the Venerable English College in Rome, as the Sixth Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. Bishop-Elect Stephen will receive episcopal ordination and take canonical possession of the Diocese at some point in the second half of October, until which time the See remains vacant.

Yesterday, I was able to have a zoom call with Bishop-Elect Stephen. With all the energy and zeal for which he is known, it is fair to say that he is greatly looking forward to taking up this new ministry, to which the Lord has called him. It seems to me that, in God's Providence, we are truly blessed to have been granted the gift of such a Shepherd.

Many of you, I'm sure, will already be familiar with our Bishop-Elect through the outstanding *Sycamore* catechetical courses being used in a good number of our parishes RCIA and other catechetical programmes.

Should you receive any media enquiries, please direct them to Laura Maydew-Gale at E: communications@abdiocese.org.uk or M: 07552 249829.

With the assurance of my prayers and every good wish.

In Domino,



Canon Jonathan Martin, JCL
Diocesan Administrator

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>

Dear friends in the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, dear brothers, and sisters.

I'm so happy to be appointed as your new bishop, and I am really looking forward to meeting you and getting to know the Diocese – the priests and deacons, those in consecrated life, all the lay faithful, and so many others. I'm really looking forward to visiting our parishes and schools, and all the other communities that make up our Diocese. I'm just sorry that I can't get back to be with you at this time because we have our diaconal ordination in Rome this weekend.

As you can imagine, the news came as a complete surprise to me. The first thing I did after being told on Tuesday morning was to visit St Peter's Basilica. I prayed at the tombs of St Peter and St John Paul II for you all and offered Mass for the Diocese.

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.

You have been very blessed to have Archbishop Richard with you over these years. I keep being told what a wonderful diocese it is and how lucky I am to be going there! Which I certainly am. I want to thank Canon Jonathan Martin as well, for looking after things so well in this interim period.

Let's pray for each other, and for our Diocese. Please pray for me and for my intentions. I put all my trust in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in his Church, and in his mother Mary. His love is so powerful. There is so much to be grateful for, and so much to do. I pray that we can grow in holiness together, be of service to those around us, and help all people to know the love and mercy of Jesus Christ and the message of the Gospel.

Bishop-elect Stephen

Canon Jonathan Martin (DA)
Diocesan Administrator

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

The Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton |

01293651142 |

diocesanadministrator@abdiocese.org.uk | www.abdiocese.org.uk