

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Dn 3: 31, 29, 30, 43, 42
All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

COLLECT
O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. 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 Ezekiel. Ezekiel 18:25-28
Thus says the Lord: ‘You say, “The way of the Lord is not just.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 25(24):4-5b. 6-7. 8-9. R.6a
R. Remember your compassion, O LORD.
O LORD, make me know your ways.
Teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
for you are the God of my salvation.

Remember your compassion, O LORD,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth,
nor my transgressions.
In your merciful love remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgement;
to the humble he teaches his way.

SECOND READING
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians. Philippians 2:1-11
For shorter form read between []

[Brothers and sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy; complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus], who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL
Alleluia, alleluia. John 10:27
My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:28-32
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 chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” And he answered, “I will not”, but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, “I go, sir”, but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe him.’

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
R. Grant us, O merciful God,
that this our offering may find acceptance with you
and that through it the wellspring of all blessing
may be laid open before us.
R. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON 1 Jn 3: 16
By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
May this heavenly mystery, O Lord,
restore us in mind and body,
that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ,
to whose suffering we are united
whenever we proclaim his Death.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In Jewish society at the time of Jesus it would have been hard to find two greater extremes than on the one side the chief priests and the elders and on the other side tax collectors and prostitutes. Objectively speaking they could be

classified as “good people” and “bad people”. But once again in the gospel reading of this Sunday, Jesus shows us that he is not interested in how people are judged by human standards. What John the Baptist offered was a chance to admit to being a sinner and the decision to choose the path of righteousness. The problem with the chief priests and the elders was that they considered themselves to be already righteous and so they had no need of repentance. They are fixed in their

ideas and in their behaviour and so are not open to something new that is being offered. This “something new” is exactly what Jesus came on earth to offer us. In the Gospel of Mark Jesus begins his preaching ministry with the words:

“Repent and believe in the good news” (Mk. 1,15). In the parable of the two sons requested by their father to work in the vineyard Jesus does not take into account the wrongdoing of the son who said he would not go to work. That is all forgotten, cancelled out by the fact that he did go to work. Similarly, those who are tax collectors and sinners who change their way of living will enter the kingdom of God, but those who consider themselves to be righteous but do not act accordingly will remain outside. In the eyes of Jesus actions really do speak louder than words.



IDEOLOGICAL PREJUDICES

13. Looking beyond the data — which is sometimes “interpreted” to convince us that the situation of the poor is not so serious — the overall reality is quite evident: “Some economic rules have proved effective for growth, but not for integral human development. Wealth has increased, but together with inequality, with the result that ‘new forms of poverty are emerging.’ The claim that the modern world has reduced poverty is made by measuring poverty with criteria from the past that do not correspond to present-day realities. In other times, for example, lack of access to electric energy was not considered a sign of poverty, nor was it a source of hardship. Poverty must always be understood and gauged in the context of the actual opportunities available in each concrete historical period.”¹⁰ Looking beyond specific situations and contexts, however, a 1984 document of the European Community declared that “‘the poor’ shall be taken to mean persons, families and groups of persons whose resources (material, cultural and social) are so limited as to exclude them from the minimum acceptable way of life in the Member States in which they live.”¹¹ Yet if we acknowledge that all human beings have the same dignity, independent of their place of birth, the immense differences existing between countries and regions must not be ignored.

10. Ibid., 21: AAS 112 (2020), 976.
11. Council of the European Communities, Decision (85/8/EEC) on Specific Community Action to Combat Poverty (19 December 1984), Art. 1(2); Official Journal of the European Communities, No. L 2/24.112 (2020), 977.



A writing of
St. Vincent de Paul

Since Christ willed to be born poor, he chose for himself disciples who were poor. He made himself the servant of the poor and shared their poverty. He went so far as to say that he would consider every deed which either helps or harms the poor as done for or against himself. Since God surely loves the poor, he also loves those who love the poor. For when one person holds another dear, he also includes in his affection anyone who loves or serves the one he loves. That is why we hope that God will love us for the sake of the poor. So when we visit the poor and needy, we try to understand the poor and weak. We sympathise with them so fully that we can echo Paul’s words: I have become all things to all men. Therefore, we must try to be stirred by our neighbours’ worries and distress. We must beg God to pour into our hearts sentiments of pity and compassion and to fill them again and again with these dispositions.





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: 27 September 2026

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Collection Today for CAFOD)

Sun	27th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Ruth and Eric Arndt RIP
Mon	28th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	29th	10am	St George	-	Mass: Catherine Silva RIP (1st Anniversary)
Wed	30th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Jim Ayres RIP

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Collection for Prisoners' Sunday 11/10)

Sun	4th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Bob and Madeleine Waters 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: 01323 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 Littlewood, Jennifer, Peter Mitchell, Madeleine Waters, Sue Matthews, 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!

Harvest Festival September 2026

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival at both our parish Churches **Today, Sun 27th Sept** - a time to thank God for His gifts and share them with others. Our celebrations will include:

Foodbank collection: please leave non-perishable items in the church porch. This charity is in need of our ongoing support more than ever with the cost of living crisis.

At St Wilfrid's: A produce sale in aid of **CAFOD** will follow the **10.30am Mass** (donations of fruit, veg, preserves, or baked goods welcome on Saturday 26th September)

At St George's: the monthly Sunday Charity Breakfast after mass will be in aid of the Foodbank.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest

Please donate to our *Family Fast Day* parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens.

Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope, or call 0303 303 3030.



We're looking forward to holding a Christmas Fair in **St Wilfrid's Hall** on **Sat 14th Nov** from **10.00am to 3.00pm**. There'll be plenty to enjoy, including craft stalls, a tombola, and refreshments throughout the day.

We'd love a bit of help from parishioners to make the day really special—whether that's lending a hand on the day, running a stall, or donating items for stalls or prizes. A list of suggested items to be donated will be handed out after mass on 11th and 18th October.

We're also delighted to welcome a limited number of local makers, crafters and small businesses who would like to take part in our Christmas Fair. Independent stallholders can book a table for just £10. If you would like to book a stall, please email hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk, providing details of the type of goods you would like to sell.

There will be a short meeting after the 10.30 mass next Sunday (4th October) for all those who wish to volunteer to help run the event. Thank you so much for your support—we hope you can be part of it!

Mass Attendance - a reminder that during September and October we are asked to provide details to the diocese of mass attendance in our churches. Welcomers please ask that someone does this count weekly.

13th September - Mass Attendance: St W's 123 St G's 70

20th September - Mass Attendance: St W's 114 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, & the East Hub covers St Leonard's, Hastings, Bexhill, Battle & 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

Happy Birthday to Fr Rory: All the parishioners from St Wilfrid's and St George's would like to wish Fr Rory a very happy 77th Birthday.

LAST CHANCE — ENROLMENT CLOSING SOON!

Youth Confirmation — Lumen Christi

For young people in **Years 9–13** who are ready to take the next step in their faith journey. **Deadline is 3rd October.**

Don't miss out — enrol now, forms available at back of church!

Baptismal programmes for St George's and St Wilfrid's

If you would like your child to be baptised, please contact Jackie on 01323 841504 or E: hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk who will send your details to Mary and Angie who will be facilitating the sessions. We are looking at running 3 Sundays between mid October and November. Sessions are 1 hour and are held in St Wilfrid's Church after the 10.30 mass. Your child may then be baptised at either St Wilfrid's or St George's.

Children's liturgy: Both our churches offer regular children's liturgy during term time.

- ◆ Parents: please complete annual registration forms
- ◆ Children under 5 should be accompanied by a parent or carer.
- ◆ We need more helpers —volunteers who help escort the children safely to and from the hall and encourage them during the storytelling.

Calling New Catechists — We need you!

We're expanding our team for Children's Liturgy, Baptism preparation, and First Communion. If you love faith, story, and helping children and families feel at home in church, we'd love you with us. Training provided. No experience necessary. Speak to Teresa or Annette at St Wilfrid and Mary B and Mary O at St Georges for more information.

WALK IN MEMORY OF ST JOHN STONE Sat 17 October | 10am

Join us for a special walk from St Wilfrid's Church, South Road, Hailsham, to Michelham Priory, in honour of St John Stone, the Augustinian Canon martyred for his faith in 1539.

We will arrive at the Priory at around 12.30pm for a short prayer service. Those who wish can then explore the Priory and grounds (entrance £12).

Can't walk? You're very welcome to join us at the Priory.

Under-18s must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

More information: Gary O'Brien — garyobrien4@yahoo.co.uk

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 27 Sept, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
Sat 3 Oct, 4-6.45pm - Lumen Christi 1st Meeting, OLR Hall.
Sun 4 Oct, After Mass - Christmas Fair Meeting, St W's.
Thurs 8 Oct, 6-7.30pm - FHC Meeting, St W's Hall.
Mon 12 Oct, 5.30pm - Fatima Devotions, Christ the King.
Sat 17 Oct, 10:00am — a teaching Mass by Fr Kevin at OLR
Sun 25 Oct, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G's Hall.
Fri 30 Oct, 11-12pm - Parish Bereavement Gp, St W's Hall.
Sat End Oct TBC, 9-10.15am - RCIA Meeting, OLR Hall.
Mon 2 Nov, 7-8.30pm - Parents FHC Meeting, St W's Hall.
Thurs 12 Nov, 6pm-7.30pm - FHC Meeting, St W's Hall.
Sat 14 Nov, 10am-3pm — Christmas Fair St W's Hall.
Thurs 26th Nov, 2-4pm - Afternoon Tea Club, St W's Hall.
Sat 12 Dec, 5.30pm—Reconciliation Service St W's Church.
Carol Service – St Wilfrid's
Sunday 13 December, 3pm