



## ***Catholic Community***

**Member of the English-Speaking Mission**

**Youth Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at TBD in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

**Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary**

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Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00-12:00

### **October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

- Lector: Eddie McGreal • Music: Johannes Wrembek, Benilda de la Cruz, Johannes Ploog, Ryan Quiming
- Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Bobot Quiming, Michael Oshin •
- Designated collection: World Mission Sunday •

#### **First Reading (Ex 22:20-26)**

Thus, says the LORD: "You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans.

"If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him by demanding interest from him. If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you shall return it to him before sunset; for this cloak of his is the only covering he has for his body. What else has he to sleep in? If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate. "I am the LORD, there is no other.

#### **Second Reading (1 Thes 1:5-10)**

Brothers and sisters: You know what sort of people we were among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

#### **Gospel (Mt 22:34-40)**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

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

## 29. Sunday A – Berlin All Saints

(18.10.2020)

How wonderful to hear: “We know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone’s opinion, for you do not regard a person’s status.” In brief: We know you are an honest person, a man of character. - And how infuriating to see: All this is slimy flattery, false theatre, a plot to hide the decided intention to catch the man by whatever he might say in reply to the question they want to put to him.

This procedure seems extremely modern, fully 2020. These Pharisees have made up their minds as to what they want, and are ready to use every means imaginable to get it. Since the word *lie* has a negative offensive ring, one speaks of *fake news*. Fake news is no news at all, but merely lies to achieve one’s aims. As it is ridiculous to speak of news about nothing, fake news is declared to report *alternative facts*, a sweet term for viciously devised verbal inventions about something to which no one honest and in his senses could ever agree that this is true and demonstrated, backed up by intelligent judgement. The direct word for such talk is “lying”, or more elegantly, “indulging in unwarranted statements”. In a nutshell, truth is discarded as folly of the honest. Looking into the media these days, one is bound to recognise that these Pharisees have plenty of offspring and imitators. Words that have nothing to do with truth and reality are lethally dangerous weapons.

Jesus is fully aware of the circumstances when the disciples of the Pharisees come to him to consult him, as they pretend, on a difficult question of practical importance. “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?” As shrewd as they thought themselves to be, they had certainly not expected the argument with which Jesus replied. Show me the money you use! What sort of money is this? Oh, Roman money? So, you, sons of Abraham and followers of Moses, you use Roman money? Caesar’s coin? Give it back to whom it belongs!

They surely felt deeply disappointed. No way of accusing him before the colonial administration. And no way of accusing him you speak against the Law of Moses. They themselves had Roman money in their pockets, without finding that unlawful! Finally, in the end Jesus adds a lesson, clarifying the matter in principle. He makes it clear, for them as well as for us and all our social experts: There are two realms, Caesar’s and God’s, that have to be distinguished and kept separate. Both of them exist and both of them have to be respected. Both put their demands to the citizen of this world, and on either side, these demands have to be met. **“Pay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God.”**

Nobody is allowed to claim: I am a Jew, a member of God’s Chosen People, or I am a Christian, a member of the Catholic Church, and therefore I orientate myself by my religion, and therefore the Government, the civil administration and their laws are no concern of mine. Faith and religion can never serve as a legitimate exit from public, social and civil obligations.

And on the other hand, nobody must ever dare to set God apart or leave him out of sight in the practicalities of life. When Jesus speaks of “what belongs to God”, whatever religion or faith someone might hold, he or she will always immediately understand that in a world created by Almighty God, there is nothing anywhere that does NOT belong to him. Giving to God what belongs to him can only mean giving him everything. The little money that may belong to the emperor becomes entirely irrelevant in this context.

**Fr. Dietmar Lenfers**