

St Boniface Farewell to Fr Heinz Medoch
Sunday 25 September 2011

26th Sunday (Year A) Matthew

Epistle: Ezekiel 18: 25-28

Psalm: 24: 4-9

Epistle: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32

Dear Fr Heinz, Fr Victor, Fr Peter Lang, ..., members and friends of the German Mission of St Boniface in Aldgate and Ham:

We are here today, at this last Mass with our Fr Heinz, to say goodbye to him and his sister Rita and to thank him for fourteen years of his priestly ministry amongst us. In that time he has been our Good Priest celebrating masses here at St Boniface's Church in Aldgate and at St Thomas Aquinas' Church in Ham, and the much appreciated house masses amongst our scattered community. His ministry has included administering the sacraments from birth through life to the graveside. In addition were his many other responsibilities and duties to The German Catholic Missions, The Diocese of Westminster and The German Embassy.

We are sad that he is leaving us

In fact, today, when I look up at our wonderful mural above the altar, I think of an old story and a new story.

It is said that while the mural was being painted a workman asked the artist what the picture meant. The artist, being a true artist, said, "What do you think it means?" The workman replied, "Well, I see these workers going to the foreman asking for more wages and the foreman points upwards and says 'Don't ask me – Ask the boss!'" Then the artist patiently explained his intention, "The people you can see have come to ask Bishop Boniface for help in their lives. And he tells them all your help will come from Christ the Lord."

Well, today! The new story. I look up at this mural, and I ...? What do I see ...? Perhaps I can see these people are our St Boniface Community coming to ask a question – I'm not quite sure ...? Is that St Boniface there or perhaps Fr Peter Lang? The question they are asking is 'Can we please keep Fr Heinz here with us a little longer?'

But the response is still the same. You cannot ask me. You must ask Christ who hears and sees all things, and responds according to your needs. In this life we must all gradually learn to accept the way of the Lord.

So we look back over these fourteen years. Fr Heinz, you have been our Good Shepherd. You have gathered your flock and increased its number. When you first came the flock was small and becoming smaller. Today it is a far bigger flock. Some lost sheep have returned. Some new ones have joined. And looking around me I see we have some new little lambs among us.

Fr Heinz. Good friend. Good priest. Good shepherd. You have done great work here. You will always be remembered for your great friendliness and great kindness born out of the love of your flock.

At this moment we take a little time to make a little gift of our appreciation from the whole community ----- [Pass the envelope with card and cheque to Fr Heinz].

Refer to the Pilgrim Staff and Umbrella gifts. [THESE WILL COME IN USEFUL] ---- It has been perhaps a personal wish of Heinz and Rita to make a pilgrimage to The Holy Land and other places ----

So now Fr Heinz, I know that as you leave us, wherever you may go, wherever you may be, the hearts and prayers of your flock will always be with you.

SO LET US start these prayers TODAY. Knowing Fr Heinz and Rita have always held a great reverence for Our Lady, The Mother of God and His Church. And both have also an especially deep appreciation of motherhood as being the foundation of love in the human family.

Let us make this the FIRST of our many prayers for him in his future life as a true servant of God. Please STAND to say 'The Hail Mary'.