

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

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

March 5th, 2017 – First Sunday of Lent

Readings (Missal p 76 et seqq.): Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7 • Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17 • Rom 5:12-19 • Mt 4:1-11

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Sara Sheehan • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang •

Designated collection: Catholic Children's day care centers

To speak encouraging words should be a reflex action for us

Let us concentrate on the few lines of our first reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. The people of Israel were in exile. They had every reason to feel abandoned by their God. Their dream was to go back to their home country. This is where our passage starts: "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me". Here comes the very beautiful idea of Isaiah – he has God answer this lamentation. God answers with a question: "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?" Of course, no mother can do this. And Isaiah lets God continue, saying: "Even should she forget, I will never forget you". And the next verse, which is not included in today's reading, says: "See, I have written your name on my hand, you are ever before me".

Isn't this wonderful and consoling knowledge: even in times of despair, of feeling abandoned, of feeling harassed and mobbed, there is someone who does not forget me, who has my name written on his hand, who has my face always before him. Someone – and not something! This is one of the most tender passages of the whole Bible. The bond between God and human beings is like the bond between a mother and her child. God is compared to a mother. God reassures his people that even if a mother could forget her own child, God will never forget any of his creation. Those who believe in God's word also believe in God's love.

One of the greatest hurts a person can suffer is to be forgotten and ignored by his own community. Isaiah tells the people how God remembers them, protects them, supports them and takes care of them. This assertion is especially significant in the Old Testament. In the Book of Isaiah, it is presented in the form of a "parent-child relationship" between God and Israel. The Bible is full of words and scenes like this one – words of tenderness and love and intimacy. Words and scenes that build up a person, that make people stand up.

Jesus is good at doing this. Let us think of Zacchaeus, the tax collector. For Jesus, he is not only a tax collector and a collaborator of the Roman occupation forces, but for Jesus he has a name, he is a son of Abraham – and Jesus invites himself to the house of Zacchaeus. It is this point of view, this regard of Jesus that changes the life of Zacchaeus to the better. Up to now, the hands of Zacchaeus had been grabbing money, now they open to spend it and share. Jesus was good at making people stand upright – but speaking words of comfort, words that make people stand up, that build up are not a privilege or a task of God or of Jesus.

We are invited to speak these words to one another. And I am sure we have had the experience that words that build up are stronger than words that destroy. And there are so many chances to say words that build up – in the family, in our work places, with our friends - or to ourselves. To speak encouraging words that inspire trust in oneself should be a reflex action, should be an attitude we always have.

Destroying words that make others feel bad should be erased from our vocabulary. Encouraging words are words that inspire trust in oneself, but also words that show appreciation, that endorse others, that show our respect for the other person. Why not say more often: "Well done", "I liked it", "I enjoyed it"? And of course, this can end in saying: "I like what you do", "I like you" or even "I love you".

A well-known saying, at least in German, is: "Das Wort, das du brauchst, kannst du dir nicht selber sagen." – "The word you need you cannot say to yourself". It must be said to you by someone else – by God, if we are believers, and by any other person. Let us become messengers of these good, encouraging, life-giving words: "The word you need you cannot say to yourself, the word we need we cannot say to ourselves".

Fr Wolfgang Felber, SJ

Children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass TODAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

Attendance on Feb 26th: 131

Collection: All Saints: €340.13



Mark your calendars for our annual **ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK** celebration on Saturday, March 18th

'cause everyone is Irish when celebrating St.

Celebrations begin at 18:00 h and continue until the last leprechaun has gone home!

Please bring a main or side dish, a salad or a desert to share with the others.

Volunteers needed to help set-up and clean the hall so please sign-up with Vanessa Hansen (vhansen980@hotmail.com).

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 2017

Support for Persecuted Christians - That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

Mark your calendars:

- March 5th – **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 12:00 h at the Rückeis residence.
- March 5th - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- March 5th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.
- March 10th – **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 16:30 h at All Saints.
- March 10th - **Friday Mass** - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 1800.
- March 10th – **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 19:00 h at All Saints.
- March 12th – **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 13:00 h at the Brinda residence.
- March 15th – **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 16:30 h at the Okwechime-Reich residence.
- March 18th – **Girls Confirmation Class - All Day Retreat** meets at the Luegger residence.
- March 18th – **St. Patrick's Day potluck dinner** 18:00 h.
- March 19th - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- March 19th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.



GIMN Eucharist - Come to the Lord's Table at All Saints on April 29th at 1800 h

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Eucharist as "the source and summit of the Christian life".

Come and join us at or next "GIMN" (Gather In My Name) event as adults, youth, and children of the English-speaking Roman Catholic Mission gather to pray, share faith, and learn more about the Eucharist and the ways that we can deepen our understanding and appreciation of it. We will start with a meal. Each household is invited to bring a donation of canned vegetables or rice or noodles (suitable for soup), which we will be donating to a soup kitchen after the event.

Please register your family, indicating the number in your party, by contacting Jenny at jgebhar@yahoo.de.

Confirmation Groups: the current groups are now full, but a **new group with youth aged 15-18 yrs** is now forming. Please contact Jenny (jgebhar@yahoo.de).

March 12th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Schonecke

Lector: Glenda Massey • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen, Odyssey of the Mind • Designated collection: All Saints

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