

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



## **Catholic Community**

**Member of the English-Speaking Mission**

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**Our Mission Statement:** The All Saints Catholic Community is a fully integrated, multicultural community with English as its unifying language. It is an open, warm, welcoming, inclusive community that prays together and celebrates its unity in diversity.

### **March 30, 2014 Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a • Psalm 23:1-6 • Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41**

**Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Jun Ocampo SVD**

Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Beate Hausmann, Renée Menjares •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Conrad Chisolm, Erik Walton and Gwendolyn Walton •

Hospitality: N. N. • The designated collection is for All Saints.

#### **Jesus sees something in us that we rarely see in ourselves: *God's presence***

The Hebrew slaves just liberated are griping, complaining, or grumbling about their wilderness predicament (Exodus 17:3-7). This narrative comes from a "Yahwistic writer": he or she uses the word "Yahwe" to refer to God. When we hear the people of Israel described like this, we see a problem with which many of us can identify today.

Given a choice, we would perhaps prefer living during a different, more significant period of history and not in this often monotonous and sometimes boring time we experience today. We would perhaps like to experience the Exodus, participate in the Last Supper or walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus. We pretend: our faith would certainly be stronger and more committed if we would actually experience such "saving" events and people like Jesus. This desire seems to be behind the Yahwistic author's frequent mentioning Israelites complaining during the Exodus. He or she tried to show that it took just as much faith to notice God working in the lives of the Exodus community as in our present lives.

It is significant that what people are griping about – water – is actually as close as the rocks hiding it. Yahweh was just as much present in the 13<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> century BC century as today. In all situations, God's presence could only be brought to the surface by people of faith. In many ways, **John's** Jesus is working at the same level as the Yahwistic theologian (John 4:5-42). The very thing the Samaritan woman is willing to spend time and effort to acquire is offered by Jesus for free. "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him and her a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4,13-14). No wonder the somewhat confused woman responds: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." The **evangelist** is teaching his community that what we most desire – life, symbolized by water – Jesus freely offers to us. It is right in front of us, but we never notice it; just like the water Moses made come out from the rock.

As usual, **Paul** provides some of the best insights on the subject (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8). We not only find it difficult to notice God around us, we don't even notice God in us. Listen again to those well-known words: "God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us – God showed how much he loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful" (Rom 5:8). Obviously Jesus saw something in us that we rarely see in ourselves: *God's presence*. Even in our sinful selves, that presence makes us more than worthy to be "died for."

The "biblical trick" is not to pray that God *enter our lives*, but to pray that we *discover* how, when, and where God *is already in our lives*. We priests are supposed to say during the Eucharist: "God *be with you!*" This is biblically incorrect – it should be "God *is with you!*" If we priests would say more often "God is with you", maybe there would be a lot less griping, complaining and grumbling in the Church. cf. <http://www.dignityusa.org/breath/march-27-2011-third-sunday-lent>

Fr Wolfgang Felber SJ

## We pray for the people affected by the Ukraine crisis and all political leaders in Europe, America and Russia.



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance on March 23rd: 109 Collection: Friends: €136.34, Catholic schools: €20.40

If you are **visiting All Saints for the first time**, please introduce yourself at the end of Mass so we can welcome you. Please join us for coffee and cake after Mass in the Community Hall!

#### Mark your Calendars

- **World Catholic Youth Day on Saturday, April 12th from 13:00 – 22:00** for youth 13 and older. Please contact Vanessa (vhansen980@hotmail.com) for more information.

#### Notes

- **Lectors:** The April through May lector schedule has been distributed via email and is available in the Sacristy and the Office.
- **Confessions** can be heard on request. Please contact the celebrant.

#### **Sunday, April 6th, 10 am Mass. Our Celebrant will be Fr. Herbert Gillessen**

Lector: Howard Eyth • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Renée and Celso Menjares •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Philip, Madeleine and Samantha Rückeis •

Hospitality: Rosenberg Family • The designated collection on March 30th is for Misereor.

Please continue to donate to All Saints by using the **white envelopes** stamped **ALL SAINTS FUND** and/or transferring your donation to the Pax-Bank account printed below. We are completely **dependent** upon your donations. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**Friends of All Saints Verein:** Bank Account No.: 6001669018, BLZ 370 601 93, Pax-Bank eG  
BIC: GENODED1PAX IBAN: DE15 37060193 6001669018

#### **Our celebrants: Jesuits and White Fathers**

|                                |                              |                                   |                            |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>All Saints Coordinators</b> | <b>Altar Servers</b>         | Katharine Doeringer, Buck Chisolm | 03328/335725, 86203785     |
|                                | <b>Bulletin, Website</b>     | Tamás Meggyes, Vanessa Hansen     | 811 06 33; 0157 78 95 9845 |
|                                | <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> | Heide Doblhofer                   | 832 62 72                  |
|                                | <b>Greeters</b>              | Buck Chisolm                      | 0152 56301776              |
|                                | <b>Hospitality</b>           | Levina Menjares, Lupita Wilhelm   | 466 09 788, 305 82 45      |
|                                | <b>Lectors</b>               | Johannes Ploog                    | 0160 98 28 9515            |
|                                | <b>Music Director</b>        | Johannes Wrembek                  | 341 31 90                  |
|                                | <b>Office, Treasurer</b>     | Heide Doblhofer                   | 832 62 72                  |

**All Saints Council:** Konrad Giersdorf (Co-Chair) \* Vanessa Hansen (Co-Chair) \* Rudolf Hausmann \* Nora Loebach \* Tamás Meggyes \* Marianne Sihotang

**Friends of All Saints Verein:** Howard Eyth, Mike Hoth, Lupita Wilhelm, Heide Doblhofer, Eddie McGreal

**Rector Ecclesiae:** Fr. Gillessen, English-Speak. Cath. Mission, Johann-Georg-Str. 8, Berlin, Tel 8132026

**Boy Scout Troop 46:** All Saints is the proud Chartered Organization for Boy Scout Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost." *True to Scouting Values for Over 55 years* ([www.troop46berlin.ScoutLander.com](http://www.troop46berlin.ScoutLander.com))

#### Directions to All Saints:

- **Subway:** U 3, Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or S 1, Zehlendorf, then bus.
- **Bus:** Bus 285: stop Am Waldfriedhof (last stop, 2-min. walk); bus 110 or 623: stop Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or bus 115: stop Hüttenweg (5-min. walk).
- **Car:** A115 Avus highway, Hüttenweg exit or Clayallee (<http://berlinonline.de/citymap>)

**Please take this copy of the bulletin and use it to spread the word about All Saints.**