

# Saint Columban's Newsletter



Saint Columban's Mission  
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*"Peregrinari pro Christo"*

January–March 2006

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

**The Right Rev. Pierre Whalon, D.D.**  
Bishop in Charge, Convocation of American Churches in Europe  
**and also from**

**The Rev. Hanns Engelhardt**  
and Saint Columban's Mission

## **The Archbishop of Canterbury's Christmas Message**

Perhaps the two images most of us will carry away from the last twelve months are those of the devastation caused by the tsunami just after last Christmas and by the hurricanes that devastated the southern states of America in the autumn. The natural world became a place of terror and disaster.

The question never quite goes away of why God made a world in which such tragedy is possible. But Christmas reminds us of the one thing we know for sure – and that is God's way of responding to suffering. He doesn't wave a magic wand, or descend briefly from the sky to clean things up. He arrives on earth as a human being who will change things simply by the completeness of his love. Jesus is dedicated to the will of the one he calls Father, the divine source of his own divine life. Never for a moment does he put any obstacle in the way of that ultimate, total outpouring of love that is the wellspring of his own life. He gives himself to this transforming purpose in every moment, whatever it costs. And the world changes – even the physical world: death is overcome and the material world reveals God's glory in its depths. So we are changed. New things become possible for us, new levels of loving response and involvement. As has often been said, the Christian answer to the problem of suffering is not a theory but the story of a life and a death, Jesus' life and death. And for that answer to be credible now, that story has to be visible in our story. We must give an answer to suffering and tragedy in what we do – because the one thing we know is that this is what God does. Faith is restored and strengthened not by talking but by witness in action. And one of the moving things that this year has brought for me is the awareness of how generously so many have responded to the desperate needs of the tsunami victims and those who suffered in New Orleans.

I have had moving letters describing the sacrificial work of Anglicans in the Province of South-East Asia, and in the diocese of Kurunagula in Sri Lanka, to name only two instances, clearly witnessing to the willingness to respond first and ask theoretical questions afterwards. And only a few days ago, I listened to a woman from Texas speaking of her work day and night over many weeks in Houston with those who had been made homeless by Hurricane Katrina. Here are stories of people who know how to answer the challenges of terrible suffering in God's way – by obedience and service and love.

There is something about Christianity that always pulls us back from imagining that everything will be all right if we can find the right things to say – because for God, the right thing to say at Christmas was the crying of a small child, beginning a life of risk and suffering. God shows us how, by his grace and in his Spirit, we can respond to the tormenting riddles of the world. And, as we agonise over the future of our beloved church, with all its debates and bitter struggles at the moment, it does us no harm to remember that God will not solve our Anglican problems by a plan or a formula, but only by the miracle of his love in Jesus. If we want to be part of the solution, we must first be wholly and unconditionally pledged to that love, with all its costs. May God who works in the weakness and smallness of the Christmas child work in our weakness and smallness; may he bless and strengthen you all at this season.

+Rowan Cantuar

### **New Church's Teaching Series**

'The books in the new teaching series for the Episcopal Church attempt to encourage and respond to the times—and to the challenges that will usher out the old century and bring in the new. ... it has no official status, claims no special authority, speaks in a personal voice, and comes not out of committees but from scholars and pastors meeting and talking informally together.' Its assumed readership are 'adults who are not "cradle Anglicans," but who come from other religious traditions or from no tradition at all, and want to know what Anglicanism has to offer.' (from the Series Preface of the editor) But that does not mean (at least according to my experience, HE+) that people who have been Anglicans for many years cannot learn a lot from them also. The Mission has bought a number of volumes of the series, dealing with

- Anglicanism,
- the Bible,
- prayer, worship, and the Prayer Book,
- faith and ethics.

They are very useful for study groups, but also for private reading. All members and friends of the Mission are invited to make use of these opportunities. It would be great if we could form a group meeting regularly, and working their way through one of these books. Perhaps, we will be so fascinated that we decide to continue with another one. But this decision can of course be made only when we have finished the first book. The members of the group will decide which book to take first. If you are interested to be part of this, contact the Priest in Charge.

### **Wanted!**

Since the dissolution of *Freunde der anglikanischen Kirche Karlsruhe* the assets of our Mission are held in trust by the Old-Catholic Parish, but we have to care for the administration ourselves. As, in spite of repeated efforts, it has not been possible yet to find a new treasurer, this work is done by the Priest in Charge at the moment. This should not be so. It is not the amount of work, but it does not appear appropriate that spiritual leadership and the administration of our money are in the same hands. Therefore this renewed appeal: come forward and volunteer for this important ministry!

### **"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.

### **Thanksgiving after Childbirth**

In former times children usually were baptized immediately after their birth, or on the following day, the mother oftentimes not being present. Some time after, when the mother came to church again for the first time, she received a special blessing under the common title of "the churching of women". In the course of time, the rite changed, and got a new emphasis and a new name, viz.: "Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child". Nowadays, and especially in communities like ours, as many families are dispersed through many places, even countries or continents, Baptism is not rarely postponed for months because it is difficult to get the family together for this event. In cases like this, it may be worthwhile considering to celebrate this "Thanksgiving" as soon as mother and child are able to appear in church.

### **Where are you?**

In the course of the fourth quarter of 2005, members of St Columban's Mission congregation received the usual Stewardship Appeal for 2006, accompanied by the usual Pledge Form. This procedure which is in common use in our church serves two purposes: firstly, it enables the church to do some planning for the forthcoming year, and this is important even if a congregation does not have to pay a full-time priest or to maintain a church building; secondly, it is a means of self-discipline. Its purpose is NOT to create any sort of claim against the person making such a pledge; nobody will ask at any time whether a pledge has been fulfilled, or why not. St Columban's Mission has been privileged in the last years by having a substantial number of members and friends contributing to the expenses of God's work in this city and region, and we are grateful for that. However, it appears surprising that the response to the appeal has hitherto consisted of one pledge only. But it is not too late, and if someone has mislaid the pledge form, he or she will gladly be provided with another one upon request.

## Service of Carols and Lessons

The Joint Service of Lessons and Carols together with the Anglican chaplaincy of Strasbourg and the Lutheran congregation of Baden-Baden, as we celebrated it in former years, took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent (December 11) in *St Johanniskirche* (the former English Church of All Saints), Baden-Baden. It was well attended (nearly as well as last year), and some members of our little community represented the Mission. It was an uplifting and enjoyable thing to hear the traditional lessons and sing the carols. The next service of this kind will most probably be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in December, 2006. It is worthwhile trying to reserve the time for it.

## Our Services

Our regular services in Karlsruhe are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. in the chapel of *Luisenheim*; in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2006 i. e.:

January 1	— Holy Name of Jesus: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
January 6	— The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
January 15	— Epiphany 2: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
February 5	— Candlemas (tr.): Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
February 19	— Epiphany 7: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
March 5	— Lent 1: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
March 19	— Lent 3: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

You reach *Luisenheim* by public transport using trams to *Schillerstraße* (nearest) or *Mühlburger Tor* (from *Hauptbahnhof*, the direct line is 2). From *Schillerstraße* walk on the north side of *Kaiserallee* in the direction of *Mühlburger Tor* and turn into *Kochstraße*. Enter der gate No 2-4 and turn to the building to your right, showing the inscription “Luisenheim” on the wall facing the street. The chapel is located on the ground floor at the end of the long corridor, last door on the left side. From *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 reach the Old-Catholic Church of the Resurrection. The gate to *Luisenheim* (Kochstr. 2-4) is just opposite to the end of *Helmholtzstraße*, the street passing on the south side of the Old-Catholic church,

There is a **children’s group** the time of our Sunday 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. 7).

In **Baden-Baden** no regular Anglican services are held at the moment. It is with deep regret that we decided to discontinue them. Members and friends are invited to look into the *Drei-Eichen-Kapelle* (Weststadt, Rheinstr. 64) where we had, and hopefully will some time in future have, our services. It is usually open all days.

## Readings and Psalms of Forthcoming Services

Day	Old Testament	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel
Jan 1	Exodus 34:1-8	8	Romans 1:1-7	Luke 2:15-21
Jan 6	Isaiah 60:1-6,9	72:1-2,10-17	Ephes 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 15	1 Sam 3:1-10	63:1-8	1 Cor 6:11b-20	John 1:43-51
Feb 5	Malachi 3:1-4	84:1-6	Hebr 2:14-19	Luke 2:22-40
Feb 19	Isaiah 43:18-25	32:1-8	2 Cor 1:18-22	Mark 2:1-12
Mar 5	Genesis 9:8-17	25:3-9	1Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-13
Mar 19	Exodus 20:1-17	19:7-14	Romans 7:13-25	John 2:13-22

## Known Birthdays in January, February and March

<p><u>January</u></p> <p>22. Eva-Maria Schubart 26. Christopher Caldwell-Nichols</p> <p><u>February</u></p> <p>3. Alix Hertel 12. Jacqueline Ribeiro</p>	<p>13. Jonathan Albert Sweetser 28. Roger Duthie</p> <p><u>March</u></p> <p>2. Nicole Preiss-Phillips 3. Elise Duthie 15. Martyn Taylor-Emminghaus</p>
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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. So, if you miss your birthday let us know. Likewise if you know the birthday of any other 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.

### **“If anyone is ill enough to call the doctor...”**

“...call the parson too”. The Church is always available to those who desire her ministrations in time of sickness. But we often do not know who does. So if you know of someone who is sick or otherwise housebound, and would like a priest to visit her or him in order to talk to him or to receive communion and/or anointing (cf. Letter of James 5:14), do let the Priest in Charge know as soon as possible.

### **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) services (Holy Eucharist: Sunday at 10 a.m., Tuesdays at 7.10 a.m., Thursdays at 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 19.45, Ratskeller, Pforzheim

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

**Deutsch-Englischer Freundeskreis Karlsruhe,** Conversation Circle: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7.30 pm, Jugendheim Anne Frank, Moltkestr. 2a (Engländerplatz)

**English Speaking “Stammtisch”:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 or cannot be reached the following persons will be pleased to give all relevant 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.*