

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 104: 3-4
Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

COLLECT
Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
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 Exodus. Exodus 22:21-27*
* Vulgate Exodus 22:20-26

Thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless. If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a money-lender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him. If ever you take your neighbour’s cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 18(17):2-3a. 3b-4. 47, 51ab. R.2
R. I love you, LORD, my strength.

I love you, LORD, my strength;
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God, my rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.
I cry out, ‘O praised be the LORD!’
and see, I am saved from my foes.

The LORD lives, and blest be my Rock!
May the God of my salvation be exalted.
The LORD gives great victories to his king,
and shows merciful love for his anointed.

SECOND READING
A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians. 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Brothers and sisters: You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in

God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL
Alleluia, alleluia. John 14:23
If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:34-40
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: When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’

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

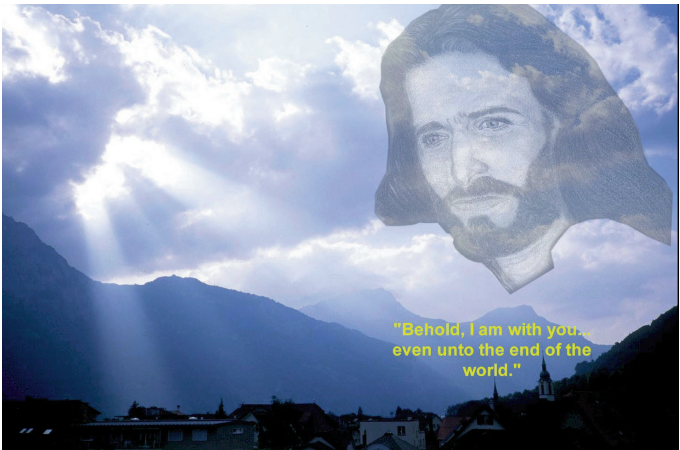
R. PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Look, we pray, O Lord,
on the offerings we make to your majesty,
that whatever is done by us in your service
R. may be directed above all to your glory.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

R. COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 19: 6
We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray,
perfect in us what lies within them,
that what we now celebrate in signs
we may one day possess in truth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



When asked by the Pharisees what the greatest commandment is, Jesus replies that it is love of God and love of neighbour. In a similar discussion reported in the Gospel of Luke (Lk. 10: 25-35) the crucial question of who my neighbour is arises. Jesus answers the question by narrating the parable of the Good Samaritan. The

There is one human family and we are all brothers and sisters. In the words of St. Paul: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28). In today’s global situation, speaking of the world as “one family” may seem like a utopia. However, Jesus did not come on

message he wants to bring home is clear: love makes no distinctions. It goes beyond all categorisations of race, creed, ethnicity. The logic of the gospel is uncompromising: God is the Father of every human being and so to love God implies loving every one of his children.

earth with a plan for a utopia. He came so that you and I may encounter him and transform our lives by putting his words into practice in our daily lives. That transformation begins whenever, like the Good Samaritan, I reach out to someone who needs my help, even if it is as simple as an act of kindness to a stranger, or a visit to a work colleague who is in hospital. When Jesus finished narrating the parable of the Good Samaritan he told his listeners: “Go and do likewise”. His words are addressed to everyone who aspires to be a Christian.



THE CHOICE OF THE POOR

17. It is in this perspective that we can understand the numerous pages of the Old Testament in which God is presented as the friend and liberator of the poor, the one who hears the cry of the poor and intervenes to free them (cf. Ps 34:7). God, the refuge of the poor, denounces through the prophets — we recall in particular Amos and Isaiah — the injustices committed against the weakest, and exhorts Israel to renew its worship from within, because one cannot pray and offer sacrifice while oppressing the weakest and poorest. From the beginning of Scripture, God’s love is vividly demonstrated by his protection of the weak and the poor, to the extent that he can be said to have a particular fondness for them. “God’s heart has a special place for the poor... The entire history of our redemption is marked by the presence of the poor.”¹³

13. Francis, Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (24 November 2013), 197; AAS 105 (2013), 1102.



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... 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 favour of the weakest.

Important, please note:

Fr Paul will be away for a few days so there will be no weekday masses on the 27th and 28th October. Weekend Mass times for Sun 1st Nov will be normal times, **9am at St George's & 10.30am at St Wilfrid's.**

Thank you for celebrating World Mission Sunday: Thank you for your donations to the World Mission Sunday appeal. Your prayers and support will help missionaries work alongside communities worldwide, regardless of background or belief. Please continue to pray for all who share the love and hope of Christ with our sisters and brothers in need throughout the world. To support mission year-round, visit missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755 (office hours)

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 Agata or Monika know by the end of October to confirm your place. Cost: £25 per person.

18th October - Mass Attendance: St W's 93 St G's 91

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

Baptismal Programmes for St George's and St Wilfrid's:

Please note the dates of the next Baptism Sessions will be 17th, 24th & 31st January 2027. Any parents or perspective parents who would like to join us please contact Mary or Angie via the Parish Office E: hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk or Tel: 01323 841504. There may not be another programme until late spring or autumn.

Bishop-elect Stephen Wang's Welcome Mass on Sat 24th October, 11am will be livestreamed 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>



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.

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: 25 October 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	25th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Wilfredo Villaluna RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
Mon	26th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	27th	10am	St George	-	No Mass
Wed	28th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	No Mass

All Saints Day

(Tomorrow is All Souls' Day)

Sun	1st	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Graham Peters RIP

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 are 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!