

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

April 9th, 2017 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Readings (Missal p 90 et seq.): Isa 50:4-7 • Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 • Phil 2:6-11 • Mt 26:14 - 27:66

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

Lectors: Rachel Rückeis, Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: John & Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha & Maddie Rückeis, Samantha Scott •

Hospitality: Beate Hausmann • Designated collection: Holy Land

Come out from the narrowness of your grave (John 11)

You may remember last week's gospel. A blind man was healed and the disciples of Jesus ask: "Why was he blind?" Or more general: "Why is there illness, suffering and invalidity?" Jesus did not give an answer. He announced that God loved all his children. Today, this question is continued: "Why is there death? Why does God let people like Lazarus die? Why are we subject to dying and death?" Jesus was moved by the death of his friend Lazarus. The gospel says that Jesus was "distressed and deeply troubled" and "he was crying" - it is seldom that the gospels speak about such feelings when they speak of Jesus.

Let us recall what we see each day on TV or on the internet. Isn't it a bit like a "danse macabre", a death dance when we look at Syria, Afghanistan, Eastern Ukraine.... and when we see how these parts of our world are made uninhabitable. A "danse macabre" consists of the dead or personified Death summoning representatives from all walks of life to dance along to the grave. The "dances macabres" were produced to remind people of the fragility of their lives and how vain were the glories of earthly life. When we look at the world as it is, as a European, I cannot avoid recalling Chernobyl 31 years ago, and the threat the Belgian nuclear power station Tihange near the border between Belgium and Germany poses today. When we look at our world, we see and recall catastrophes that touch our lives and the lives of millions of people. When we look at the map of our world, we see and recall so many refugees dying in the Mediterranean and the causes of their flight. Manmade catastrophes - there are also "natural" catastrophes: we hear about the mudslide and flooding in Columbia that caused 250 casualties.

For the man-made catastrophes, isn't it often pure greed, greed for quick money that leads to a wrong parsimony or thriftiness where the safety of people and the sustainability of industries are totally neglected? Greed on the *individual* level - when you think of human traffickers, greed on the *collective* level - when you think of industries that do not care at all about sustainability. Greed that neglects the future, neglects human life and life as such.

The gospel does not speak of this - what the gospel says is: *Life will triumph over death*. Can we believe this when we see these abominable and horrible pictures on TV, on the internet, in the newspapers? Let us come back to the gospel: What use is there in bringing Lazarus back to life? Jesus brought him back to life for some years - for it is sure: Lazarus was again subject to death. Lazarus suffered and was now brought back to a life where he would still be suffering, where he still would be subject to death. Was it really his desire to come back to a life like this? Here the gospel tells us something very important about Jesus: Jesus says "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live even if they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." And Jesus also says: "I am the way and the truth and the life".

When we reread the gospel text, then we find a very consoling word. Jesus says "Lazarus, come out. Come out from the narrowness of your grave. Come out, Lazarus, there are no more ties around your hands and your feet, you no longer are subject to the conditions of a dead body. Lazarus, something new can begin for you!" As we heard in the first reading: "I am now going to open your graves; I shall raise you from your graves, my people, I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live. I, the LORD, have spoken!"

Resurrection is not something in the far future, resurrection begins here and now. But resurrection presupposes trust in God, trust in the future, trust in others, trust in ourselves. Trust in spite of all we see in this world: violence and brutality and greed, and in spite of the "stench", of the putrid smell of the world we sometimes cannot avoid. Every day we have the chance to unbind the ties of death, the chance to break the "rigor mortis" of our lives, the chance to lead a life in the spirit of Jesus. Lead a life in the spirit of Jesus means to lead a life that is marked by the power of love to God, to the others, to our enemies and to ourselves. Let us help each other that we be able to lead this life and to spread it wherever we are.

Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ



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 April 2nd: 119

Collection: All Saints €231.29 / Misereor €70.57

English Speaking Catholic Mission Archdiocese of Berlin Triduum/ Easter celebrations 2017

April 13th Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper (7:00 pm St. Bernard's)

Königin-Luise-Str.33, 14195 Berlin (Dahlem)

April 14th Good Friday

2:00 pm Way of the Cross

3:00 pm the passion of the Lord

(All Saints) Hüttenweg 46, 14195 Berlin

April 15th Easter Vigil with Adult baptism

**9:00 pm (St. Elisabeth's) Kolonnenstr. 38, 10829
Berlin**

April 16th Easter Sunday

10 am (All Saints)

11 am (St. Bernard's)

12 noon (St. Elisabeth's)

Mark your calendars:

- April 14th - **Stations of the Cross** - 14:00 h in the Blessed Chapel – Fr. Sylvester.
- April 14th - **Good Friday Mass** – at 15:00 h in the church – Fr. Leo Penta
- April 15th - **Easter Vigil at St. Elizabeth** at 21:00 h.
- April 16th - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.
- April 16th - **Easter Sunday Egg Hunt** – after Mass at 11:15 h in the garden.
- April 19th - **Eucharistic Adoration at St. Bernard's**, located at Königin-Luise-Str. 33, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem at 20:00 h.
- April 23th - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- May 2nd - **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 14:00 h at the Zaby residence.
- May 6th - **Altar Server Training** – time to be announced.
- May 6th - **Spring Family Bazaar** from 09:00 to 15:00 h.
- May 6th - **Family BINGO Night** – 18:30 h in the community hall. Fun, food and prizes for the lucky. Bring your friends and bring you flier for a free bag of popcorn.
- May 19th - **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 14:00 h at the Pedussel residence.
- May 21st - **First Holy Communion Mass** at 10:00 h.
- May 28th - **Spring BBQ** after Mass. Look for announcements on our website or in the bulletin.
- June 18th - **Spring BBQ at St. Bernard's** – All Saints is invited to attend. Watch for details.



GIMN Eucharist - Come to the Lord's Table at All Saints on April 29th at 18:30 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.

Easter Sunday, April 16th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber

Lectors: Rachel Ruckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha & Maddie Ruckeis • Hospitality: Luptia Wilhelm • 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: GENODE1PAX