

## The Jesuit Refugee Service in Malta

“What have you done to your brother?” God asked Cain. Let us take a moment or two to reflect on the way that we greet and care for migrants from Africa who arrive in the European Union. Every spring and summer, many boatloads of destitute refugees are washed ashore on Malta’s rocky coasts. St Paul received a warm welcome when he found himself shipwrecked in Malta. Not so modern migrants landing in Malta, who are put into detention or confined to refugee camps. Separated from their families (who know nothing of their fate and fear that they have drowned on the perilous boat crossing from Africa to Europe), living in tent camps, and uncertain about their future, these migrants subsist on the very margin of Europe.

The late Pope John Paul II reminded us that the modern migrant, destitute and often robbed of hope, is akin to the ‘stranger’ in whom Jesus asks to be recognized. In Malta, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is in the front line – providing humanitarian assistance to migrants at their moment of greatest need. JRS works in detention centers offering legal advice, health and social work services, pastoral care and a sympathetic ear. They protect and assist refugees, and also work at the

policy level, advocating non-custodial alternatives for the reception of migrants in Malta.

Mahatma Gandhi memorably suggested that a nation’s greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members. Europe is somehow diminished by its handling of the weak and defenceless migrants who look to us for assistance. JRS Malta combats xenophobic responses to Africans washed ashore on the Mediterranean island, and offers very practical help to those refugees. It is a small organization, one that is so very deserving of our support. On **Sunday 20 April**, the proceeds of the collections at all the churches in our English-speaking Mission in Berlin will be donated to the Jesuit Refugee Service in Malta. Please give generously. Those on the margins of Europe are a sacrament of Christ’s presence. They need our help.

### Collections:

2/21/23/24 March	Our Mission
9 March	MISEREOR
16 March	Holy Land
30 March	DIASPORA
6/13/27 April	Our Mission
20 April	Jesuit Refugee Service in Malta



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

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Office hours: Monday through  
Thursday 9 to 13

**March /April 2008**

## Word of the Priest

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

During a Bible-study one of our catechumens said she found it difficult to believe that Jesus was the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1, 29). How can the sacrifice of one person bring salvation to the whole world?

This reminded me of Mahatma Gandhi. In his famous autobiography he also speaks about his difficulties with Christianity: "It was more than I could believe that Jesus was the only incarnate son of God, and that only he who believed in Him, would have everlasting life."

This indeed requires a great act of faith, faith in the unspeakable mystery of the Incarnation. I remember that when once I went to India how I was struck to see the invocation "My Lord and my God" on the altar-cloth of Catholic Churches in Madras (Now: Chennai) and Kerala. The apostle Thomas who is said to have brought the Gospel to India, resumed his faith in these words when he was allowed to see and touch the Risen Lord. But this act of faith came after three years of living in the presence of Jesus, witnessing his words and his miracles, his Passion and Resurrection.

Gandhi continues: "My reason was not ready to believe literally that Jesus by his death and by his blood redeemed the sins of the world." This again depends on the mysterious identity of Jesus: was he only a holy man, a wise man, a prophet, or was he more – was he the Second Person of the Holy Trinity who through the operation of the Holy Spirit had been conceived by a Jewish girl, the Virgin Mary, and become man? Would one not expect the death of such a unique God-man to have unique consequences for the rest of the world?

Saint Paul gives a beautiful definition of the Christian faith: "God who said: "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Cor 4,6)

Yours in Christ,

*Father Herbert Gillissen*

## Liturgy March/April 2008

All Saints / St Bernhard / St Albert

### MARCH

<b>2</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	<b>11 a.m.(!)</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>16</b>	<b>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</b> (Procession of Palms)	10 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	12 noon
<b>20</b>	<b>Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>	----	8 p.m.	---
<b>21</b>	<b>Good Friday of the Lord's Passion</b>	3 p.m.	---	---
<b>22</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b>	---	---	8 p.m.
<b>23</b>	<b>Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>24</b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>	----	11 a.m.	---
<b>30</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>31</b>	<b>Annunciation</b>	---	7 p.m.	---

### APRIL

<b>6</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>13</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>20</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
<b>27</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</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 Gillissen 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) 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.