

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



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

June 16th, 2019 – The Most Holy Trinity

Readings (Missal no. 849): Pro 8:22-31 • Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 • Rom 5:1-5 • Jn 16:12-15

Welcome to our 10:00 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Dietmar Lenfers

• Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •
Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints •

Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday

An English-speaking congregation in Germany, coming together from different continents and countries and cultures, is aware of the problems of communication: How different idioms can make life rather difficult at times. Hence we may be particularly sensitive to the wonderful language miracle of which the first reading tells us. We hear with fascination how international the people were who happened to be in Jerusalem at the time. When they gathered and listened to what the apostles had to say, *each one heard them speaking in his own language*, says the text. The message which the apostles are now beginning to proclaim is from the very beginning meant for the whole world. Nobody should feel a stranger. Nobody should suffer from a language barrier, and be left at the fringe of things, understanding only half of it. Listening attentively to the text, we notice that the writer wanted to stress this point above all. When the apostles began to preach about Jesus, the locals of Jerusalem enjoyed no advantage over those foreigners from far away. *Each one heard them speaking in his own language. For filled with the Holy Spirit, the apostles began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.* With Pentecost the Church begins to give witness to Jesus the Risen Lord, and straightaway the message reaches out to the whole world. The Holy Spirit at once starts to bring people together, restoring the unity they had lost.

We remember the story of the Old Testament about the Tower of Babel, causing people to be scattered all over the earth because they failed to understand each other. We have to read the Acts of the Apostles against the background of this ancient story in order to catch the meaning of Pentecost. This old story describes the enterprise of the Tower like this: *"The men said to one another: Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves ..."* And the Lord said, *Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech ... So, the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth ... and they left off building the city."*

This story of Babel teaches us wisdom, not architectural history. We learn: People had become proud. Their plan of building a tower *with its top in the heavens* means: They intended to take all the goods of heaven by their own force, as their own conquest, not as a gift of God to them. This declaration of independence God did not allow. So, the breakdown of humankind into nationalities is presented to us as a punishment for man's unwillingness to receive from God. The consequent struggles and deep-rooted misunderstandings flow from our own sins and failures.

At Pentecost, all this is reversed. The old language barriers are taken away. All people hear the same message of salvation. The Holy Spirit comes down as a free gift from God, and those who receive him have their pride wiped away and are forgiven. The Church, which begins its history today will grow to become the People of God, a forerunner and an example of the human family as God intended it in the first place.

We do not need to worry over the question how this language miracle actually functioned. We have to understand what it means. It indicates the beginning of a new humanity that lets itself be guided by the Holy Spirit. In this way the troublesome old prejudices and disturbing misunderstandings will be cured and a peaceful future of solidarity can be achieved.

Celebrating Pentecost means dedicating ourselves to this task, that we, the Church today, will try to cooperate in any way possible to unite people in peace and solidarity. For we are the ones on whom the Holy Spirit comes down today, making us witnesses of the Risen Lord and the first samples of this new humanity, humankind as one family. The best is given to us, let us receive it joyfully, and effectively. No need to build a *tower with its top in the heavens*. The Spirit comes down upon us. Amen.

Fr. Dietmar Lenfers

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 June 9th: 72

Collection: All Saints: €149.14 For needy people in Eastern Europe: €43.64



Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi Celebration on Thursday, June 20 at 18:00 on Gendarmenmarkt in front the Konzerthaus, followed by a procession to Bebelplatz. All are invited to celebrate with our archbishop Dr. Heiner Koch, especially First-Communion children in their nice dress.

On the occasion of his 50th birthday Fr. Sylvester invites people to a Holy Mass on June 22 at 12 noon in St Elisabeth

Fr. Sylvester wants no presents for himself, but rather donations for his charity Verein **HOME4 LIFE - Africa**, a center for youth' orientation, an initiative of LIFE Nigeria (Lay Initiative for Evangelisation).



Will you be in Berlin over the summer?

If so, would you consider helping in one of these ways?

Hospitality – during the summer we just need to have someone make coffee and put out the cakes.

Water the garden – from time to time help water the flower beds, especially if we have some hot days. See someone in the church office to volunteer and thank you very much.

Lectors – If you would like to be our lector during the summer months please contact johannes.ploog@gmx.de or b.chisolm@gmx.de. Lectors need to be at church 30 minutes prior to Mass to make preparations.

Thanks to all.



Altar Server Volunteers

Spring registration has begun for new Altar Servers. Interested? Fill out a Green volunteer form (found in the info rack outside the office) and drop it in our mailbox or give it to someone in the office. Training dates will be announced shortly.



Lost and found items

are located in the hallway on the hangers and also in a box. Please check for any items that may belong to you. Later this year, all unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

June 23rd, 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

- Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: NN • 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