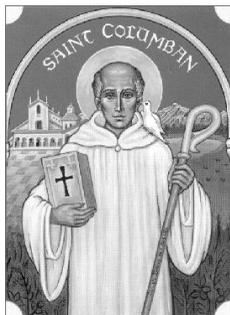


Saint Columban's Newsletter



Saint Columban's Mission

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“Peregrinari pro Christo”

January-March 2009

Archbishop of Canterbury's Christmas Message to the Anglican Communion

Human beings, left to themselves, have imagined God in all sorts of shapes; but - although there were one or two instances, in Ancient Greece and Ancient Egypt, of gods being pictured as boys - it took Christianity to introduce the world to the idea of God in the form of a baby: in the form of complete dependence and fragility, without power or control. If you stop to think about it, it is still shocking. And it is also deeply challenging.

God chose to show himself to us in a complete human life, telling us that every stage in human existence, from conception to maturity and even death, was in principle capable of telling us something about God. Although what we learn from Jesus Christ and what his life makes possible is unique, that life still means that we look differently at every other life. There is something in us that is capable of communicating what God has to say - the image of God in each of us, which is expressed in its perfection only in Jesus.

Hence the reverence which as Christians we ought to show to human beings in every condition, at every stage of existence. This is why we cannot regard unborn children as less than members of the human family, why those with disabilities or deprivations have no less claim upon us than anyone else, why we try to make loving sense of human life even

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when it is near its end and we can hardly see any signs left of freedom or thought.

And hence the concern we need to have about the welfare of children. As we look around the world, there is plenty to prompt us to far more anger and protest about what happens to children than we often seem to feel or express. In the UK this year there have been several public debates about childhood, as research has underlined the lack of emotional security felt by many children here, the high cost of divorce and family breakdown, the disproportionate effect of poverty and debt on children, and many other problems. We look forward to the publication here in the New Year of a nationwide survey about what people think is a 'good childhood' - sponsored by the Children's Society, with its long association with the Anglican Church.

Elsewhere we see far more horrendous sights - child soldiers still deployed in parts of Africa and in Sri Lanka, the burden laid on children in places where HIV and AIDS have wiped out a whole generation, leaving only the old and the young, the fate of children in areas of conflict like Congo and the Middle East and the insensitive treatment that is so often given to child refugees and asylum seekers in more prosperous countries.

'Though an infant now we view him, He shall fill his Father's throne' says the Christmas hymn. If it is true that the child of Bethlehem is the same one who will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, how shall we stand before him if we have allowed his image in the children of the world to be abused and defaced? In the week I write this, the British public is trying to cope with the revelation of the shocking killing of a very small child. Recently I accompanied a number of students and British faith leaders on a pilgrimage to the extermination camps at Auschwitz, where some of the most unforgettably horrifying images have to do with the wholesale slaughter of Jewish children - their toys and clothes still on display, looted by their killers from their dead bodies.

Christmas is a good time to think again about our attitudes to children and about what happens to children in our societies. Christians who recognise the infinite and all-powerful God in the vulnerability of a newborn baby have every reason to ask hard questions about the ways in which children come to be despised, exploited, even feared in our world.

We all suspect that in a time of economic crisis worldwide, it will be the most vulnerable who are left to carry most of the human cost. The Holy Child of Bethlehem demands of us that we resist this with all our

strength, for the sake of the one who, though he was rich, for our sake became poor, became helpless with the helpless so that he might exalt us all through his mercy and abundant grace.

With every blessing and best wish for Christmas and the New Year.

+Rowan Cantuar

PRESS RELEASE: Foundation for Middle East Peace Urges Immediate Cease Fire in Gaza

In a letter to President George W. Bush today, the Foundation for Middle East Peace urged immediate U.S. efforts to bring about an end to Israeli military action in Gaza, rocket attacks against Israel, and Israel's blockade of Gaza, and to use American "moral and diplomatic authority to save lives and make peace." Excerpts from the letter, signed by FMEP President Philip C. Wilcox, Jr., follow:

"The terrible mutual violence of recent days has left hundreds of Palestinians dead or wounded and terrified many Israeli civilians. This and the siege of Gaza have created a humanitarian disaster that cries out urgently for American diplomatic intervention.

The use of deadly force is cruel, futile, and undermines the security of both parties. It will only deepen the bitter conflict between Israel and Palestine that your administration has sought to heal through peaceful negotiations. ...

Both Israel and Hamas share responsibility for this crisis. There is no justification whatsoever for the highly disproportionate use of Israeli force which has brought such devastation to Gazan society or for irresponsible rocket fire from Gaza against Israeli towns. The United States should avoid taking sides and use its moral and diplomatic authority to save lives and make peace.

America must engage actively to bring about a cease fire and an end to the Gaza conflict as essential elements in resolving the larger Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the interest of our own national security and to restore hope in peace for both Israelis and Palestinians."

Washington, DC, December 29, 2008

Stewardship Appeal

All members and supporters of Saint Columban's Mission will these days receive our annual Stewardship Appeal. Our Mission and its work

totally depend on the voluntary contributions of its members and friends. Particulars of our work are set out in the Appeal letter. If you haven't received it, and think you should, or would like to have it, don't hesitate to send an e-mail to one of the persons listed on the last page or ring him up.

Bishop's Visit

As of this writing, Bishop Whalon is planning to visit our congregation at a special Sunday Service on February 15, at our usual time and place (i.e., the chapel of Luisenheim at 11:00 a.m.). It would certainly be good if as many of us as possible could attend and hopefully visit with the bishop afterwards to discuss the problems connected with the ongoing life of our Mission after the retirement of Fr Hanns. You will receive a special e-mail as soon as the Bishop has informed us that he will definitely come to us. If you have questions or require more information about this visit you may contact Fr Hanns.

Duties Within the Congregation

As our Priest in Charge has, having passed the canonical retirement age, resigned (but is happily still with us!), the duties concerning the administration of our Mission (which Fr Hanns has managed practically single-handedly over the years) have now to be taken over by members of the congregation. The Bishop, whose visit we are looking forward to, may consider to form a Bishop's Council, which would act like a vestry or parochial council, especially with regard to the administration of the mission finances. Anyone who is prepared to serve on such council, and to contribute thereby to the ongoing existence and work of our Mission is invited to contact either James Hunt or Todd Phillips (Tel. – both – on last page) or Fr Hanns as soon as possible.

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.

“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.

Our Services

Our regular services in Karlsruhe are held, if not indicated as otherwise, on the 1st Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. in the chapel of *Luisenheim*; in the 1st quarter of 2008, i. e.:

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|------------|--|
| January 4 | — Christmas 2: Holy Eucharist (Rite I) |
| February 1 | — Epiphany 4: Holy Eucharist (Rite I) |
| March 1 | — Lent 1: Holy Eucharist (Rite I) |

You reach *Luisenheim* by public transport using trams to *Schillerstraße* (nearest) or *Mühlburger Tor* (from *Hauptbahnhof*, the direct line is 6). From *Schillerstraße* walk on the north side of *Kaiserallee* in the direction of *Mühlburger Tor* and turn into *Kochstraße*. Enter the gate of No. 2-4 and turn to the building to your right, showing the inscription “Luisenheim” on the wall facing the street. You find the chapel 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,

A **children’s group** at the time of our Sunday service may be arranged by a group of parents of young children if we know in advance. Please approach Todd Phillips: (0721) 75 65 80.

For weekday services see “Old-Catholic Church” (below p. 7).

Readings and Psalms of Forthcoming Services

| Day | Old Testament | Psalms | New Testament | Gospel |
|------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| January 4 | Jeremiah 31:7-14 | 84:1-8 | Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a | Matthew 2:1-12 |
| February 1 | Deuteronomy 18:15-20 | 111 | 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 | Mark 1:21-28 |
| March 1 | Genesis 9:8-17 | 25:1-9 | 2 Peter 3:18-22 | Mark 1:9-15 |

Known Birthdays in January, February and March

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>January</u> 22. Eva-Maria Schubart 26. Christopher Caldwell-Nichols | 12. Jacqueline Ribeiro 13. Jonathan Albert Sweetser 28. Roger Duthie |
| <u>February</u> 3. Alix Hertel | <u>March</u> 2. Nicole Preiss-Phillips 3. Elise 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. 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, the laying on of hands 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. For a time we were their guests with our services, and we are most sincerely invited to their (German language) services (Holy Eucharist: Sunday at 10 a.m., Tuesday at 7.10 a.m., Thursday 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: 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)

Deutsch-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 practice 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.

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 is a member of 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 may be contacted in case of pastoral emergency at any time. 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 permanently 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 avail themselves of them, by arrangement with the Pries.

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