

ICCH International Catholic Community of Heidelberg

St. Michael's Church, Kirschgarten Str. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Sudstadt
062.21.13.020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

February 7, 2016
Welcome Father Peter

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today's Gospel presents Jesus as teaching rather than preaching. The art of teaching is to bring the learner from the known to the unknown. Jesus speaks of fish, of sheep, of vines, of trees, of water, etc., all of which would be there within the view of his listeners. The Acts begins by telling us that Jesus came to do and to teach. A cynic described education as a process in which information is transferred from the notebook of the teacher to the notebook of the student, without having passed through the heads of either! Jesus spoke and taught from the heart, and what comes from the heart of the speaker always reaches the heart of the listener. In himself, Jesus was the message, and that was what gave weight and power to his words.

Was Peter wrong when he judged himself unfit and unworthy to be in the presence of Jesus? He did not yet grasp that Jesus came to call sinners. What Peter should actually have said was, "Lord, stay with me, because I am a sinful man." Sometimes our church has not been good in its dealing with sinners. What with emphasizing hell-fire and condemnation, sinners were left in no doubt that they did not belong at the Eucharistic table! The message often came across as "Depart from us, for you are a sinful person." Thankfully, under Pope Francis' inspirational leadership, we are reminded of the mind and the message of the Jesus who came to seek out sinners and bring them safely home. If he had a hundred sheep, and one went astray, he would leave the ninety-nine to go after the one that is lost. This message is central to the Year of Mercy proclaimed by the Holy Father.

Peter's prayer should have been, Lord, please stay with me, because I am a sinner. Don't ever leave me, because, apart from you, I'm totally lost. And, of course, the whole message of Jesus is to reassure sinners that he is always there for them. Peter was only too well aware of his brokenness, and several later episodes confirmed that fact. It is significant that Jesus made Peter head of the apostles. The principle of evangelising is that one sinner tells another the good news, just as with Alcoholics Anonymous, where one recovering alcoholic helps another achieve sobriety.

So many of us could come up with some instance in our lives, when, like Peter, we have tried hard and caught nothing. This could be anything from an addiction, to resentment, an inability to forgive, to a scar of mind or memory, which has never healed. This has the potential for a miracle, if I am willing to hand it over. Let go, and let God. There is nothing impossible with God.

[Shortened from: <http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie/2016/02/7th-feb-fifth-sunday-of-the-year/>]

NEWS ...

SOCIAL GATHERING – We will have our monthly social gathering on Sunday, February 6. Please bring along some time and something to share with the community.

NO ENGLISH MASS ON ASH WEDNESDAY – There will be no English mass on Ash Wednesday. However, there will be an ecumenical Liturgy of Word with distribution of Ashes in German in St. Michael at 18.30 that day. Other masses in surrounding churches (mostly German) for the month of February can be found [here](#).

CONFESSIONS: Parishioners can receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation next Sunday, February 14. This will take place after mass.

If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:

infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com