

## Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament

Inspired by God some of the Jewish prophets predicted elements of the intervention in human history of a special messenger sent by God to His chosen people. Here are some of the best known "Messianic prophecies":

(The prophet Balaam, at the time of Moses)

"I see him, though not now;  
I behold him, though not near:  
A star shall advance from Jacob,  
And a staff shall rise from Israel."  
(Numbers 24, 17)

(The prophet Isaiah around the year 735 BC)

"The Lord himself will give you this sign:  
the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son,  
and shall name him Immanuel."  
(Isaiah 7, 14)

"A child is born to us, a son is given us;  
upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,  
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace..."  
(Isaiah 9,5)

"Rise up in splendor! Your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth,  
And thick clouds cover the peoples;  
But upon you the Lord shines,  
And over you appears his glory..."  
(Isaiah 60, 1-2)

(The prophet Micah around the year 700 BC)

"But you, Bethlehem-Ephratha  
too small to be among the clans of Judah,  
From you shall come forth for me  
One who is to be ruler in Israel;  
Whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient times..."  
(Micah 5,1)



### Nativity of the Lord 2010 at St Bernhard's

#### 24 December

- 3.30 p.m. Nativity Play (in German)  
Gospel, prayers and Christmas  
Carols in German and English
- 7.30 p.m. Christmas Carols
- 8.00 p.m. Vigil Mass in English

#### 25 December

- 11.00 a.m. "Mass during the day"

#### Collections:

- |           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 5 Dec.    | Orphans and foster children |
| 8/12/19   | Our Mission                 |
| 24 Dec.   | Our Mission                 |
| 25 Dec.   | ADVENIAT                    |
| 26/27Dec. | Our Mission                 |
| 31 Dec.   | Maximilian-Kolbe-Werk       |
| 1 January | World Peace Day             |
| 2 January | African Catechists          |

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

Johann-Georg-Str. 8  
10709 Berlin-Halensee  
Tel.: 813 20 26  
Fax: 813 20 47

E-mail: [alsda46@aol.com](mailto:alsda46@aol.com)  
[www.English-Mission-Berlin.de](http://www.English-Mission-Berlin.de)  
Pax-Bank Acc. No. 6000 843014  
Bank ID number: 370 60193

#### **Mission Priest:**

Father Herbert Gillessen  
Tel.: (030) 83 20 24 88

#### **Assistant Priest:**

Father Clemens Pfaff,  
M.Afr.

Tel.: 74 00 19 05

#### **Secretary:**

Sibylle Reed-Robie  
Tel.: 813 20 26

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

**December 2010**

## Word of the Priest

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

“Today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2, 11-12)

This is the message of Christmas. This is the “good news of great joy” announced by an angel to simple shepherds living in the fields near Bethlehem and keeping the night watch over their flock. In these few words a great mystery is contained, the central mystery of Christianity.

It is a historical event which took place in our earthly geography: near Bethlehem, around 8 km south of Jerusalem. I cannot forget the distance since I once walked from the monastery where I lived in Jerusalem to the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem. We chose the main road and I remember that the traffic was very intense.

The indication of Saint Luke and Saint Matthew converge towards a time when Augustus was Emperor of Rome, Quirinius Governor of Syria and Herod King of Judea: Jesus was born in the year 6 or 7 “before Christ”, which is a paradox, isn’t it? The monk Dionysius Exiguus in the sixth century committed a mistake in calculating the “Christian era”.

The titles given to the child, “Saviour”, “Christ” and “Lord” express his unique dignity and importance. The Jewish prophets had announced the coming of the “Messiah”, who would be “anointed” priest, prophet and king. Jesus has come to fulfill these prophecies by his teaching, his healing activity, and above all, by his redeeming death and his glorious resurrection.

The infant in the manger is the Lord of the universe, the Redeemer of mankind. The fascination of Christmas lies in this paradox. It is a source of spiritual joy and profound peace for believers.

*Happy Christmas.*

*Father Herbert Gilllessen*

## Liturgy December 2010

### All Saints / St Bernhard's / St Albert's

<b>5</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's, Berlin-Mitte</b>			
<b>12</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>19</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>	3 p.m.	3.30 p.m. Nat.play	----
	<b>Christmas Carols/Christmas Vigil Mass</b>	9.30/10 p.m.	7:30/8 p.m.	----
<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day – Nativity of the Lord</b>	----	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>26</b>	<b>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
	<b>JANUARY 2011</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God</b>	----	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>2</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon ---
<b>9</b>	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon ---

## 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's**

Koenigin-Luise-Str.33  
14195 Berlin-Dahlem  
(U3 Dahlem-Dorf)  
**Sunday at 11 a.m.**

#### **at St Albert's**

Nestorstr. 10  
10709 Berlin-Halensee  
(U-Bahnhof Adenauerplatz,  
S-Bahnhof Halensee)  
Sunday at 12 a.m.

#### **at All Saints**

Hüttenweg 46  
14195 Berlin-Dahlem  
Bus 285  
Sunday at 10 a.m.

#### **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's**

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

