



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Youth Mass: **1st Friday 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 10:00-12:00

August 18th, 2019, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal no. 912): Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 • Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 • Heb 12:1-4 • Luke 12:49-53

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Joe Duggan, SJ

- Lector: NN • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans •
- Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: Catholic education in public schools •

Vigilance: *“Trust life because God lives it with us”* (Praise and Glory N° 909)

I would like to follow the three readings we just heard with you again under the topic of “vigilance” / Wachsamkeit. A definition of vigilant is: “[watching a person](#) or [situation](#) very [carefully](#) so that you will [notice](#) any [problems](#) or [signs](#) of change [immediately](#)” – or “to be alertly watchful”.

The first reading from the **book of wisdom** (Wisdom 18 6-9) says that those who are vigilant, who are attentive see much more than those who just stick to what they see right in front of them. Those who are attentive do not only live in the present moment, but they open their horizon, they anticipate things that are unlikely, extraordinary, surprising – and they are open to the fact that God might surprise them. This is our story: because Israel recalls God’s history with His people, Israel finds courage for the future. God’s people count on God’s fidelity, they build their future on this fidelity in spite of present difficulties. Because Israel is attentive also to their past, they see God’s presence also in their suffering, they know that God will never break His promises. They know that God has chosen them and that God will never cancel or withdraw this choice.

The second reading is from the **letter to the Hebrews** (Hebr 18 1-2 8-12). Who is vigilant, who is attentive has the courage to leave things behind, to begin a new adventure? This is the content of the story of Abraham: he listens to God’s call, he is attentive to this call, to the new horizons it opens. Even if these horizons may be risky, even if Abraham does not know the outcome of this endeavor – he is still willing to do the first step and start something new. In Abraham’s story we see that faith means “*to be on the way*” - with a promise, with a vision, with a new horizon. Abraham takes God at his word and God commits Himself to Abraham and his future. Abraham gives up his security; he sets out for a new country, a country he does not know.

Many of us here are *Ex-Pats, Expatriates* who left their country for some time or for good in order to live and work away from their native town or country. So, we somehow know what was at work in Abraham. Abraham trusts in God’s live-giving power – in Abraham’s case this means that he shall not die without children. God offers the gift of life – in a very literal sense in the case of Abraham. This is the definition of faith in the letter to the Hebrews: “*to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see*» (Hebr 11 1).

Vigilance, attentiveness develops a feeling for God, for the persons around us, for ourselves. This is what **today’s gospel** (Luke 12 35-40) is about. To be open and attentive to God and to the persons around us creates community - a community that cannot be destroyed. When I am attentive and vigilant, then I see the chances and possibilities my life offers to me. I can see the chances to change my life – I can accept these changes and I have this profound trust in life *because God lives it with us*.

“*Trust life because God lives it with us*” – it is Alfred Delp, a fellow Jesuit, who wrote this in a Nazi prison here in Berlin in 1944. Or more precisely: “*Let us trust life, since we do not have to live it alone, for God lives it with us.*”

This is what I read in the **three readings** – an invitation to be vigilant, to be attentive in our lives, then we can see new chances, we can see God at work through us, and then we can “*trust life because God lives it with us*”. “*Let us trust life, since we do not have to live it alone, for God lives it with us.*”