

## *Ten reasons for not washing* (Anonymous)



Here they are: -

1. I was forced to wash when I was a child.
2. People who make soap are only after the money.
3. People who wash are hypocrites - they think they are cleaner than anyone else.
4. There are so many different kinds of soap I can't decide which is best.
5. I used to wash, but it got boring, so I stopped.
6. None of my friends washes.
7. The bathroom is never warm enough in winter or cool enough in summer
8. I'll start washing when I get older and dirtier.
9. I can't spare the time.
10. I wash for special occasions like Christmas and Easter, weddings and funerals. Isn't that enough?

You've probably guessed that the ten reasons for not washing are not meant to be taken seriously. But read them again, this time adapting them to going to Mass. They are the reasons commonly given for not going to it. And they are about as sensible as for not washing.

### Nativity of the Lord 2008 at St Bernhard

#### 24 December

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 4.00 p.m.  | Nativity Play (in German)<br>Gospel, prayers and Christmas<br>Carols in German and English |
| 7.30 p.m.  | Christmas Carols   |
| 8.00 p.m.  | Vigil Mass in English  |
| 10.30 p.m. | German Christmas Carols and<br>Texts   |
| 11.00 p.m. | Vigil Mass in German   |

#### 25 December

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 11.00 a.m. | "Mass during the day" (with<br>the Peter Schwarz Choir) |
|------------|---|

#### Collections:

- |            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 7-24 Dec.  | Our Mission           |
| 25 Dec.    | ADVENIAT              |
| 26/28 Dec. | Our Mission           |
| 31 Dec.    | Maximilian-Kolbe-Werk |
| 1 January  | World Peace Day       |
| 4 January  | African Catechists    |



### **English-speaking Roman Catholic Mission Archdiocese of Berlin**

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#### **Assistant Priest:**

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**Office hours:** Monday  
through Thursday 9 to 13

**December 2008**

## Word of the Priest

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

What did Saint Paul know about Christmas? He became a Christian only after Jesus had returned to his Father. Did he ever go to Bethlehem? Did his fellow Christians tell him about the decree of Caesar Augustus (that the whole world should be enrolled), which caused Joseph and Mary to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem?

Personally I am convinced that Paul knew the whole story because he knew well Saint Luke, his faithful companion, who wrote the gospel of the birth of Jesus. If you love someone, as Paul loved Jesus, you want to know about his origin.

There are echoes of Jesus' birth in Saint Paul's letters. He speaks of Jesus as "descended from David according to the flesh" (Rom 1,3). We know from Saint Matthew that when Joseph (who was of the house of David) agreed to take Mary and her child into his home Jesus entered the genealogy of David: Jesus became a "son of David".

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption" (Gal 4,4-5). Paul does not mention the virginity of Mary, which does not matter in this context: he wants to highlight the true humanity of Jesus.

We find the same idea in the famous hymn to the Philippians: "Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance" (2,6-7).

Paul does not mention the manger, the angels, the shepherds. But he interprets the event of the Incarnation as the decisive moment of human history. God's eternal Son has come to save us by assuming a true human nature.

I am sure Saint Paul shares our joy when we sing: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel."

*Father Herbert Gilllessen*

## Liturgy December 2008

### All Saints / St Bernhard / St Albert

<b>7</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>8</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>			
	<b>Mass at 6 p.m. at St Hedwig, Berlin-Mitte</b>			
<b>14</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>21</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve – Vigil of the Nativity</b>	4 p.m.Nat.play/	4 p.m.Nat.play	----
	<b>Mass</b>			
	<b>Christmas Carols/Christmas Vigil Mass</b>	9.30/10 p.m.	7.30/8 p.m.	----
<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day – The Nativity of the Lord</b>	----	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>26</b>	<b>St Stephen, First Martyr</b>	----	11 a.m.	----
<b>28</b>	<b>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>31</b>	<b>Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God (Vigil Mass German/English)</b>	----	6 p.m.	----
	<b>JANUARY</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God</b>	----	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>4</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>6</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>	---	7 p.m.	---

## Information for the Mission in General

Our Mission offers pastoral care, religious education (children and adults: First Holy Communion, Confirmation). Baptisms, weddings, hospital and home visits can be arranged through the Priest.

The Priest is also available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass and by appointment. For weddings, please contact Father Gilllessen 3 months in advance.

### English-speaking Roman Catholic Mission

#### **at St Bernhard (Rector)**

Königin-Luise-Str. 33  
14195 Berlin (Dahlem)  
(U3 Dahlem-Dorf,  
Bus X83, X11)

#### **at St Albert the Great**

Nestorstr. 10  
14052 Berlin-Charlottenburg  
(U-Bahnhof Adenauerplatz,  
S-Bahnhof Halensee)

#### **at All Saints**

Hüttenweg 46  
14195 Berlin  
Bus 285

#### **at Heilig Geist**

Filipino Community  
Bayernallee 28  
14052 Berlin-Charlottenburg  
(S-Bhf.Heerstr./U-Bhf. Neu-Westend)  
Sunday at 3.30 p.m.

#### **at St Michael**

Ghana Community  
Waldemarstr. 8-10  
10999 Berlin  
U-Bhf. Moritzplatz  
Sunday at 1 p.m.