

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

## **August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** **Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Felber**

**Readings (Missal p 189 et seq.): 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13 • Ps 85:9-14 • Rom 9:1-5 • Mt 14:22-33**

### **The Transfiguration of the Lord**

In all three Synoptic gospels, the story of the Transfiguration occurs in the same context: we are in the middle of the Gospel account and things have been building up to a climax. As the disciples spend more time with Jesus, as they hear what he is saying and see what he is doing, they must have been asking, "Who is this Rabbi to whom we have attached ourselves; who is this Jesus?" Strangely, the answer comes from their own mouths.

One day, when Jesus was with them, he asked them, "Who do you say I am?" It is then that Peter speaks up: "You are the Messiah, the Christ." It was a peak moment in their relationship with Jesus. How their imaginations must have begun to work on what it meant to be so closely associated with the Messiah, the King who would be the Saviour and Liberator of Israel!

But almost immediately Jesus begins to speak in a very different way. For the first time, he tells them what is future is going to be. And it must have come as a terrible shock. Jesus told them he was going to suffer greatly, be rejected by the leaders of their own people, be killed and then rise again after three days. And, Jesus continues by saying that not only will he himself suffer, but, if they want to be his disciples, they will have to be ready to walk the same road. "Those who wish to follow me must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me."

It is in this depressing situation of disillusionment and incomprehension that the Transfiguration takes place. We are told that some days later Jesus took Peter, James and his brother John up a high mountain by themselves. There before them Jesus is suddenly transformed, dazzlingly bright. They can hardly look on him. Suddenly there appear with him Moses and Elijah. They represent the whole Jewish tradition of the Law and the Prophets. They are seen talking with Jesus. The message is clear. They fully endorse what Jesus is doing and saying and the future he has foretold about himself.

Just then, a cloud came down and covered them and out of the cloud came a voice; it could only be the voice of Yaweh. "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." Here now is the supreme endorsement of the Son by his Father. "Listen to him." Yes, listen, even when he says things that you don't like, things that you do not yet understand. It is a confirmation of all that has gone on before – the real identity of who Jesus is and the reliability of everything that he says will happen to him and what is expected of them.

It is a special moment of encouragement which will help carry them through the difficult days ahead. They already have the answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?" But now they have to learn the answer to a more important question, "What kind of Messiah is Jesus going to be?" They will not fully appropriate that until after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus when they will boldly continue his mission and not hesitate to carry their cross in doing so.

Let us follow in their footsteps. That is where true happiness and fulfilment lie.

**Adapted from "Living Space" in [sacredspace.ie](http://sacredspace.ie)**

**Welcome to All Saints! Our collection today is for All Saints. Many of us are gone for the summer and return in August but would like to welcome you to our community.**

**Friends of All Saints e.V. IBAN: DE15 3706 0193 6001 6690 18 BIC: GENODED1PAX**