

The transformation of Christian faith-hope in the modern age

“Up to Francis Bacon (1561-1626), the recovery of what man had lost through the expulsion from Paradise was expected from faith in Jesus Christ: herein lay “redemption”. Now, this “redemption”, the restoration of the lost “Paradise” is no longer expected from faith, but from the newly discovered link between science and praxis. It is not that faith is simply denied; rather it is displaced onto another level – that of purely private and otherworldly affairs – and at the same time it becomes somehow irrelevant for the world. This programmatic vision has determined the trajectory of modern times and it also shapes the present-day crisis of faith which is essentially a crisis of Christian hope. Thus hope too, in Bacon, acquires a new form. Now it is called: *faith in progress*. For Bacon, it is clear that the recent spate of discoveries and inventions is just the beginning; through the interplay of science and praxis, totally new discoveries will follow, a

totally new world will emerge, the kingdom of man.

He even put forward a vision of foreseeable inventions – including the aeroplane and the submarine. As the ideology of progress developed further, joy at visible advances in human potential remained a continuing confirmation of *faith in progress* as such.”

**(Pope Benedict XVI:
Encyclical Letter SPE SALVI, 17)**

Collections:

1 January	World Peace Day
6 January	African Catechists
13/27 January	Our Mission
20 January	Family work in the church
3/6/17 February	Our Mission
10 February	Caritas
24 February	Catholic schools



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Thursday 9 to 13

**January/February
2008**

Word of the Priest

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On 13 October 2007 an open letter addressed to the Pope and other Christian leaders was signed by 138 Muslim religious leaders. Pope Benedict XVI expressed his deep appreciation for this gesture and for the positive spirit, which inspired this text:

“Without ignoring or downplaying our differences as Christians and Muslims, we can and therefore should look to what unites us, namely, belief in the one God, the provident Creator and universal Judge who at the end of time will deal with each person according to his or her actions. We are called to commit ourselves totally to him and to obey his sacred will.”

Mindful of the content of his Encyclical Letter “Deus Caritas Est” (God is Love), the Pope was particularly impressed by the attention given in the letter to the twofold commandment to love God and one’s neighbour.

Pope Benedict has invited a group of signatories to meet him in the Vatican and discuss ways of cooperation in the areas of culture and society.

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising have come to do him homage”, the magi from the east said on arriving in Jerusalem (Mt 2,2). The surprising initiative of these 138 Muslims reminds me of the mystery of the Epiphany: God who is Love (and who reveals his love by sending his Son into the world) attracts people from all over the world who look for salvation, for peace and justice.

May the Lord bless these new Christian-Muslim meetings in the Vatican. And may he help us in this New Year to promote mutual respect and acceptance especially among the younger generation.

Father Herbert Gillissen

Liturgy January/February 2008
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All Saints / St Bernhard / St Albert

JANUARY

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|-----------|---|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God | --- | 11 a.m. | 12 noon |
| 6 | Epiphany of the Lord | 10 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 12 noon |
| 13 | Baptism of the Lord | 10 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 12 noon |
| 20 | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | 10 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 12 noon |
| 27 | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | 10 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 12 noon |

FEBRUARY

- | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|--|---------|---------|
| 3 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 10 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 12 noon |
| 6 | Ash Wednesday | ---- | 7 p.m. | ---- |
| 10 | First Sunday of Lent | <i><u>Common Mass of the Mission</u></i>
<i><u>at All Saints at 10 a.m.</u></i> | | |
| 17 | Second Sunday of Lent | 10 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 12 noon |
| 24 | Third Sunday of Lent | 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 Gillissen 3 months in advance.

English-speaking Roman Catholic Mission

at St Bernhard (Rector)

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Bus X83, X11)

at St Albert the Great

Nestorstr. 10
14052 Berlin-Charlottenburg
(U-Bahnhof Adenauerplatz,
S-Bahnhof Halensee) M19, M29
Lehniner Platz

at All Saints

Hüttenweg 46
14195 Berlin
Bus 285, 115,

at Heilig Geist

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