

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 21, 2013 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:1-10a • Psalm 15:2-5 • Colossians 1:24-28 • Luke 10:38-42

Celebrant: Fr Simon Boiser

Why we pass by on the other side

The road to Jericho passes through a rocky desert, a notorious hiding place for criminals. Every so often pilgrims or traders on their way to or from Jerusalem are held up and robbed, as happened that day. A priest and later on also a Levite come to the spot, see the half-dead man "and pass by on the opposite side." Why? Why do we so often pass by on the other side when we meet human misery? • **Maybe** the priest is on his way home, in a hurry, anxious to see his wife and children in Jericho after spending many days on duty in the temple of Jerusalem. To stop and help would take too much time. Moreover, the gangsters are probably still around, waiting behind a rock for the next victim. Better leave the danger zone as fast as possible. • **What** can I do, anyway, the Levite may say to himself. I have no means of transport. This man needs a doctor. If I help him, I may do more harm than good. Moreover, he looks like dead and touching a dead body would make me unclean, me, a man of God. • **We** have many reasons for passing by on the safe side and leaving our responsibility to others. After all there is the Caritas, the Red Cross, the district social worker to deal with such cases. These professional helpers are more competent than me. But do our excuses really pass the test in the eyes of Jesus, who is the good Samaritan? • **Life** does not often present us with situations as dramatic as that on the road to Jericho. The challenges come mostly in miniature form. How do I deal with the beggar in the U-Bahn? Do I have the courage to take the side of the colleague who is mobbed by everybody in the office? At a party, do I join the lonely person in the corner or the group that seems to have so much fun? • **Pope Francis** invites the Church, me, our community "to come out of ourselves and head for the periphery", the side of the road where we find the poor, the wounded, the victims. With his first journey last week to the refugees in Lampedusa, he demonstrated what he meant.

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke

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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)

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