

Saint Columban's Newsletter



Saint Columban's Mission

Priest in Charge:

The Rev. Dr. Hanns Engelhardt

D-76133 Karlsruhe, Kochstr. 2-4

Tel./Fax: (+49 721) 2 83 79

E-mail: St.Columban@gmx.de

www.staugustines-wiesbaden.de/karlsruhe.htm

January–March 2005

*All God's Blessings for the New Year,
Peace, Joy and Health
to all Readers*

from

The Right Rev. Pierre Whalon

Bishop in Charge, Convocation of American Churches in Europe

and also from

The Rev. Hanns Engelhardt

and Saint Columban's Mission

How God works — how God is

From the Archbishop of Canterbury's Christmas Sermon:

It used to be said that if you were travelling by ocean liner, the worst thing you could do was to visit the engine room; and I'm afraid it's a point people make to discourage you from visiting the Vatican or Church House, or even Lambeth Palace... Getting too close to the centre of things (or what people think is the centre of things) can be alarming or disillusioning or both: you really don't want to know that, people will say; you don't need to know how things work (or fail to work). Get on with it.

And that's where Christmas is actually a bit strange and potential-ly worrying. When we're invited into the stable to see the child, it's

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really being invited into the engine room. This is how God works; this is how God is. The entire system of the universe, 'the fire in the equations' as someone wonderfully described it, is contained in this small bundle of shivering flesh. God has given himself away so completely that we meet him here in poverty and weakness, with no trumpeting splendour, no clouds of glory. This is how he is: he acts by giving away all we might expect to find in him of strength and success as we understand them. The universe lives by a love that refuses to bully us or force us, the love of the cradle and the cross.

It ought to shock us to be told year after year that the universe lives by the kind of love that we see in the helpless child and in the dying man on the cross. We have been shown the engine room of the universe; and it ought to worry us - us, who are so obsessed about being safe and being successful, who worry endlessly about being in control, who cannot believe that power could show itself in any other way than the ways we are used to. But this festival tells us exactly what Good Friday and Easter tell us: that God fulfils what he wants to do by emptying himself of his own life, giving away all that he is in love. The gospel reading sets this out in terms that cannot be argued with or surpassed. God is always, from all eternity, pouring out his very being in the person of the Word, the everlasting Son; and the Word, who has received everything from the gift of the Father, and who makes the world alive by giving reality to all creation, makes a gift of himself by becoming human and suffering humiliation and death for our sake. 'From his fullness we have all received'; Jesus, the word made human flesh and blood, has given us the freedom, the authority, to become God's children by our trust in him, and so to have a fuller and fuller share in God's own joy.

We live from him and in him. The whole universe exists because God has not held back his love but allowed it to flow without impediment out of his own perfection to make a world that is different from him and then to fill it with love through the gift of his Son. And our life as Christians, our obligations, our morality, do not rest on commands alone, but on the fact that God has given us something of his own life. We are caught up in his giving, in his creative self-sacrifice; true Christian morality is when we can't help ourselves, can't stop ourselves pouring out the kind of love that makes others

live. ... The goodness of the Christian is never a matter of achieving a standard, scoring high marks in a test. It is letting the wonder of God's love knock sideways your ordinary habits, so that God comes through - the God who achieves his purpose by reckless gift, by the cradle and the cross.

When St Paul in his second letter to the church in Corinth insists on the need for generosity towards the poor in the church at Jerusalem, he appeals, not to an abstract moral principle, but to the fact of God becoming human. 'You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ', he writes, 'that though he was rich yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich' (2Cor 8:9). He doesn't argue that we must simply reverse the relations, so that those who were poor become rich and those who were rich become poor, but rather for a situation in which everyone has something to contribute to everyone else, everyone has enough liberty to become a giver of life to others. ... Love is given so that love may be born and given in return. That is the engine of the universe; that is what we see in the helpless child of Bethlehem, God so stripped of what we associate with divinity that we can see the divine nature only as God's act of giving away all that he is. ...

The whole sermon can be accessed from the ACNS Digest, here: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/acns/digest/index.cfm>

News from the Holy Land

We assemble around the altar of the Lord not only to enjoy our communion with Him and among ourselves but to be strengthened for our mission as disciples of Jesus which is "for the good of everybody, and especially of those who belong to the household of the faith." (Cf. Galatians 6:10) We have to make God's love visible to the world around us. Having St Paul's words in mind, and also the difficult situation of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, the Priest in Charge has written to the Rev. Fadi Diab, Rector of St. Andrew's Church, Ramallah, in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, in order to find out what we might be able to do to help them in their situation with our means though limited. You find Father Diab's letters enclosed or

attached. It shows that they do certainly need material help, but what they are looking for in the first line is our friendship and our prayers. So all readers are entreated to remember Father Diab and his congregation as well as the groups he mentions in his letter in their regular prayers. This doesn't exclude but includes that we consider what we can do for them in terms of money or other material support.

New English Language Journal for Baden-Württemberg

The first issue of Baden-Württemberg's new English language journal, "accents magazine" was published for October/November 2004. It contains ample information about activities and events which may be of interest for English speaking people living in this region. You may learn details from its website: www.accents-magazine.de

"The Eagle and the Dove"

Anyone who would like to know more about our Patron Saint might look into "The Eagle and the Dove – The Spirituality of the Celtic Saint Columbanus, by Katherine Lack, Triangle SPCK, 2000, £6.99 + shipping. Ask the Priest in Charge how to get this most valuable little book.

Coming together

When I recently met a young couple who are intending to move to Karlsruhe and told them that we have only one regular service in the month, I saw two faces surprised as well as disappointed. We all know the reasons for the present practice, and I am glad to say that these services we now celebrate well reasonably well attended, and I had the opportunity to that to the Bishop when he recently asked me whether I would advise him to close the Mission altogether. Of course, I would do that. But we should really consider that members who are unable, and for good reasons, to attend one service have a pause of two months. We have of course tried to celebrate a second service in the month if there is a special reason like the house mass in Altenstadt in September or our patronal festival in November. However, would it not a good thing, for those members at least who live in Karlsruhe or in the immediate neighbourhood, to have a regular

weekday evening meeting between the services. This would open a new possibility for members who stay in town for work during the week but spend their weekends somewhere in the country. We could begin with a Communion service or Evening Prayer, and then sit together for a discussion of problems of common interest of a bible study or whatever. It might even be possible to dine together. LET ME KNOW YOUR OPINION IN ANY CASE!

Next services

In **Karlsruhe** our services are held on the 1st Sunday of the month at 12 noon in the Old Catholic *Auferstehungskirche* (Church of the Resurrection), Ökumeneplatz (besides Südl. Hildapromenade nr Mühlburger Tor), (unless otherwise indicated):

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| January 2 | — Christmas 2: Holy Eucharist (Rite I) |
| January 6 | — The Epiphany: Joint Mass with the Old-Catholic congregation at 10 a.m. |
| February 2 | — Candlemas: Holy Eucharist (Rite I) at 6 p.m. in <i>Luisenheim</i> chapel |
| February 6 | — Last Sunday after the Epiphany: Holy Eucharist (Rite I) |
| February 9 | — Ash Wednesday: Joint Mass with Imposition of Ashes together with the Old-Catholic congregation at 7 p.m. |
| March 6 | — Lent 4: Holy Eucharist (Rite I) |
| March 24 | — Maundy Thursday: Joint Mass with Foot Washing together with the Old-Catholic congregation at 7 p.m. |
| March 25 | — Good Friday Devotions together with the Old-Catholic congregation at 3 p.m. |
| March 26 | — Easter Eve: Vigil Service and Mass with the Old-Catholic congregation at 9 p.m. |

You reach the Church of the Resurrection by public transport using trams to *Mühlburger Tor*. Cross Kaiserallee in northward direction (to the side of the red *Christuskirche*) at *Rathaus West*, and walk into Südl. Hildapromenade. After some steps, you see the church building before you (entrance from the west side). The gate to

Luisenheim (Kochstr. 2-4) is opposite the end of Helmholtzstraße, the street passing on the south side of the Old-Catholic church.

There is a **children’s group** in the Old-Catholic parish house beside the church at the time of our service. It is arranged by a group of parents of young children. So all families with small children can attend the service while the children are cared for. Parents who are prepared to take part in the organisation of this work are invited to approach the Priest in Charge.

For weekday services see “Old-Catholic Church” (below p. 8).

Services at **St Augustine’s, Wiesbaden**, Frankfurter Str. 3 (our mother church, so to speak), are celebrated every Sunday at 10 am. Members of our Mission are always most welcome there (out yourselves when there). The Priest in Charge celebrates and preaches there occasionally.

Known Birthdays in January, February and March

<u>January</u>	<u>March</u>
22. Eva-Maria Schubart	2. Nicole Preiss-Phillips
26. Christopher Caldwell-Nichols	3. Elise Duthie
	15. Martyn Taylor-Emminghaus
<u>February</u>	23. Gregoria Jessica Opoku-Boadu
28. Roger Duthie	

To all of these, blessings and most sincere congratulations! Remember them in your prayers!

We know very well that we do not know the birthdays of all our members and friends. Besides, we lost some birthdays by computer problems. So, if you miss your birthday let us know. Likewise if you know the birthday of another member or friend not listed, who would not object to being included. If you should prefer your birthday not to be mentioned, do let us know also.

Old-Catholic Church

The Old-Catholic Churches, which gained independence from papal jurisdiction in the course of time, and especially in the 19th century, are in full communion with the Anglican Churches. We are their guests with our services, and we are most sincerely invited to

their (German language) weekday services (Holy Eucharist: Tuesday 7.10 a.m.; Thursday 7 p.m.) in the *Auferstehungskirche* (see above p. 6) in summer, or in the parish house beside the church in winter.

Clubs

English speaking Clubs and groups in our region where our members and friends are always welcome:

Anglo-German Club Pforzheim: 1st Thursday of the month from 19.45, Ratskeller, Pforzheim

British Baden Club: 1st Friday of the month from 8 pm, Restaurant “Prinz Eugen” Malsch (Information: Tel 07246-5992)

Dt.-Englischer Freundeskreis Karlsruhe, Conversation Circle: 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7.30 pm, Jugendheim Anne Frank, Moltkestr. 2a (Engländerplatz)

English Speaking “Stammtisch”: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 8 pm, Flynn’s Inn, Hirschstr. 70, Karlsruhe (Tel 8303641)

KONTAKT Karlsruhe (German-American; opportunity for Germans and Americans to practise the other language): Information regarding time and place from Mr Steven Miller, Tel. 0721-503139.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 001: Tue–Fri 4–11 pm, Sat 2–12 pm, Sun 10 am–12 pm, Kirchstr. 9, Rheinmünster-Söllingen (Tel. 07227-991753, Fax: 07227-990979, E-Mail: RCL.Branch001@T-Online.de)

Mission Statement

Saint Columban's Mission is a self-supporting congregation in the Anglican Communion under the jurisdiction of the Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe (Episcopal Church in the United States of America). It

- offers a spiritual home to all English-speaking residents of, and visitors to, Karlsruhe and the surrounding region,
- makes the Anglican tradition visible in the local Ecumenical environment,
- contributes—together with other Churches—to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people in the city and the surrounding region.

Firmly rooted in the Anglican tradition, St Columban's Mission is open to all Christians, regardless of their denominational affiliation. They are most welcome at our Services. The Mission belongs to the Council of Anglican Episcopal Churches in Germany which organizes the co-operation of Anglican and Episcopal chaplaincies and congregations in this country. It is also a member of the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen* (Council of Christian Churches) in Karlsruhe.

The Priest in Charge may be contacted in case of pastoral emergency at any hour of the day or night. If he is absent the following persons will be pleased to give information:

Dr. James Hunt, mobile 0172 726 5094

Todd Phillips, Tel. (0721) 75 65 80

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved continuously and always available for the purposes of Holy Communion for those who are sick or housebound.

The Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession and Absolution) and of the Sick (Anointing with laying on of hands) are also available for those who wish to make use of them, by arrangement with the Priest in Charge.

Information about preparing for Baptism, Confirmation or Marriage can also be obtained by telephoning the Priest in Charge.