

JERUSALEM

Korrespondenz

Bi-annual report of the Austrian Pilgrims' Hospice





IMPRINT:

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Cover-photograph: © Andrea Krogmann,
Grablege Jesu

Editorial

Dear guests and friends of the Austrian Pilgrim Hospice of the Holy Family in Jerusalem!

This edition signals a change in the name and appearance of our former newsletter: “Jerusalem-Korrespondenz. The Bi-Annual Report of the Austrian Pilgrim Hospice” will be published twice-yearly on a larger scale than the now defunct newsletter. At the start of our two busiest seasons, we will provide detailed information about our activities in recent months and present our latest projects so that you are always up-to-date with happenings in Jerusalem.

The word “correspondence” was important to me. It emphasizes the dialogical structure of our pilgrim guesthouse and requests you to enter into dialogue with us and actively to participate.

In his editorial, Ambassador Martin Weiss looks back on the stages leading up to the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Austria and Israel. In our pilgrim hostel section, we proudly introduce you to Casa Austria, our current building project which is intended to help secure our economic base in the future. In this context, you too are offered the chance to share in a unique opportunity. If you contribute to our building-block campaign, your name will be entered into our donors’ book, your generosity bringing you that significant bit closer to heaven.

Do you know what a stereoscope is? Our friend and much-loved guest Robert Michael Kurzböck has donated one to our archive. That stereoscope made its way out of Jerusalem and once belonged to his grandfather.



Photo: © Photostudio Floyd

The Holy Land is still home to miracles. Petra Klose discovered a miracle boy in Bethlehem whose heavenly voice is more than worthy of our support.

Many observers would characterise events surrounding the renovation of the tomb chapel of Jesus as miraculous: reconciling the numerous church heads and getting them to agree on a joint venture is far from simple. Photographer and journalist Andrea Krogmann takes us behind the scenes in text and pictures. The cover-photo of this edition is her work.

I am delighted with the guest contribution of rector of Abraham Geiger College at the University of Potsdam, Rabbi Walter Homolka, on Passover in Jerusalem.

A reflection on the Easter festival completes your reading and directs your attention once again to the empty grave: the object of our hope.

With this in mind, I wish you a festive time and hope to see you soon in Jerusalem!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Markus St. Bugnyar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RECTOR MARKUS ST. BUGNYAR

60 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Austria and Israel

By MARTIN WEISS

Last year Austria and Israel celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations (1956–2016). Bilateral relations between Austria and Israel have developed excellently over the last few years; the numerous high- and top-ranking bilateral visits alone are testimony to this fact. But booming economic relations and the sharp growth in tourism (in both directions) also underline the high quality of these bilateral relations. In short, there are currently no apparent problems between Austria and Israel, but rather a large number of close and dependable contacts at all levels as well as numerous concrete cooperation projects.

Excellent bilateral relations were also manifest in various agreements and memoranda signed by Austria and Israel in 2016 alone:

- Foreign Minister Kurz and Prime Minister Netanyahu signed a so-called Working Holiday Programme in May 2016. This agreement will enter into force in the middle of May 2017, enabling young Austrians and young Israelis to receive temporary work permits in their counterparts' countries and affording them a very personal and tangible impression of the country and its people. If it is indeed true that "talking brings folk together", then all the more so with regard to holidays and work.
- A bilateral agreement in the areas of culture, science and education was likewise signed in May 2016 by Foreign Minister Kurz and Prime Minister Netanyahu. On the basis of this agreement, in the future there will be even closer and more detailed cooperation between Austria and Israel in all these areas.
- An agreement to avoid double taxation and the prevention of tax avoidance was signed between the Republic of Austria and the State of Israel in November 2016 by Finance Ministers Hansjörg Schelling and Moshe Kahlon. This agreement improves the framework conditions for economic relations between Austria and Israel, thereby stimulating investment in both directions.



Photo: © Martin Weiss

Exchange visits

In May 2016, Minister of State Sebastian Kurz visited Israel. He was accompanied on this trip by a delegation of 'Young Austrian Leaders' (a return visit by a group of 'Young Israeli Leaders' took place in Austria in November 2016) and among other people met Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, signed several agreements and held a festive reception at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations.

MP delegates Andreas Schieder and Reinhold Lopatka met the Knesset spokesman, Yuli Edelstein, as well as numerous Knesset deputies at the end of May 2016. The further strengthening of bilateral relations between the two parliaments was a focus of this visit.

In September 2016, President Erich Foglar, together with the women's chair and the youth chairman of the ÖGB (Austrian Federation of Trades Union) visited Israel for a meeting with the president of the Israeli trades union, thus reviving a long tradition of the close exchange of ideas between the Austrian and Israeli trades union.

Doris Bures, President of the National Council, accepted a counter-invitation from Yuli Edelstein – the spokesman for the Knesset who had visited Austria in 2014 – and visited Israel in September 2016. The strengthening of bilateral parliamentary contacts between Austria and Israel was also on their agenda.

At the state funeral of Shimon Peres (on September 30th 2016), Austria was represented by the highest ranking politicians – President of the National Council, Doris Bures, standing in for the Federal President; Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz and former Federal President Heinz Fischer – in a last gesture of appreciation for one of the most impressive politicians of the State of Israel.



**Ambassador Weiss with the
“Young Israeli Leaders”**



**The president of the Austrian Parliament,
Doris Bures, meeting her Israeli partners**

Federal Minister Sophie Karasin visited Israel in October 2016 to exchange ideas on the issues of youth and family – together with the Israeli Justice Minister Shaked, she also took part in the celebration of the Austrian National Day.

Defense Minister Hans Peter Doskozil visited Israel in November, where he met his counterpart, the Israeli Defense Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, and participated in numerous security policy meetings.

In November 2016 Josef Pühringer, the governor of Upper Austria, undertook the traditional “Friedenslicht-Reise” or Peace Light Trip (the Peace Light is always brought to Austria from Bethlehem) and also signed a “Memorandum of Understanding on the Continuation of the Cultural Co-operation between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of Upper Austria for the years 2016 to 2021.”

Federal Minister Hansjörg Schelling arrived in Israel at the end of November 2016, where he met Finance Minister Kahlon and signed an agreement to avoid double taxation.

Economy

Israel witnessed economic growth of 3.25% in 2016, with unemployment at a low of 4.5%. This solid economic development provided the basis for booming economic relations between Austria and Israel.

Austrian exports to Israel amounted to EUR 342.2 million (+22.8%) in 2015. In the first nine months of 2016, these impressive results stabilized and, despite a slight decline, demonstrated that the significant increase in bilateral trade was sustainable. Chief exports are products in the fields of “machinery, apparatus and equipment,” followed by pharmaceutical products, as well as sugar and sugar products. Added to this are service exports, which are of particular importance in a highly developed market such as Israel.

Tourism is outstanding and continued to grow rapidly in 2016. Overnight stays in the first eleven months of 2016 were already above the full-year rate of

2015, and 2015, with an increase of 22%, was already a record year for tourism!

The flight connections between Austria were also strengthened: 14 weekly Austrian Airlines’ flights and 5 flights by the Israeli airline El Al were supplemented in winter by direct charter flights to Innsbruck and Salzburg.

Numerous well-attended cultural events – such as the first Austrian film week in Israel – rounded off an intensive jubilee year between Austria and Israel. Thus, at the end of 2016, only one question remained: How could the bilateral highs of 2016 be exceeded in the following years? The imminent first visit to Israel of Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern is undoubtedly a good start!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ambassador Martin Weiss was born in 1962, is married and has two children. After studying law at the universities of Graz and Vienna, he lectured at the Institute for State and Administrative Law at the University of Vienna. He then went to the USA (University of Virginia) where he earned a ‘Master of Laws’ (LL.M.). He has been an Austrian diplomat since 1990, heading among other things the Press and Information Service in Washington D.C. He was Consul General in Los Angeles and Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus. From 2012 to 2015 he was spokesman for the Austrian Foreign Ministry. Since November 2015 he has been Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Israel.

He who builds looks **to the future**

Casa Austria in the Austrian Pilgrim Hospice



Photo: © Photostudio Floyd



By **MARKUS ST. BUGNYAR**

You read correctly: We are building. An adjoining structure in our garden area, to which we have given the name Casa Austria. Zealous Holy Land pilgrims know that Franciscan guest-houses are generally called Casa Nova; we have chosen to add our Austrian reference to the title.

On this double page of our Jerusalem-Correspondence you will find a sketch of this part of the building: thirteen housing units for our volunteers and guests, an archive for historical research into our house history, a safe-room as prescribed by law, and areas designated to house the workshop and laundry room from the main building. This in turn opens up new design possibilities for the planned overall renovation. The completion is scheduled for the summer of 2018.

Casa Austria allows us to realize two long-standing concerns of our house: firstly, we are increasing the economic viability of our institution and are thus better able to meet the wishes of our pilgrims. Secondly, the expectations of our guests in the 21st century have shifted towards higher standards. The project readies us for

the future and for our future guests. He who builds looks to the future!

This undertaking costs €3.5 million. Our location in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem is a source of great pride and pleasure to visiting Austrians, but it also comes with a host of special considerations as this project amply demonstrates. It is impossible to approach with heavy equipment and large trucks; the construction site recalls the days of our founding in 1856-1858, when we needed many industrious hands to get the work done.

The Austrian Bishops' Conference has already contributed €300,000 to Casa Austria, for which we are very grateful. The Austrian Hospice Foundation under the auspices of the Board of Trustees has agreed to contribute 1.2 million Euros. The remaining two million will be covered by donations: we have assigned ourselves the task of setting up a building-block campaign, which we want to launch on these very pages.

You will find inserted here a payment slip for our building account. We kindly ask for your support.

Why should you support us?

- The Austrian Hospice is a time-honoured Austrian institution in the Orient, the first national pilgrim hostel to open in the Holy Land. Emperor Franz Joseph and the Archbishop of Vienna are our founding fathers. To this day the Austrian flag flutters over the rooftops of the most famous city in the world. To ensure this, you might wish to contribute. The Pilgrim Hospice offers you a piece of home away from home.
- Jerusalem was not chosen by chance. This city was the first witness to biblical history and the deeds of Jesus. Here, the world of the Bible can be experienced at first hand. After an eventful day you return to an oasis of silence that has impressed guests throughout the years. Our pilgrim hostel is not situated just anywhere in the Holy Land, but right in the heart of the Old City, a stone's throw from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, as close as can be to the most central place of Christendom. To have one's own Austrian house here also means the right to have a home in the place of salvation. Enjoy your share in it!
- Our guest-house also provides employment and enables our employees to earn a decent livelihood; this social aspect is also our mission. Our volunteers grapple with the topic of the Holocaust, which has such an important place in Austrian history, and also with the Middle East conflict, which does not stop at Europe's gates. Jerusalem was a melting pot of peoples already in biblical times. Our peace service and the Hospice Academy open our eyes to the hardships of this country and also contribute to intercultural issues in contemporary Europe. With more resources we can achieve more. Get involved in world events with your donation!

As a thank you for your donation, your name will be entered into our Donors' Book, which from this point on is to be found in our house chapel. So, through your efforts, you are very close to the heavens above Jerusalem. A thank-you certificate formally confirms your contribution.

The individual building blocks of this campaign are graded as follows: donations of up to €1,000 are awarded a special stamp, as well as a poster showing



Photo: © A.H.

the first, beautifully-crafted blueprint for the hospice by Anton Endlicher. A donation of €5,000 is met with a gratis copy of the recently-published Hospice history "At Home in the Orient" I published together with Helmut Wohnout. We have come up with something really special for particularly generous donors: next to our chapel, a wall has been set up "in honour of our benefactors", where your name will be immortalised on an artistically-designed tile. For donations of €10,000, the tile is 15 x 7.5 cm; €50,000 and above, the tile is a perfect square of 15 x 15 cm, plus the privilege of a 10-day Hospice stay for 4 people. We are gratified to report that the first donor in this category has already come forward!

A building block campaign is, of course, concerned with striving towards such "high goals". But rest assured: every contribution helps us to fulfill our tasks in Jerusalem.

Please help us in our efforts. We are counting on you!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Markus St. Bugnyar (born 1975) has been the rector of the Austrian Pilgrim Hospice in Jerusalem since April 2004. His term of office has witnessed the general renovation of the sisters' house and the expansion of the Viennese coffee house. The driving force behind the Hospice Academy, he organises intercultural concerts and scientific symposia and publishes material on the history and present of the pilgrim hostel.

Locumtenentia austriaca

By **MARKUS ST. BUGNYAR**

On 30th October, 2016, the new marble panel of the Austrian lieutenancy of the Order of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre was consecrated by Archbishop Emeritus Dr. Alois Kothgasser and Lieutenant DDr. Karl Lengheimer in a solemn vespers. Affixed to the right of our entrance doors, it will draw visitors' attention to the close connection between the papal Order, re-established in the 19th century, and the founding of the pilgrim hospice, which took place at the same time: united in common concern for the welfare of Christians in the Holy Land. Nearly all rectors in the course of the history of the Austrian Pilgrim Hospice were, or are, members of the Order. Conversely, the approximately 560 members of the Order throughout the Austrian provinces show their affection for "their house in Jerusalem" by their generous contributions to the construction and maintenance work of the Hospice. No other lieutenancy of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre has an affiliation like this in the Holy City; no other house offers its services more as a hostel for the Order's pilgrimages.

Photo: © AH.



Archbishop Alois Kothgasser consecrates the new Knights' Order panel of the Austrian lieutenancy

Spoil Yourself!



Photo: © AH.

By **VICE-RECTOR SISTER BERNADETTE SCHWARZ SCSC**

If you read or hear the words "Austrian Hospice", what does it conjure up? Probably not a Viennese coffee house. We not only run a pilgrims' guest-house with 124 guest-beds, but also a Viennese coffee house.

Some of our visitors and guests are astonished to get a schnitzel served with potato salad and homemade cheese pie. And after that, apple strudel and Sachertorte from our kitchen and a Viennese melange, cappuccino or cafe latte.

The coffee beans for this wide range – as is usual in Viennese coffee houses – are imported from Austria and the coffee is made from the freshly-ground beans.

We import not only Meinel coffee beans from Austria, but also beer. Both Edelweis and Gösser, light and dark, are very popular with our pilgrims and tourists. Far from home after a long hard day, what could be better than a well-cooled Gösser!

Popular on the menu is our "Jerusalempizza", a creation of the house. It is not Italian but has a genuine Oriental touch thanks to the addition of olive oil and zaatar (the Arab word for a blend of thyme, oregano and marjoram). The Jerusalempizza – whether vegetarian or with salami – is truly delicious and also healthy.

Classical music makes the coffee house a relaxing and healing place to while away the hours. Guests and visitors can also find rest and recuperation in our garden, which many call an "oasis of peace".

Have I aroused your appetite and curiosity through this glimpse into our Viennese coffee house? I am looking forward to your visit!



Photos: © Ronnie Niedermeyer

Jerusalem **Spirits**

By **RONNIE NIEDERMEYER**

For thousands of years people have worshipped Jerusalem as a holy city. All three Abrahamic world religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – have sacred places here. According to tradition, God chose this very place as his earthly home. It was here that Adam, the first man, was created; where Abraham came to sacrifice his son and Jesus was crucified, where Mohammed rose to heaven.

Jerusalem offers no geostrategic advantages, natural resources or access to water. And yet more wars were fought over this city than over any other. Medieval Europe regarded this city as the axis mundi, the centre of the universe. Mystical texts tell us that the sky hangs deeper here than elsewhere. Even secular people report mood fluctuations in Jerusalem's Old City. But what is the source of this simultaneously good and destructive force?

Ronnie Niedermeyer, who lived in Jerusalem as a youth, returned in 2013 to address this question. His photographs capture religious places, people and rituals, but also secular moments imbued with spiritual energy. He has not only created a living portrait of Jerusalem's spiritual life, but also explores what spirit really means to people.

Niedermeyer was born in 1980 in Vienna. Since 2006, he has been working on a trilogy about time, space and spirit through images and texts that illustrate these concepts in three different cities. The first volume, on Vienna, was published in 2008 by Christian Brandstätter Verlag. The second, this time on Leipzig, is about to be published. Jerusalem Spirits will complete the trilogy.

These pictures, some of which hang in our guest-rooms and are available for purchase, offer a modest preview of his planned book.

If you are interested in finding out more, please write to:

contact@rn.co.at

From Jerusalem to Austria and back again

The travels of a “Curiosity”



Photo: © Robert Michael Kurzböck



Photo: © R. M. Kurzböck

The gentleman to the right is my grandfather

By **ROBERT MICHAEL KURZBÖCK**

Well over a hundred years have passed since my grandfather Franz Josef traveled with a group of pilgrims from Upper Austria to the Holy Land. He traveled from Trieste to Haifa on the Poseidon, then by train to Jerusalem before arriving at the Hospice of the Holy Family. A long and arduous journey.

As a member of the **PILGRIM-MUSIC**, he awoke his fellow-travelers with the call of his wing-horn every morning; most of them, however, were more concerned with their seasickness. Fortunately, he was one of the few who survived the stormy crossing tolerably well.

Accompanied by members of the high clergy, the pilgrims, upon arrival in the city of Jerusalem, finally reached their long-awaited destination. The pilgrimage group did not have much time to rest: the days in the

Holy Land were filled with visits to the most important sights in the city and excursions to sites throughout the region. Devotions, masses and innumerable prayers were part and parcel of the pious edifice. My grandfather often told me about the beautiful and intimate Hospice chapel, where he found rest and his faith reinforced.

But it was also an enjoyable trip. A trip to the Dead Sea brought a welcome change. A nocturnal escape without prior notice from the sacred walls was a cause of great excitement. Grandfather knew the Judas Kiss of Giotto’s frescoes in the Cappella degli Scovegni in Padua from one of his trips to Veneto. This image inspired him to seek out the Garden of Gethsemane at the Mount of Olives with some friends. They lucked out. In thought and prayer, the escapees lingered until the early hours of the morning. They had enough candles and maybe a little food too. But meditation allows one to get by even without.

Another souvenir which the homecomer brought home, is the souvenir that I gladly handed over to the Hospice and to all those who want to admire it. At the time, this curiosity was the state of the art: a wooden device for viewing photographs, a stereoscope more precisely, with two cases. It affords an expansive view of the Holy Land: its people and their everyday business, cultural sites, landscapes. Today it is to dive into a long-lost world.

As a young boy I too came to enjoy the so-called family **JERUSALEM SESSIONS**. This special contraption was passed around like the apple strudel which my grandmother served. I was very impressed by the presentations and the stories, perhaps even curious. Of the real country, at that time I still had no idea.

My Jerusalem enthusiasm and many visits to the Hospice are entirely due to my revered grandfather, Franz. I often ask myself if he would still be able to find his bearings in the city. And what he would think about how the stereoscope found its way back to Jerusalem.

Stereoscope

Photo: © A.H.



Jaffa Gate Image for a stereoscope

By VALENTIN WEBER

With the help of a stereoscope (Greek stereos: firm, solid and skopeo: to look, see), images could be reproduced as early as the 19th century. Just as human beings perceive their surroundings from two angles at the same time by means of their two eyes, stereoscopic images were taken from two slightly different perspectives, which were then inserted into the stereoscope. The viewer, looking through the stereoscope, thus looks with the left and the right eye separately upon two slightly offset pictures, which produces the impression of depth.

The British physicist Sir Charles Wheatstone constructed a precursor of the stereoscope in 1838. Eleven years later, Sir David Brewster simplified the stereoscope and also developed the first binocular camera with which one could make the stereoscopic image pairs required for the stereoscope. After the stereoscope was shown at the World Exposition in London in 1851, it continued to increase in popularity until it became a regular mass medium around 1900. From 1910, however, advances in film technology meant that the stereoscope was gradually replaced.

Photo: © A.H.



This stereoscope found its way into our archive

Master classes in the Pilgrim Hospice



Alois Musil in an oriental dress

By THE EDITOR

Alois Musil Exhibition

The opening of the photo exhibition on orientalist and theologian Alois Musil (1868–1944) coincided with the symposium held in the Hospice in September 2016. Organized in conjunction with the Czech representative office in Ramallah, the photographic exhibition could be seen in the Austrian Hospice until the middle of January 2017.

After graduating from high school, Alois Musil determines to help his parents out financially by enrolling in the Theological Seminary in Olomouc (now Czech Republic). While studying, he hears of the opening of the École Biblique in Jerusalem and decides to continue his studies there. Later he goes to Beirut. The move to the Orient marks the start of his extensive expeditions: Musil's most important discovery is in 1898, when he was the first European to visit Amra, a castle not far from Amman. In later times he also takes part in expeditions to today's Syria and Iraq. After the establishment of Czechoslovakia, a chair is established in his name at the Charles University in Prague.

His numerous publications are still considered important sources of research. His work is collected in more than 70 books.

Petra Klose co-ordinates music master classes in Jerusalem with the support of internationally renowned artists, in which the Pilgrim Hospice participates as part of its Academy activity. Talented children and young people, especially from poorer families, are offered a unique opportunity to improve their skills. At the end of a course lasting several days, a final concert is held for friends and family where the students' newly-acquired knowledge is demonstrated for the first time.

In recent months, we have focused mainly on singing pedagogy; over the last half-year the master classes took place in the autumn, in January and March.

The centerpiece of the two-week long master class in October and November was the scenic realization and interpretation of musical works. In addition to actress Johanna Lonsky, Rosalba Lo Ducca, a world-class name in opera, shared her know-how with young talents from Jerusalem. The newly-acquired knowledge and skills were immediately put to test in the concert project "Die Wanderer", which was presented in the salon of the Austrian Hospice on November 10th, and included unknown musical jewels by the cantor and Schubert contemporary Salomon Sulzer and his sons. Apart from the young Palestinian talents of the Academy of the Austrian Hospice, an international artist team with performers from Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany and Israel joined us for the concert.

The music agency K and K Vienna was responsible for the organization of all the musical encounters and events mentioned. The stay of renowned artists was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Austrian Cultural Forum in Tel Aviv, the Austrian state of Vorarlberg, the city of Vienna and the Canadian representative office in Ramallah.

If you too would like to help us help Khader in his future education, please donate to the Austrian Hospice Social Fund AT43 1919 000300 150125. BSSWATWW using the code-name 'Khader'. The first year of training which includes a German course, accommodation and flights will cost around 15,000 Euros. Many thanks from Jerusalem!

Petra's wonder child

An exceptional talent from Bethlehem

By **PETRA KLOSE**

A young tenor from Bethlehem, the twenty-year-old Khader Jarayseh, has the potential to become a new star in the lofty world of opera. He currently studies literature and two years ago won the Palestinian poetry competition as the youngest participant. But since childhood the real dream of this young man has been, one day, to become a classical singer.

He garnered artistic experience and taught himself to play various instruments as a choralist and soloist in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. He received special support from Sister Patricia Crockford, a Maltese-Irish nun who teaches music at the Bethlehem University, founded by the Benedictine La Salle community. However, in order to develop further and to get closer to his life goal, professional singing lessons and an in-depth study of musical theory are necessary, both currently an impossibility in the Palestinian West Bank.

It was not until November 2016 that I discovered Khader Jarayseh during the filming of an ORF documentary in Bethlehem. We visitors from Austria were treated to a spontaneous rendition of an old Arabic Christian song whose interpretation and clarity of sound rendered us speechless. The upshot was that he was given lessons in singing technique for the first time. A few weeks later further education was made possible within the framework of the Austrian Academy. Khader Jarayseh showed astonishing progress in just a few hours and greatly impressed with his extraordinary feeling for

phrasing and rhythm, as well as his perfect pitch. Supported by the Pilgrim Hospice, the student, who was always awarded top marks at university, is embarking on regular German lessons to prepare him for an academic career at a music college in the German-speaking world. The goal is to bring Khader Jarayseh to Austria in autumn 2017 where he will undertake a year-long pre-academic course before beginning his music studies.

"I'm in love with opera and I know this is my chance from god" wrote Khader Jarayseh at the beginning of the year, giving touching expression to his love of opera when he sent another photo to his teacher in Vienna in order that she might oversee his progress from afar. In March he will continue his lessons within the framework of the Academy of the Austrian Pilgrim Hospice.

We will do our utmost to help this exceptional talent continue to pursue his goal. His striking musicality and tenor voice with an exceptionally wide range and nuance in tone ensure that Khader Jarayseh deserves to be heard. And perhaps it will soon be a voice from Bethlehem that wins over the international opera world with a big heart and a belief in the power of music ...



Photo: © Petra R. Klose

Khader Jarayseh from Betlehem kindly asks for your assistance



Photo: © Petra Klose

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Petra R. Klose, born in Vorarlberg, studied Theatre and German in Vienna. Additionally trained in ballet and harp. She has worked in the fields of dramaturgy, direction and production for the Vienna Festival, the Bregenz Performing Arts Festival, the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Burgtheater and the Opéra National de Lyon. Founder of an agency for artists and cultural projects in Vienna, she has worked with events' organisers such as the Aix-en-Provence Festival, the Glyndebourne Festival, the Mozart Week in Salzburg, the Theater an der Wien, the Bolshoi in Moscow, the Teatro Real in Madrid, the Staatsoper in Berlin, the Musikverein in Vienna, and La Scala in Milan.

Nostalgia – Christians in an endangered Space



Photo: © AH.

Linda Dorigo's Exhibition Nostalgia

By THE EDITOR

For three years the photographer Linda Dorigo and the journalist Andrea Milluzzi traveled through the Middle East and documented their search for the Christians living there. The pictures in the exhibition address the notion of nostalgia: “Not only does it define itself as a psychological moment of sadness and regret over the loss of loved ones and places. Nostalgia also wants to be understood as a response to the feeling of encroaching danger to one’s own identity. This feeling is what connects the Christian communities in the Middle East, which often perceive themselves as forced to flee.” (Linda Dorigo)

Dorigo and Milluzzi set off on their journey in 2011 and lived with Christian communities in nine countries of the Middle East. Their work focuses on the

everyday life of this oft-overlooked minority. The result of their work, “Rifugio,” a collection of photos in book form, was published by Shilt-Publishing House in 2015.

The exhibition seeks to cultivate an awareness of what happens daily in the Orient. This is achieved by illustrating the values of these communities. At the same time, the photos are intended to encourage us to think about our own values and to encounter foreign places and people without prejudice.

Linda Dorigo is an independent photographer and journalist. In her work, she focuses on faith, minorities and the rootedness of people in their homeland.

Andrea Milluzzi is a press journalist and for a long time worked for the daily newspaper *Liberazione*. He currently works for many Italian media outlets and was co-founder of the website reportageitalia.it.

Symposium Habsburg Abroad

ACADEMY

Our Academy addresses the history and significance of the Bible, the Holy Land and the role of pilgrimage in scientific publications, exhibitions and lectures, as well as the contemporary history of the Middle East. The chief focus is on intercultural dialogue and music education in cooperation with local partner institutions.

By THE EDITOR

At the beginning of September, respected experts from four different countries presented a two-day symposium on the influence of the Habsburg Monarchy on Africa, and the Near and Far East. The patrons of the symposium, Charles und George Habsburg-Lorraine, were much in evidence through their contributions at the start and the end of the event. We thank all speakers.

APL. PROF. DR. ULRIKE SEEGER, Art historian at the University of Stuttgart: Laying the Foundation Stone as Program. Jerusalem. New Year's Eve 1856.

DR. HELMUT WOHNOUT, of the Austrian Federal Press Office: On the history of the establishment and construction of the Austrian Pilgrims' House.

BENOÎT CONSTENSOUX of the Parisian J. Kugel Galerie: The traditions of donations to the Holy Land by the Habsburgs and the Holy Roman Empire.

DR. ROBERT-T. FISCHER, of the Austrian Federal Chancellery: Austrian Palestine Policy 1840–1918.

DR. FELICITAS HEIMANN-JELINEK, Sigi Feigel-guest-professor for Jewish Studies at the University of Zürich: The first Europeans, Habsburgs und other Jews – a world before 1914.

DR. FRIEDRICH SCHIPPER, extraordinary professor for biblical archaeology at the Heiligenkreuz University:

From Robert Leeb to Alois Musil: Austrians on expedition in the Near East until the end of the monarchy.

DR. PETER PANTZER, Emeritus Professor of Japanese at the University of Bonn: Habsburg in Japan.

DR. DOROTHEA MC EWAN, of the University of London: La Missione Austriaca. Reflections on mission, colonialism and reality on the ground, using the example of the Austrian Sudan mission.

DR. GEORG LEHNER, lecturer at the University of Vienna: China 1900. Austria-Hungary and the „Boxer“-Rebellion.

HON.-PROF. MMAG. MARKUS ST. BUGNYAR, Rector of the Austrian Hospice: On the encounter and confrontation of the Habsburgs with Islam.

Under the working title “Habsburgs Abroad. The International Agendas of Central Europe”, the Austrian Hospice Academy is currently working towards publishing the contributions to this instructive conference held on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of the foundation of our house.



Dr. Helmut Wohnout is delivering his lecture in the Salon of the Austrian Hospice

A Much-Needed Facelift

The restoration of the Edicule containing the tomb of Christ in Jerusalem's church of the Holy Sepulchre was recently completed



Photo: © Marcin Mazur

By **ANDREA KROGMANN**

On February 20th, Professor Antonia Moropoulou removed the iron cage around the chamber housing the tomb of Christ in the Holy Sepulchre church in Jerusalem that had been installed by the British in 1947 at the end of their mandate. Next month, on 22nd March, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophylus III, Armenian Patriarch Nourhan I Manougian and Franciscan Custos Francesco Patton will officially announce the completion of the restoration and consecrate the crowning glory of the holiest Christian site. By Easter this year, which according to the different calendars of the Western and Eastern churches falls on a common date, the edicule will hopefully be resplendent in its previous glory.

Where normally the sweet aroma of incense and blossom-water holds sway, these days the smell of welding and stone dust prevails. Since Easter 2016, a team of 50 scientists from the Technical University of Athens, headed by Moropoulou, has been working under extreme pressure to repair the edicule. The agreement of the confessions to the much-needed work is seen as something of a sensation in church circles in the face of the rigid Status Quo, in which the rights to the holy site have been fixed since 1852. Antonia Moropoulou is pleased with the progress made in the work: "The positive surprise was the good cooperation of the three com-

munities at all levels, from the technical office to the clergy in the church to the three spiritual leaders."

Stone by stone, the researchers exposed the prominent shrine. Based on the scientific preliminary study of the researchers from Athens, the marble was cleaned, joints were replaced, damage repaired, the soot of the candles removed. Titanium was used to reinforce the structure, together with specially prepared injections of concrete and mortar. The British cage which held the structurally-fragile construction together is now superfluous after 70 years. Stone by stone other deformations that had accrued over the centuries also disappeared.

Last October, the researchers removed the marble slab over the grave of Christ for the first time in centuries. Among the first things they found was a further marble slab, broken and engraved, which enables conclusions to be drawn about their origins. One layer deeper they came upon another layer, presumably the original bedrock.

The observer sees nothing of all this from the outside. Scaffolding protects pilgrims and visitors from splinters and dust and makes orientation even more difficult in the already inaccessible church. The construction site and its experts guard the barriers from prying eyes and questions. The fact that rarified work on such a religiously-loaded space is taking place to the exclusion of the faithful public stimulates fantasies: stories about odd odours and the strange failure of technical measuring instruments were not long in coming. In fact, some instruments did indeed stop functioning at the moment the grave was opened, says Antonia Moropoulou. More she does not want to say, speculation is not her business. The project is too serious.

The engineer from Athens refers to transparency. All scientific interim reports have been published. The final results of the investigations are to be followed by a comprehensive report. Scientists and those interested will be able to access a data platform.

At Easter 2017, when the church is filled with believers and visitors from all over the world, first-time visitors will hardly notice the months of elaborate restoration: the confessions involved in the church have tend-



Photo: © Andrea Krogmann

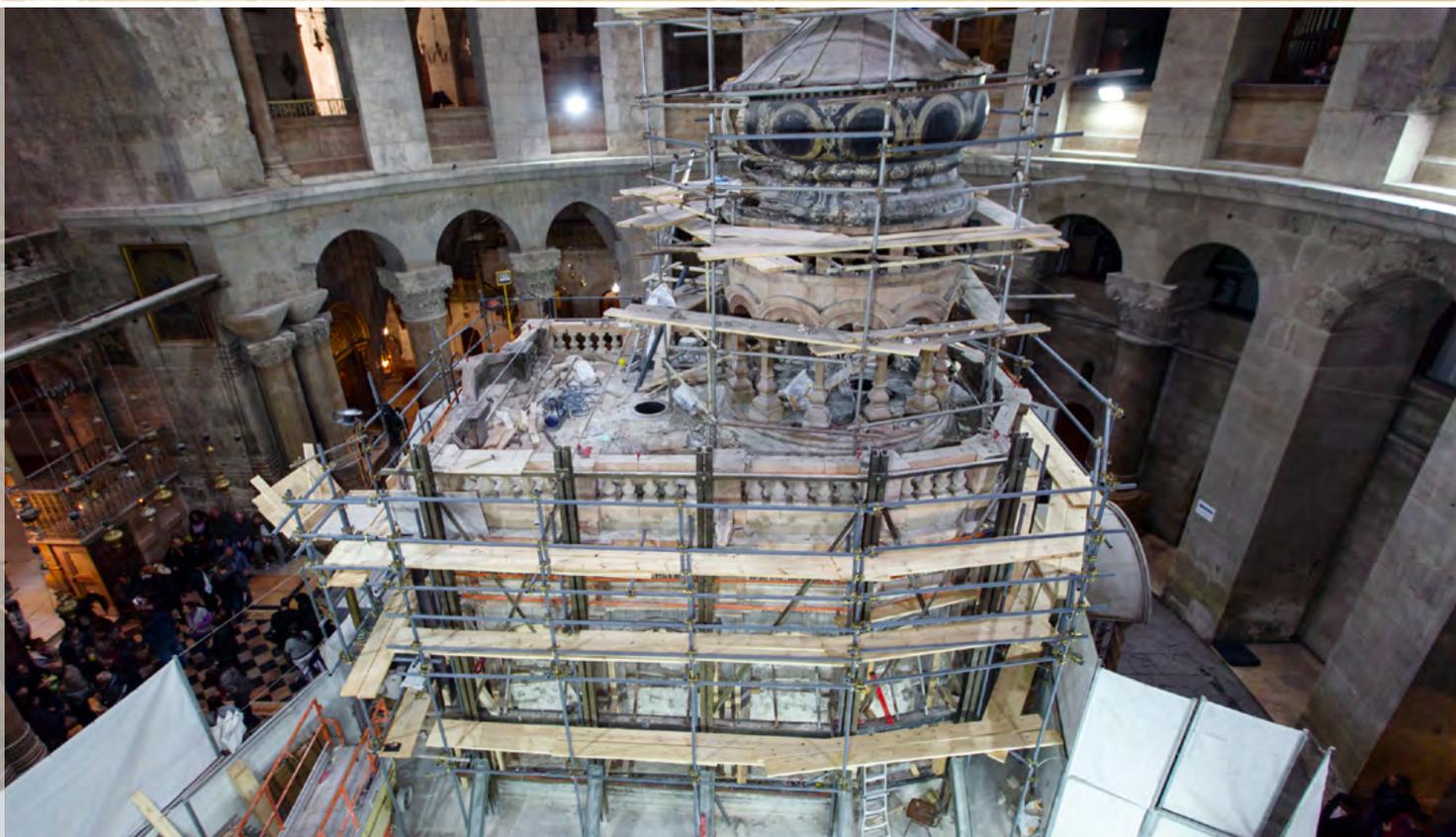


Photo: © Andrea Krogmann

ed towards a conservative restoration policy. Or, in the words of Patriarch Theophilus III: “Everything shall remain as it is. In this way, the existing rights and privileges, as set out in the Status Quo, are strictly respected and maintained.” The Patriarch said the strength of the consensus agreement was founded on this respect and cherished the hope that it would provide “the impetus for further important work such as the sewage system, power lines and flooring.”

Already, the researchers from Athens are preparing a preliminary study on the situation of the substratum of the edicule. How dramatic the situation is and its possible effects on the stability and sustainability of the restoration work came as a surprise to the scientists. “We have found that the rising water endangers the edicule,” explains Antonia Moropoulou. Furthermore, sewage and rainwater channels “are laid under the rotunda in an arbitrary manner. The urgent recommendation of experts from Greece to the three confessions: the proper installation of a drainage system is necessary.”

The final decision on the continuation of the work lies with the confessional groups. The tomb chapel will continue to busy researchers from Athens for years to come. Antonia Moropoulou: “We have the responsibility to monitor the performance of the tomb chapel after its restoration, to check its structural health and the thermohydric balance as well as to ensure that there are no shifts.”

But the Greek is already satisfied with the results. The work on the edicule that is “unique for the whole of

mankind” came at the right time: a few decades later, and nothing would have remained of the original stone under the marble but a heap of sand. Now the stone can be conserved and protected – a task which, according to Moropoulou, would have been impossible even a few years ago.

The confessions were even able to agree on a small change: a window of about 90 by 30 centimetres was cut into one of the edicule’s marble walls giving observers a clear view of the original limestone bedrock. This ensures that a bit of the original cave feeling is retained.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrea Krogmann, born in Detmold (NRW) in 1977, studied Catholic theology at the University of Bonn. Afterwards, she worked as a lecturer in liturgical science at the catholic-theological faculty of the University of Friborg / Switzerland, before joining the Swiss Catholic International Press Agency (Kipa) as an editor in 2016. She has been living in Jerusalem since 2010, reporting from the Middle East for, among others, the Catholic News Agency (KNA) and the Tagespost in words and pictures.

Passover in Jerusalem

“So there was great joy in Jerusalem”, it is written in 2 Chron 30,25-26, when King Hezekiah invites the people to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem.

By **WALTER HOMOLKA**

Passover is the first of the three pilgrimage festivals at which, during the time of the Temple, Jews from all over the country and later also from the Diaspora made an annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The significance of this great festival lies in the memory of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, through whom they enter into history as a people.

On the eve of Passover, the Haggadah, the story of the exodus, is read aloud, “Whoever is in need, let him come and celebrate with us. This year we are here; next year in the land of Israel. This year we are slaves; next year we will be free people.” Since the Middle Ages, the Seder night has concluded with the sentence, “Next year in Jerusalem!” The desire expresses a longing which has been preserved for two millennia. This longing comes with a finite expectation: according to Isaiah 22, at the end of days all peoples are to go to Jerusalem where they will receive eternal peace.

It was Rabbi Shalom of Wiener Neustadt (died around 1415), who adopted the Hasal Seder Passover, a poetic summary of all the rules for the Seder night, as the conclusion of the Passover festival liturgy. From his pupil, Jewish scholar Isaac von Tyrnau, who was born in Vienna, we know that the words, “Next year in Jerusalem” initially preceded these additional lines. The sentence is mentioned for the first time in Tyrnau’s “Book of Jewish Customs” (Sefer ha-Minhagim) and was probably the custom in the duchy of Austria, the kingdom of Hungary and in Styria at the end of the 14th century.

When in the middle of April this year Jews the world over celebrate the Seder night, they will end it with the sentence “L’Shana Haba’ah B’Yerushalayim” (Next year in Jerusalem). We then envision the journey that takes us from Egypt to Jerusalem. The Hebrew name for Egypt is Mizrayim, meaning “boundaries”, “restrictions” and “obstacles”, while Yerushalayim means “city of peace”. The path to Jerusalem thus leads from the concrete to the abstract, from the profane to the holy.



Photo: © Michaela Weber/Hentrich & Hentrich Verlag

But what do you say when you already live in Jerusalem? With the settlement of more and more Jews in the land of Israel, it was customary here to conclude the Seder night with the sentence, “Next year in the reconstructed Jerusalem”. However, the term Yerushalayim Ha-Benuyah does not postulate the unauthorised construction of the Third Temple and the reintroduction of the sacrifice. Our task is to make conditions better, to aim towards the ideal Jerusalem to which Israel’s Declaration of Independence also refers: “The State of Israel will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel.” Next year in Jerusalem? If we take the social mission of the prophets seriously, we get closer to this hope.

Michael Shire (Publisher)
THE PASSOVER HAGGADAH
 Language: German, Hebrew
 64 pages, Hardcover
 64 Illustrations
 ISBN: 978-3-942271-89-9
 24.90 €

Photo: © Verlag Hentrich & Hentrich



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Do this in remembrance of me!

(Luke 22:19)

Social work undertaken by the Austrian Hospice

By MARKUS ST. BUGNYAR

During my visit to Gaza last July, this was one of the two biblical quotations I saw in the children’s home. The other quotation was also taken from the biblical accounts marking Maundy Thursday: “Take it; this is my body.” (Mark 14:22)

The white and blue-clad sisters of Mother Teresa understand their service in the following context: They encounter Jesus in the most seriously handicapped newborns and children up to the age of seven. To be there for these children is to attest to Christ’s example in the world. A world that gladly removes itself from sickness and misery.

Thus, two verses of the Bible give rise to concrete calls to action, theory is transformed into practise, and faceless Christianity becomes lived testimony.

The task of our pilgrim-house is to provide people who are exploring the Holy Places with a cordial reception, lodging and a place to rest. With the Holy Scriptures in hand, many pilgrims follow the narrative strains of the books of the Bible. But in the rocky places and sites on our journey through this land, we also come across – as Pope John Paul II liked to call Christians – “living stones”, people of our faith and also those of other convictions too. Together we face the challenges of everyday life, a fragile political situation and a longing for peace.

To really hear Jesus’ word can only mean to live according to it. Being active in the social sphere, within the narrow confines of our capacity, is a very real function of our house.

First, we do this by creating jobs that enable many people here to lead dignified lives without having to look for ways to emigrate. As a second step, we are able to offer help to children and young people in school and vocational training. A good education is often more likely to be found in church schools and universities, but school fees are often too high and it is those people whom we seek to help. There are in addition unavoidable emergency cases which are not covered by conventional health insurance, but also joyful rites of passage such as a marriage, for which many people have to enter into debt before gaining their independence. Housing in Jerusalem is outrageously expensive. Anyone who



Photo: © Andrea Krogmann

moves to a cheaper area on the outskirts of town or to the West Bank risks not being able to return to Jerusalem. Thus Christians “disappear” from their neighbourhoods of origin somewhere inside the old city. At the same time, new “ghettoes”, islands of Christian presence, are growing in the midst of unknown surroundings. As far as our resources allow, we also help with house renovations and modifications, for example when disability makes this necessary.

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn decreed some time ago that we are allowed to use €10,000 annually from our current net income for social purposes. This is the foundation of our social fund. In addition, we receive gifts from our friends and guests, whom we inform about concrete concerns. Some readers may also recall our work on behalf of young Armenians in the old city, when their participation in the Pan-Armenian games was threatened. An appeal on Facebook quickly raised more than the sum needed.

I ask for your understanding if we, in the interests of privacy and discretion, communicate the names and particulars of our social activities in personal conversation only. This is done as a sign of respect for the dignity of those with whom we live and work here.

Changes in “Civilian Service Abroad”



Photo: © AH.

By THE EDITOR

Since January 1, 2016, the revised Volunteer Act also applies to what was previously subsumed under “civilian service abroad”. Since then, those liable to military service who receive a valid civilian service decision and want to use this programme to fulfill their service, are correctly termed “volunteers”.

In conjunction with the charitable association Caritas Vorarlberg, we offer ten places of employment in the Austrian Pilgrim Hospice. The 12-month period remains the same, but the hours have changed. Where previously volunteers had to work “at least 40 hours”, we are now looking at “34 working hours maximum”. The holiday entitlement was accordingly shortened from 30 to 25 working days. The right to obtain family allowance during this time is also new. What was previously deemed pocket money is now settled via a formal pay slip.

One of the major innovations is the commitment to a 150-hour educational programme, divided into a seminar before the beginning of service and after returning

home, as well as activities (excursions, lectures, meetings) on the ground. Considerable emphasis is placed on engaging with the Holocaust, a subject that is never far from the surface in contemporary Israel, and specifically our moral obligation as Austrians in this country. The current Middle East conflict is, of course, also one of the subjects we will be looking at.

PEACE SERVICE

As part of our peace service we see our mission as providing survivors of the Holocaust and their families with the opportunity to talk about that chapter of our history in in-depth encounters. Our volunteers should also have the opportunity to get to know the respective viewpoints of the parties to the conflict in the region.

Journey to Jerusalem

To present ourselves and our function as an “Austrian Outpost in the Orient” is of great importance to us. That is why we are always happy when politicians arrange it so that they can visit the Austrian Hospice. A guided tour through this historic building and a stopover in our coffee house are essential ingredients of visits.

By THE EDITOR

Doris Bures, President of the Austrian National Council, was our guest on September 24th. In the following months, we welcomed Minister of Defence Hans Peter Doskozil (15th November), Finance Minister Dr. Hansjörg Schelling (28th November) and Secretary of State Muna Duzdar (3rd January). The governor of Upper Austria, Dr. Josef Pühringer, visited us on the occasion of the Peace Light Tour on November 20th. Politician Dr. Matthias Strolz, our guest on 31st October, took time out over coffee and apple strudel to talk with some of our volunteers.



Delegation of President Doris Bures

Board of Trustees



Curator Franz Eckert and Robert Rintersbacher visiting the Haram ash-Sharif

By MARKUS ST. BUGNYAR

In his capacity as Protector of the Austrian Pilgrim Hospice in Jerusalem, the Archbishop of Vienna, His Eminence Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, appoints not only the rector of the House, but also a five-headed Board of Trustees.

In grateful recognition of their work, Helmut Jonas, Wolfgang Schwarz and Robert Rintersbacher were relieved of their functions in July 2016. Helmut Wohnout, Wilhelm Kraetschmer and Guntram Drexel were appointed to succeed them, joining Franz Eckert and Alexander Kragora. The board is headed by Rita Kupka-Baier.



Governor Josef Pühringer and Bishop Manfred Scheuer accompanied the Friedenslicht-Pilgrims at the Hospice

He is not here, for he is risen, as he said

The Easter message cannot be expressed more succinctly; nor more solemnly and precisely. The Bible does not tell us what resurrection looked like, how we were to imagine it: resurrected from the dead, physically, biologically. If the Bible wanted to describe this to us, it would have to lie.

By **MARKUS ST. BUGNYAR**

Our thinking and understanding functions in such a way that we can only describe facts known to us from experience through use of familiar concepts and images. Something is green because something else is blue, something small because something else is big, round because other things are angular. Our thinking and understanding lives through comparison. Resurrection is so incomparable that we cannot have a vocabulary for it; unless of course we are lying.

Photo: © Andrea Krogmann



Crazy. Easter – Resurrection is the main content of all Christian faith, and we cannot tell anyone plausibly about it.

Why do we wonder when it is hard for many to believe?

With every advance, technically and scientifically throughout the history of man, the understanding and ordering spirit matures ever more.

No longer numinous, no longer mythical, driven by gods and stars, life shapes itself – free of superstition. Faith and knowledge are not mutually exclusive, the Holy Scripture says so at the very outset: Replenish the earth and subdue it – which presupposes knowledge and technology and their application and use.

But does man exhaust himself in these categories of life? Is everything measurable, accessible, capable of being planned and intended? Is not that which makes life exciting the surprising, the unmerited gift of love? Do we not need the recognition of others in order to live, do we not mature through pain and disappointment?

Humanity must be objective more than science is able to explain to us, otherwise science would long since have reached an end. Not even the sentence, We have beautiful weather today, can prove science.

The very thing that makes us nervous when we think of the limits of the possible; which irritates and repels us, forcing us to reflect, when nature and the environment are lost to us, when the laws of capitalism are out of control, that place into which we fall, when income and life are taken away from us – all this raises us above matter, lifts us above myth and superstition, gives us insight and spirit, and determines man in his innermost being.

If reason is confined to the measurable, and does not take into account man's longing, it deprives itself of his own possibilities.

Faith need not be absurd to be faith; it is faith that gives sense to the whole.

Come, see the place where he lay.

We are in that place and see the empty grave. In his absence the greatest density of human life prevails: liberated from earthly heaviness, redeemed to pure spirit.



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