

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

A great sign appeared in heaven:
a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet,
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary,
the Mother of your Son,
body and soul into heavenly glory,
grant, we pray,
that, always attentive to the things that are above,
we may merit to be sharers of her glory.
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 Book of Revelation.
Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant
was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with
the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown
of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth
pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared
in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten
horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a
third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the
dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so
that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to
a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron,
but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the
woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared
by God.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation
and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of
his Christ have come.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 45(44):10. 11. 12. 16. R.10b

R. On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
forget your own people and your father’s house.

So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him.

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the
first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came
death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For
as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But
each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming
those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he
delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule

and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put
all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is
death. For ‘God has put all things in subjection under his feet.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
Mary has been taken up into heaven;
the host of angels rejoice.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56

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

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country,
to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary,
the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy
Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this
granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For
behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby
in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that
there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.’

And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices
in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his
servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his
name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to
generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the
proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty
from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the
hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has
helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to
our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.’

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to
her home.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, our tribute of homage,
rise up to you, O Lord,
and, through the intercession of the most
Blessed Virgin Mary,
whom you assumed into heaven,
may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love,
constantly long for you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lk 1:48-49

All generations will call me blessed,
for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Sacrament of salvation,
we ask you to grant, O Lord,
that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
whom you assumed into heaven,
we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



If we reflect on the title that the early Church gave to Mary as the “Mother of God” we cannot help being struck by what seems to be an impossibility: how can a human person be the mother of God? Reason automatically breaks down if it attempts to explain it. If at all we want to enter into this mystery our only access is through love; divine love which unites heaven and earth in its embrace. It is love which brings the Second Person of the Trinity to “empty himself” so as to become the child of a human mother. It is love which brings Mary to “empty herself” so as to be able to contain this divine child. This is the love which Mary proclaims in her Magnificat. At the height of the power of the Roman Empire this love entered the world and set about its task of turning the world upside

down by filling the hungry with good things and sending the rich away empty. It is a love which lifts up the lowly and brings down the mighty from their thrones. However, for this love to be effective it must become alive and active in your heart and my heart. In other words, we are all called as Christians to be “another Mary” by allowing Jesus with his love to be incarnated in our lives; echoing St Paul when he says, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2,20).



SAINT FRANCIS

7. Eight centuries ago, Saint Francis prompted an evangelical renewal in the Christians and society of his time. Wealthy and self-confident, the young Francis was taken aback and converted by his direct contact with the poor and outcast of society. The story of his life continues to appeal to the minds and hearts of believers, and many non-believers as well. It “changed history.”⁵ A further step on the same path was taken by the Second Vatican Council, as Saint Paul VI pointed out when he said that “the ancient parable of the Samaritan served as the model for the Council’s spirituality.”⁶ I am convinced that the preferential choice for the poor is a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society, if we can only set ourselves free of our self-centeredness and open our ears to their cry.

5. J. Bergoglio - A. Skorka , Sobre el cielo y la tierra, Buenos Aires 2013, 214.
6. Paul VI, Homily at the Mass for the Last Public Session of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council (7 December 1965): AAS 58 (1966), 55-56.



Mary has grasped, better than all other creatures, that God accomplishes wonderful things: His name is holy, He shows His mercy, He raises up the humble, He is faithful to His promises. Not that the apparent course of her life in any way departs from the ordinary, but she meditates on the least signs of God, pondering them in her heart. Not that she is in any way spared sufferings: she stands, the mother of sorrows, at the foot of the cross, associated in an eminent way with the sacrifice of the innocent Servant. But she is also open in an unlimited degree to the joy of the resurrection; and she is also taken up, body and soul, into the glory of heaven. The first of the redeemed, immaculate from the moment of her conception, the incomparable dwelling-place of the Spirit, the pure abode of the Redeemer of mankind, she is at the same time the beloved Daughter of God and, in Christ, the Mother of all. She is the perfect model of the Church both on earth and in glory.





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: 16 August 2026

The Assumption of the B.V Mary Co-Patron of the Diocese

Sun	16th	10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Readings and Reflection
		5.30pm	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	17th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	18th	12noon	St George	-	Mass:
Wed	19th	12noon	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Cecilia Hyland RIP

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	23rd	9am	St George	-	Mass: Dolores McNabb RIP
		5.30pm	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Agnes Knight 98th 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, 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 16th	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.

Walk: On Saturday October 17th I am organising a walk from Wilfrid's Catholic Church to Michelham Priory. The walk is to remember John Stone an Augustinian Canon who was martyred by Henry VIII in 1539. For more details contact Gary O'Brien at garyobrien4@yahoo.co.uk

Young adults' evening at CTK: Sat 22 August, 6pm after the Vigil Mass. Includes adoration and the opportunity for confession; free refreshments and a chance to put Fr Neil on the spot with questions about the Faith. Open to everyone aged 18 to early thirties.

Please visit [August 2026 NBCW newsletter](http://August2026NBCWnewsletter.org) or sueschurchpage.blogspot.com for a web edition of the August newsletter from your Diocesan Link.

Lost: If someone has lost a small notebook, please see Jackie in the office.

Children's Liturgy will return in September 2026.

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

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

9th August - Mass Attendance: St W's 69 St G's Liturgy - 24

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 Leonard's, 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 Mon 3rd August, and there will be no refreshments after Mass until Sept. On Mass days, access to the hall toilets will be available via the garden gate and the hall emergency exit door. **(When the hall floor is being re-polished the toilets will be unavailable).**

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.

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.

Mental Health Awareness training – Sat 17 Oct 10-3pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley – cost £40

Thanks to the support of Mental Health England, we are able to offer this "Mental Health Awareness" training, to explore the realities, symptoms and impact of living with these many debilitating conditions. One of the challenges that we are experiencing in our modern world is the growing number of people, of all ages, experiencing the darkness and challenge of various mental health conditions. The training is being highly subsidised and tickets are just £40 per delegate (usual price £120). If you have any questions about this training do not hesitate to contact Deacon Simon South, Marriage and Family Life Adviser at E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk. To book your place go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocesan/events

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, After Mass - Social Committee Mtg, St W'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.