

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 73: 20, 19, 22, 23
Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

COLLECT
Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. 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 19:9a, 11-13a

In those days: Elijah reached Horeb, the mount of God. There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him. And he said, 'Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.' And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 85(84):9ab, 10. 11-12. 13-14. R.8
R. Show us, O LORD, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the LORD God speaks; he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful. His salvation is near for those who fear him, and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have kissed. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth, and justice look down from heaven.

The LORD will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase. Righteousness will march before him, and guide his steps on the way.

SECOND READING
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Romans 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters: I am speaking the truth in Christ. I am not lying. My conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit — that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers and sisters, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the

giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed for ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL
Alleluia, alleluia. Psalm 130(129):5
I long for you, O LORD, my soul longs for his word. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the crowd had eaten and were satisfied: Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, 'It is a ghost!' and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.' And Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of your Church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 147: 12, 14
O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

9TH AUGUST 2026

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The episode of Peter walking on the water, almost drowning, and then being rescued by Jesus teaches us many things about being a Christian. Writing to the Corinthians the apostle Paul says: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed

away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17). In Peter's case this "newness" is expressed in his ability to walk on water. But it is a fragile newness. It is not permanent. It can be lost. I may be walking along the top of a mountain but if I put my foot wrong, I can fall off



of Jesus. When Jesus encounters the woman caught in adultery, he gives her the possibility of seeing herself through his eyes, liberating her from seeing herself as a condemned sinner. A constant theme in Paul's letters is that of putting away the "old self" and putting on the "new self". There is a condition for remaining in this "new self". I must be "in Christ"; which means in his love expressed in concrete actions towards my neighbour.

POPE LEO XIV
THE HOLY SEE
APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS

SAINT FRANCIS

6. Pope Francis, explaining his choice of that name, related how, after his election, a Cardinal friend of his embraced him, kissed him and told him: "Do not forget the poor!"⁴ It is the same appeal that the leaders of the Church made to Saint Paul when he went up to Jerusalem to confirm his mission (cf. Gal 2:1-10). Years later, the Apostle could still reaffirm that this was "actually what I was eager to do" (Gal 2:10). Care for the poor was also a great concern of Saint Francis of Assisi: in the person of a leper, Christ himself embraced Francis and changed his life. Even today, Saint Francis, as the Poor Man of Assisi, continues to inspire us by his outstanding example.

4. Francis, Audience with Representatives of the Communications Media (16 March 2013): AAS 105 (2013), 381.

Pope Francis Angelus
13 August 2023

Today, Christ repeats to each of us, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear!" Take heart because I am here, because you are no longer alone on the turbulent waters of life. And so, what should we do when we find ourselves on the open sea at the mercy of headwinds? What should we do when we face the fear of the open sea, when we see only darkness and we feel we are going under? We need to do two things that the disciples do in the Gospel. What do the disciples do? They call on and welcome Jesus. At the worst moments, in the darkest of storms, call on Jesus and welcome Jesus. The disciples call on Jesus: Peter walks a little on the waters towards Jesus, but then gets frightened. He sinks and then cries out: "Lord, save me!". Invoke Jesus, call on Jesus. This prayer is beautiful. It expresses the certainty that the Lord can save us, that he conquers our evil and our fears.



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: 9 August 2026

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Next Sunday will be the Feast of Our Lady's Assumption)

Sun	9th	5.30pm	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Fr Paul's Intention
Mon	10th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	11th	12noon	St George	-	Mass:
Wed	12th	12noon	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Sandford Lissenburg RIP

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

Sun	16th	5.30pm	St George	-	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 9th	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.

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.

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 01323 485257

2nd August - Mass Attendance: St W's 122 St G's 78

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 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. **(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.

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.

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.

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.

Mass for Altar Servers at Arundel Cathedral, Sat 12 Sept at 12noon: Fr Aaron Spinelli, Diocesan Director for the Guild of St Stephen, invites all diocesan altar servers to a special Mass at Arundel Cathedral. The occasion will offer an opportunity to celebrate and thank servers for their service to our parish communities. The Mass for Altar Servers is for all those who have served, all those who are serving, and anybody who would like to serve - all are very welcome to attend. Please bring a cassock/cotta or an Alb, if possible. Holy Mass will be followed by light refreshments. Please bring a packed lunch. Please contact Fr Aaron to confirm attendance and numbers E: aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk

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.