

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 16: 6, 8
To you I call for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

COLLECT
Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
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 45:1, 4-6

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:

‘For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 96(95):1, 3. 4-5. 7-8. 9-10a, c. R.7b

R. Ascribe to the LORD glory and power.

O sing a new song to the LORD;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory,
and his wonders among all the peoples.

For the LORD is great and highly to be praised,
to be feared above all gods.
For the gods of the nations are naught.
It was the LORD who made the heavens.

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and power;
ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Worship the LORD in holy splendour.
O tremble before him, all the earth.
Say to the nations, ‘The LORD is king.’
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

SECOND READING
A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL
Alleluia, alleluia. Philippians 2:15d, 16a
Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-21
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: The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?’ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, ‘Whose likeness and inscription is this?’ They said, ‘Caesar’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’

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

R. PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Grant us, Lord, we pray,
a sincere respect for your gifts,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
R. we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 32: 18-19
R. Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.
R.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,
we may be helped by what you give in this present age
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In the episode of the Pharisees leading Jesus into a trap by asking him about paying taxes to Caesar, it seems likely that they did not even remotely expect the answer they received. In fact, the words of Jesus go beyond the historical context in which they were uttered and give voice to resolving a universal tension that exists between politics and religion.

whole of existence. It gives nothing to God because God has been either forgotten, ignored, or denied. Just think of all the time, energy, money, and human ingenuity that is being devoted to the development of artificial intelligence. As Christians we are inevitably caught up in this secular project, but at the same time we are being called to make a stand in

Today, those words seem more relevant than ever. In a highly secularised society worldly power (symbolised by “Caesar” in the gospel reading) seeks to assume control over the

the form of a counter-cultural lifestyle choice. Yes, we pay our taxes but our first duty is to God. We take as our guiding principle in life the words of Jesus to “seek first the kingdom of God” (Mt. 6,33). We plan our Sundays around going to mass rather than a trip to the shopping mall. Above all, we allow our lives to be transformed by the message of Jesus about love of neighbour, love of our enemies, love for one another.



POPE LEO XIV

THE HOLY SEE

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS

THE CHOICE OF THE POOR

16. God is merciful love, and his plan of love, which unfolds and is fulfilled in history, is above all his descent and coming among us to free us from slavery, fear, sin and the power of death. Addressing their human condition with a merciful gaze and a heart full of love, he turned to his creatures and thus took care of their poverty. Precisely in order to share the limitations and fragility of our human nature, he himself became poor and was born in the flesh like us. We came to know him in the smallness of a child laid in a manger and in the extreme humiliation of the cross, where he shared our radical poverty, which is death. It is easy to understand, then, why we can also speak theologically of a preferential option on the part of God for the poor, an expression that arose in the context of the Latin American continent and in particular in the Puebla Assembly, but which has been well integrated into subsequent teachings of the Church. [12] This “preference” never indicates exclusivity or discrimination towards other groups, which would be impossible for God. It is meant to emphasize God’s actions, which are moved by compassion toward the poverty and weakness of all humanity. Wanting to inaugurate a kingdom of justice, fraternity and solidarity, God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favor of the weakest.

12, Cf. John Paul II, Catechesis (27 October 1999): L’Osservatore Romano, 28 October 1999, 4.

St. Alphonsus de Liguori

Uniformity with God’s Will

If we would completely rejoice the heart of God, let us strive in all things to conform ourselves to his divine will. Conformity signifies that we join our wills to the will of God. Uniformity means more -- it means that we make one will of God’s will and ours, so that we will only what God wills; that God’s will alone, is our will. This is the summit of perfection and to it we should always aspire; this should be the goal of all our works, desires, meditations and prayers. To this end we should always invoke the aid of our holy patrons, our guardian angels, and above all, of our mother Mary, the most perfect of all the saints because she most perfectly embraced the divine will. The essence of perfection is to embrace the will of God in all things, prosperous or adverse. In prosperity, even sinners find it easy to unite themselves to the divine will; but it takes saints to unite themselves to God’s will when things go wrong and are painful to self love. Our conduct in such instances is the measure of our love of God.

Today is World Mission Sunday: Today, parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. By supporting Missio – the Pope’s charity for world mission – we stand united as God’s global family, in prayer, solidarity and action. The Holy Father has chosen the theme ‘**One in Christ, united in mission**’ to celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday and encourages us to unite with missionaries as they strive to reach out with God’s love to communities in need. Please pray for the work of mission and give what you can to this vital collection. To donate, use the Missio envelope, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

Can you please bring in your boxes to be emptied over the next 2 weeks. Leave with the Welcomers at the back of the church or put in the safe. Thank you.

Parish Christmas Fair – 14th November We Need Your Help!

Our Christmas Fair is fast approaching, and we need **donations and volunteers** to help make the day a success.

Over the next two Sundays after Mass, we will be handing out flyers with details of the items needed for our stalls. **Every donation, however small, is greatly appreciated.**

We also need volunteers to help with:

- Running stalls
- Setting up and clearing away
- Baking for the cake stall

Even one bag of donations or one hour of your time can make a real difference.

Donations can be brought to church **from Sunday 18th October.**

If you can help run a stall, please contact

pfc.hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk.

Our Parish Christmas Fair is not only a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, but also an important fundraiser supporting the life and work of our church. **It can only happen with your support.**

Thank you to everyone who has already offered their help.

Christmas Workshop

Due to popular demand after last year’s success, our Christmas workshop is back! We are hosting a festive evening at St Wilfrid’s Hall, designed exclusively for women (adults only) on Saturday, November 28th, from 5:00pm to 8:00 pm. You will create a Christmas door wreath and a table centrepiece to take home. Snacks will be provided during the break, and you are welcome to bring your favourite drink. Spaces are limited to a maximum of 20 guests. Please let me or Monika know by the end of October to confirm your place. Cost: £25 per person.

11th October - Mass Attendance: St W’s 126 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, & 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

Please Note: There will be **No Mass** this coming week on Tuesday and Wednesday, but there will be a Mass at St Wilfrid’s Church on Thurs 22nd Oct at 10am. Weekend Mass times as usual. Fr Paul will be away for a few days so there will be no weekday masses on the 27th and 28th Oct, and there will be just one Mass on Sun 1st Nov at 5.30pm at St Wilfrid’s.

Bishop-elect Stephen Wang's Mass of Episcopal Ordination will be live streamed on Monday 19th October, 12 noon, & the **Welcome Mass** on Sat 24th October, 11am in St Wilfrid’s Church.

A Message from Bishop-elect Stephen (short film)

Fr Stephen has recorded a short message reflecting on the last few weeks, sharing his experience of a new bishop’s course in Rome, a recent retreat with sisters in the Verbum Dei community on the Isle of Wight, and the significance of the chasuble he will wear on Monday.

Below is a QR code linking to the Vimeo film. The film is also available to watch on our website:

w: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/message>



The Mass of Episcopal Ordination will be livestreamed from Arundel Cathedral here: www.abdiocese.org.uk/livestream, with coverage beginning at 11am.

Order of Service can be found on the news page of the diocesan website.

w: www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/episcopal-ordination

Furthering Our Harvest Through Giving: As we continue the spirit of Harvest through giving, we are supporting the Eastbourne section of the Catholic Women’s League (CWL) in collecting donations for Eastbourne Women’s Refuge.

Items particularly welcome include toiletries, moisturisers, deodorants, perfumes/body sprays, flannels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, knickers of all sizes, socks and little treats such as make-up, stick-on nails, and false lashes.

Donations can be placed in the marked box at the back of St George’s Church until **Sun 1st Nov**. Monetary donations are also welcome in an envelope marked **CWL**. Thank you for helping us share our harvest with women in need through kindness and generosity.

Parish Afternoon Tea Club: We next meet on Thursday 29th October. Theme Halloween, 2-4pm, Anyone over 50 is welcome, just turn up on the day.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 25 Oct, 10am - Charity Breakfast, St G’s Hall.

Thurs 29 Oct, 2-4pm – Afternoon Tea Club, St W’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.

Fri 6 Nov, 5.15pm – Firework Night, St Thomas A Becket School

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.

Thurs 10 Dec, 6-7.30pm – FHC Meeting, St W’s Hall.

Sat 12 Dec, 5.30pm—Reconciliation Service St W’s Church.

Carol Service – St Wilfrid’s

Sun 13 Dec, 3pm, Followed by mulled wine & mince pies.



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: 18 October 2026

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Collection Today for World Missions)

Sun	18th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: M J Abraham RIP
Mon	19th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	20th	10am	St George	-	No Mass
Wed	21st	10am	St Wilfrid	-	No Mass
Thurs	22 nd	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Margaret Madams RIP

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	25th	9am	St George	-	Mass:
		10.30am	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: 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 would love to meet you and help in any way!