

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Cf. Est 4: 17

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. 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 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 80(79):9, 12. 13-14. 15-16. 19-20. R. Isaiah 5:7a

R. The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. It stretched out its branches to the sea; to the River it stretched out its shoots.

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by the way. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore; look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the stock your right hand has planted, the son you have claimed for yourself.

And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. Bring us back, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians. Philippians 4:6-9

Brothers and sisters: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise: think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. I chose you out of the world, says the Lord, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide. Alleluia.

Cf. John 15:16

GOSPEL

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, ‘Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than at first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.” And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’

They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes”? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.’

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifices instituted by your commands and, through the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate with dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

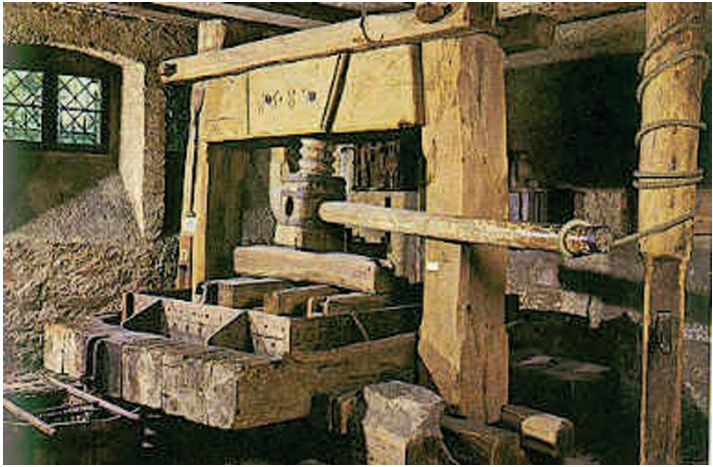
Lam 3: 25

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

R. Grant us, almighty God, that we may be refreshed and nourished by the Sacrament which we have received, so as to be transformed into what we consume. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The parable of the tenants and the vineyard is addressed to the chief priests and the Pharisees. For those who have ears to hear it is a strong criticism of their claim to be righteous practitioners of the law while at the same time being barren of true fruits of holiness. If they put themselves forward as men of God, why do they

reject Jesus who is the Son of God? Now that Jesus has come on earth, he is the standard for judging who is truly on the side of God. Outward appearances no longer matter. What counts is the disposition of the heart. And so we have the scandal of the kingdom of God being taken away from the religious authorities and placed in the hands of the “tax collectors and sinners”. As always with Scripture we are asked to apply its teaching to our own lives. Feeling self-righteous is a common temptation for a person who follows the outward observances

of religious practice. If I attend mass every Sunday, I may easily fall prey to a judgmental attitude towards all those who find other ways to spend their Sunday morning. The chief priests and the Pharisees were ready to condemn “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” because of their sins. Instead, Jesus came precisely to reach out to the “lost sheep”. Jesus has spoken. He has told us to “love one another”, to “love your enemy”. These words have been spoken to the whole of humanity and we have no choice but to accept or reject them.



IDEOLOGICAL PREJUDICES

14. The poor are not there by chance or by blind and cruel fate. Nor, for most of them, is poverty a choice. Yet, there are those who still presume to make this claim, thus revealing their own blindness and cruelty. Of course, among the poor there are also those who do not want to work, perhaps because their ancestors, who worked all their lives, died poor. However, there are so many others — men and women — who nonetheless work from dawn to dusk, perhaps collecting scraps or the like, even though they know that their hard work will only help them to scrape by, but never really improve their lives. Nor can it be said that most of the poor are such because they do not “deserve” otherwise, as maintained by that specious view of meritocracy that sees only the successful as “deserving.”



As Our Lord is now in Heaven, I can only follow Him by the footprints He has left—foot prints full of life, full of fragrance. I have only to open the Holy Gospels and at once I breathe the perfume of Jesus, and then I know which way to run; and it is not to the first place, but to the last, that I hasten. I leave the Pharisee to go up, and full of confidence I repeat the humble prayer of the Publican. Above all I follow Magdalen, for the amazing, rather I should say, the loving audacity, that delights the Heart of Jesus, has cast its spell upon mine. It is not because I have been preserved from mortal sin that I lift up my heart to God in trust and love. I feel that even had I on my conscience every crime one could commit, I should lose nothing of my confidence: my heart broken with sorrow, I would throw myself into the Arms of my Saviour.



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!

Welcome Our Newly Baptised:

We warmly welcome the following child into the family of God and the community of St. Wilfrid's, who were baptised during the last month.

Please pray for her and her family: Gabriella

Bishop-elect Stephen Wang's Mass of Episcopal Ordination will be live streamed on Monday 19th October, 12 noon, in St Wilfrid's Church.

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.

27th September - Mass Attendance: St W's 160 St G's 76

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

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.

Coach to Worth Abbey for Mass celebrated by Bishop-Elect Stephen Wang

Mass will be for the people of the Diocese and numbers have been allocated to all churches. St George's and St Wilfrid's have 6 tickets each. There will be a form at each church to fill in if you wish to attend. In the event of more than 6 people per church wishing to go, a draw will be made after each Mass at both communities on Sunday 11th October. Pick up is at St George's for 9.30 am, approximate arrival time at Worth Abbey 10.45 am. Coach travel is free. Mass at 11.30 am with departure at 14.20 approximately. Attendees to bring packed lunch for after Mass.

The Deanery Magazine is Here! Packed with good news, stories, and updates from across both Hubs, it's a great way to discover what's happening in our local churches/communities. Please take a copy, share it with someone or leave it somewhere others can enjoy it. Please send news, events and contributions for future issues or the deanery website to news@eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk as early as possible. This helps us share your stories more widely and keep everyone informed.

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

Sunday Charity Breakfast: Our next Breakfast will be Sun **25th October** after mass at St G's. We will be raising funds for CAFOD. Thank you to everyone who supports us.

Dates for your Diary:

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.
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: 4 October 2026

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Collection Today for CAFOD)

(Collection for Prisoners' Sunday 11/10)

Sun	4th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Parish Communities' Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Bob & Madeleine Waters Intention
Mon	5th	2.30pm	St George	-	Rosary Group - All Welcome
Tues	6th	10am	St George	-	Mass: Christina Neyenhuizen RIP
Wed	7th	10am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass:

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Collection Today for Prisoners' Sunday)

(Collection for World Missions 18/10)

Sun	11th	9am	St George	-	Mass: Yvonne McNamee Intention
		10.30am	St Wilfrid	-	Mass: Richard Callaghan 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'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!