

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



## ***Catholic Community***

**Member of the English-Speaking Mission**

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**Our Mission Statement:** The All Saints Catholic Community is a fully integrated, multicultural community with English as its unifying language. It is an open, warm, welcoming, inclusive community that prays together and celebrates its unity in diversity.

## **July 28, 2013 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Genesis 18:20-32 • Psalm 138:1-3, 6-8 • Colossians 2:12-14 • Luke 11:1-13**

**Celebrant: Fr Clemens Pfaff**

### **Hospitality**

In summer, many of us go on vacation. Some visit relatives and friends and become guests in their home. Others receive them as guests. Being a host is not always easy. One has to organize many things for the visit, so that everything will run smoothly. Sometimes one is so engrossed with the preparation that one spends less time with the guests. • This Sunday's gospel tells the story of Jesus visiting his close friends Martha and Mary. The former is busy preparing the meals when Jesus arrives. The latter sits by Jesus' side and chats with him. Martha reprimands her sister by telling Jesus that she should help her. But Jesus replied, Mary had chosen the better part. • The German word for hospitality is "Gastfreundschaft". It is an explicit term which reveals how to treat our guests: like our friends. This means not as a burden or a fulfillment of duty. We are happy on their arrival and enjoy their presence rather than start worrying if everything is perfect. We listen to their stories and spend time in their company rather than be upset on how they disturb our normal schedules. • In our Christian life, it is important to strike a balance between activity and receptivity. Love is not only about giving to others but also about allowing to receive from others. It is like breathing. We cannot keep on exhaling. We also need to inhale and be strengthened. Sometimes we tend to be one-sided and do everything ourselves. We don't allow others to contribute to us. • There are two sides of Christian love: charity and contemplation. But prayer and contemplation has priority. We allow God to touch our hearts before we can touch the hearts of others. We learn first from Jesus how to live a good life pleasing to God. Contemplation renews our energy and Christian commitment. Sometimes we are too busy with our "good work" that they have become routine and mindless. That may not be "good" for our spiritual development in the long run. When Jesus wants to enter our lives, how do we welcome him? May we both contemplate on his words of wisdom and put them into action.

**Fr Simon Boiser**

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**Boy Scout Troop 46:** All Saints is the proud Chartered Organization for Boy Scout Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost." *True to Scouting Values for Over 55 years* ([www.troop46berlin.ScoutLander.com](http://www.troop46berlin.ScoutLander.com))

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