

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Mass: Fridays at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

November 27th, 2016 – First Sunday of Advent

Readings (Missal p 31 et seqq.): Isa 2:1 • Ps 122:1, 3-9 • Rom 13:11-14 • Mt 24:37-44

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Johannes Ploog, Thomas Schmidt •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Will Sheehan, Samantha Scott, Conrad Chisolm •

Hospitality: Thomas Schmidt, Vanessa Hansen • Designated collection: All Saints

WHAT KIND OF KING IS JESUS?

In most countries kings are part of history but nobody wants them back. The first settlers in America fled to the "New World" because kings persecuted them in their home country. Germans do not have fond memories of Kaiser Wilhelm, a pompous and power seeking monarch who was co-responsible for the First World War. Since their revolution the French are staunch defenders of republic rule. The British are those who still have an emotional attachment to their royal house. Should we then modernise the notion of kingship and call Jesus our President. That hardly makes sense.

The readings of today's liturgy lead us step by step into a totally different vision of what we mean when we call Jesus our king and Lord. The first reading recalls the anointing of David as king over Israel who became the greatest leader of his people. His successors proved a rather poor lot: power-hungry, oppressive men, making deadly political alliances. Most of them were also godless people, not in the least interested in the covenant with Yahweh, the God of Israel. Small wonder that the people of Israel longed for the return of the golden age of David. They dreamt of a Messiah coming from the house of David who would return Israel to its former glory.

When they witnessed the extra-ordinary powers of Jesus, healing the sick, raising the dead, feeding a huge crowd of hungry people, the hope dawned that he might be the Messiah and they wanted to make him their king. But Jesus refused any kind of political kingship and went his way. It is also quite possible that Judas was motivated by a similar idea when he decided to betray Jesus. He wanted to put him in a situation where at last he was forced to use his powers and start of political liberation movement. When Jesus refused any form of violence, Judas despaired.

Jesus refused to conform to people's expectations for a new king. What kind of king then did he want to be? We find the answer in two instances of the story of his passion and death.

The first moment of revelation of Jesus' view of kingship is the confrontation with his judge: the military governor of Palestine, Pontius Pilate. He wanted to intimidate Jesus by reminding him that he has power of life and death. Jesus' answer: You have no power at all over me, because my kingdom is not of this world. We associate kingship with power and authority, with control and domination over others. Jesus' vision is totally different from what anybody can imagine.

In the final revelation of Jesus' kingship, we see him nailed to a cross like the worst criminal between two other convicted criminals and above his head a sign: *Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews*, both a cruel mockery and a profound truth. He seems totally powerless, unable even to move. And yet, in him is an incredible power, the power of love, a love so pure, so strong that remains untouched by any hatred, any cruelty, any suffering, an even by death. Jesus is the "*King of love on Calvary*", as we sang in the beginning of mass.

This transforming power of love and mercy changed the heart of one of the criminals who wants to become part of that kingdom of Jesus, that place where only love rules. He dies in peace in the hope of paradise. The other refuses that offers. Like the leaders of Israel wants Jesus to come down from the cross to prove his power as a political messiah. He dies in despair.

Till to today people cheer political or religious Messiah-leaders who promise to bring about a better world by force and violence. Are we ready to accept a king whose only weapon is love?

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME! *Visiting for the first time? Please introduce yourself and tell us where you are from at the end of Mass, so we can welcome you. Please join us for coffee and cake in the Community Hall!*

Attendance on November 20th: 122

Collection: All Saints: €272.19 Diaspora Sunday €32.00

Friends of All Saints Verein Annual membership meeting

December 4th at 11:15

All members of the Friends of All Saints Verein are invited to attend the annual membership meeting which will be held following Mass on December 4th in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have not paid your yearly dues, please do so before the meeting. You can verify that your fees are current by checking with Howard Eyth or Heide Doblhofer in the church office.

Any other questions should be directed to Howard Eyth or Mike Hoth.

Friday Mass on December 9th, 2016

Please join us for a special Advent Friday Mass on December 9th at 6 pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

All Saints will be hosting Herz Jesu/St. Otto - our local German Catholic communities - for the annual 'Living Advent Calendar.'

There will be fellowship after Mass.

Christmas Caroling at the Bergstrasse Senior Citizen's Residence (Steglitz) on Sunday, December 4th, 2016

It is time again for our annual visit to the Senior Citizen's Residence located at Altmarkstr. 27, 12169, Berlin.

Practice starts at 15:00 h and caroling at 16:00 h.

For more information please contact Konrad Giersdorf at either 797-83-709 or at giersdorf@hotmail.de.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Our Thanksgiving dinner was a huge success! We would like to thank everyone who brought a dish to share. We especially give our thanks to those who worked tirelessly to set-up the Fellowship Hall, prepare the food and stay to clean-up. Without dedicated volunteers, such a gala evening would not be possible.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- December 2nd – **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 18:00 h. Tell your friends about our Friday Mass.
- December 4th –
 - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
 - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
 - **Friends of All Saints Verein** annual membership meeting at 11:15
- December 11th – **All Saints Council** at 11:15 h in the conference room.
- December 18th –
 - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
 - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
- December 23rd – **Dress rehearsal for children's pageant** from 15:00 to 17:00 h. Fitting for costumes will be done before the practice performances.
- December 24th – **Annual Children's Christmas pageant and Mass** beginning at 15:00 h.
 - **Casting Call:** We are looking for Mary and Joseph; shepherds, wise men, sheep, angels and many others! You do not have to attend All Saints to participate.
 - **Times for participants** to arrive at All Saints on 24 December at 13:30 h.
 - **Director needed:** Adults volunteers needed to make this annual tradition a raging success. Inquire in the church office.

Note: Because we have three faith communities celebrating Christmas on this day we must clear the church by 16:25. If you can help with the clearing of the church please let the greeter know when you arrive as he will be able to give you a task to speed us on our way after Mass. Thanks.

December 4th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber SJ

Lector: Rachel Rueckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Madeleine & Samantha Rueckeis • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: Orphans

Designated collections are for special purposes in the Archdiocese of Berlin and are transferred in full. **However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, All Saints receives no financial support, so we are completely dependent upon your donations.** 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 written below. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** • *Friends of All Saints e.V.*, IBAN: DE15 3706 0193 6001 6690 18, BIC: GENODED1PAX