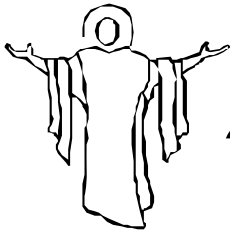


Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



ALL SAINTS



## ***Catholic Community***

**Member of the English-Speaking Mission**

**Youth Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

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

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

Phone (030) 8620-3636 • Fax (030) 8620-3638

Email: [allsaintsberlin@t-online.de](mailto:allsaintsberlin@t-online.de) / Website: [www.all-saints-berlin.de](http://www.all-saints-berlin.de)

Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

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

### **March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Readings (Missal no. 876): Sir 27:4-7 • Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 • 1 Cor 15:54-58 • Luke 6:39-45**

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

- Lector: Howard Eyth • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •
- Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: Jackie Anders •
- Designated collection: To promote charity work •

### **BE COMPASSIONATE AS YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN**

In 1994 some 10.000 refugees came from Rwanda into Nairobi. They wanted to escape from the civil war, from a genocide in which up to a million people were brutally killed and from retaliation that followed it. They came illegally into Kenya and received no help from anyone. So, the church started a program to help them survive. What was most disturbing, was listening to their experiences during the war, the murder of their families during the genocide and the horrors they lived through as they were escaping. The women had suffered the most traumatic experiences. When they finished telling their story, some of them said: "Father, I would want to forgive those who did these things to me but I can't". Some of the victims of clerical abuse, who told their devastating experiences to the meeting of bishops in Rome this week might say the same. How can we forgive the perpetrators?

After reading the Gospel of today, we could also wonder: How can Jesus ask of us not only to forgive our worst enemies, but even to pray for them and do good to them? And even worst, we should not even judge or condemn them. Jesus' answer is as simple as it is challenging. You must forgive because this is what God is doing to each one of us and to all others. "Be compassionate as your Father in heaven is compassionate." The moral measure of the followers of Jesus is his Abba. And his heavenly Father "is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked" and "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Mt 5:45)

Jesus does not make such impossible demands on his followers without having lived them himself. After he has been unjustly condemned and brutally tortured at the moment of his last agony he prays for his executioners: "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing." And he is equally forgiving to his closest friends who had abandoned and betrayed him in the hour of need. No rebuke, not even a word to remind them of their cowardness and moral failure. Just one word: "Peace be with you."

What Jesus lives and demands of us, is so radical that it seems humanly speaking impossible. And it is impossible. But Jesus also reminds us that what is impossible for men is not impossible for God. And there are many examples of people who have suffered terrible injuries and injustices, and yet were given the strength to forgive.

In a testimony during a conference in Rome a Rwandan religious sister told her moving story. Her whole family had been murdered during that genocide in 1994. Her congregation had asked her to work in one of the largest prisons in the country where most of the prisoners were "genocidaires", people guilty of shedding the blood of others. One day she found herself facing the very person who had butchered her parents and all her brothers and sisters. For months she struggled with herself and with God, but did not stop praying. And one day she was given the grace to face her enemy and the murderer got the courage to ask for forgiveness. Both made peace and found again their inner peace. Nothing is impossible for God.

Most of us may not have had such devastating experiences in life. But all of us carry within us wounds and injuries which may not have healed completely. Maybe one day a personal friend criticised me and said something nasty about me. It hurt me deeply and became like a thorn in my heart. I could not forgive and forget. Maybe my partner betrayed my trust, my colleagues at work or my friends at school spread false rumours about me or ganged together to mob me. These events keep turning in my head and I imagine how I could take revenge. I have lost my inner peace and maybe my sleep and cannot break the chain. But God can do what I cannot do, if I pray for the grace of forgiveness and leave the last judgement to God. Only if I forgive will I be free at last and again be at peace.

**Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**WELCOME!** *Visiting for the first time?* Please introduce yourself and tell us where you are from at the end of Mass, so we can welcome you. Please join us for coffee and cake in the Community Hall!

Attendance on February 24th: 97

Collection: Cath. Schools €21.70, All Saints: €210.13



Mark your calendars for our annual **ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK** celebration on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

**'cause everyone is Irish when celebrating St. Patrick's Day!**

Liturgy of the word in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 5:00 p.m. followed by the potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. and continuing until the last leprechaun has gone home!

Please bring a main or side dish, a salad or a desert to share with the others.

Volunteers needed to help set-up on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and clean the hall after the dinner. Please sign-up with Konrad Giersdorf ([giersdorf@hotmail.de](mailto:giersdorf@hotmail.de)).



Join us for **Ash Wednesday Mass** on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

at St. Bernard's, located at Königin-Luise-Str. 33, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem at 19:00 h.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the day on which the faithful have their foreheads signed with ashes in the form of a Cross. It is also a day of fast and abstinence.

## **THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR March 2019**

**Evangelization – Christian Communities -** That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

## **Altar Server Volunteers**



Spring registration has begun for new Altar Servers. Whether you are brand new or coming from a parish where you were an experienced server please join our group.

Interested? Fill out a volunteer form (in the information rack outside the office) and drop it in our mailbox or give it to someone in the office. The date of training will be announced shortly.

## **Would you like to become more involved in our community activities?**

If you have considered becoming more involved in our community now would be a great time to speak up.

From helping to host hospitality to teaching our young people; helping hands are always welcome!

Ask Konrad, Vanessa or Buck and they will connect you with the head of the ministry that you are have an interest in. Thanks.

## ***Do you have one to two hours per week to donate to our community?***

All Saints is looking for a new **Webmaster**. Responsibilities include coordination of inputs and completeness of the church website. Updating announcements, monthly events and posting the bulletin. Allow about 2 hours per week if you take this position. Please contact Buck ([b.chisolm@gmx.de](mailto:b.chisolm@gmx.de)) or Heide ([allsaintsberlin@t-online.de](mailto:allsaintsberlin@t-online.de))

## **March 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ**

- Lector: Rachel Ruckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans •
- Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: All Saints •

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