

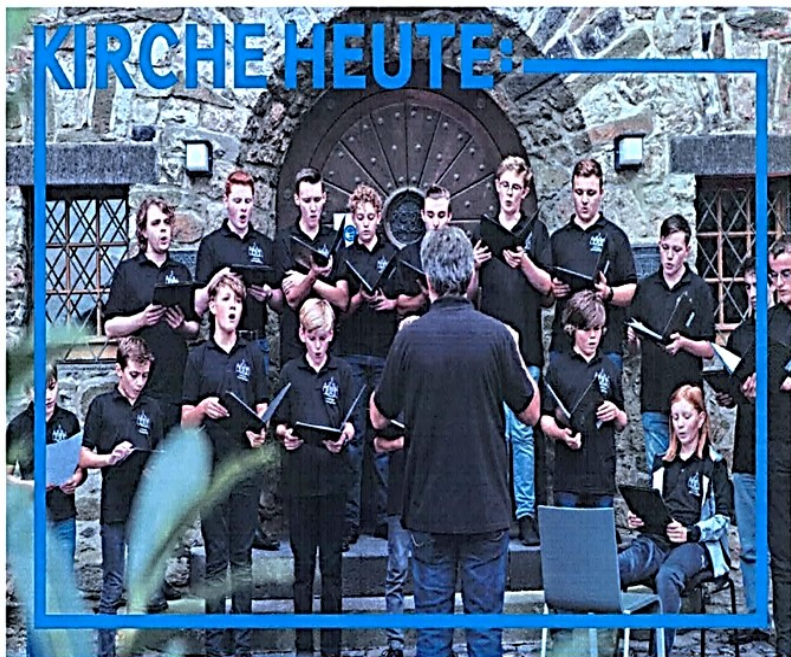


**International
English-Speaking
Catholic Parish**

St. Leonhard's

St. Mary's

Holy Cross



KIRCHE HEUTE:

KIRCHE MORGEN:



ICHWÄHLEKIRCHE.DE

**PFARRGEMEINDERATSWAHLEN
IM BISTUM LIMBURG - 25./26.11.23**



CANDIDATE BOOKLET



Grusswort zur Pfarrgemeinderatswahl am 25. und 26. November 2023

**Liebe Gemeindemitglieder,
liebe Wählerinnen und Wähler,**

Kirche Heute – Kirche Morgen: Nur mir Ihrer Stimme.
Kirche in Vielfalt gestalten.

Unter diesem Motto steht die diesjährige Pfarrgemeinderatswahl. Kirche in Vielfalt gestalten – das macht deutlich: In unserer Kirche kann sich jede und jeder einbringen. Wir sind durch Taufe und Firmung dazu berufen, den Weg der Kirche aktiv mitzugestalten. Dabei spielt der Pfarrgemeinderat in der Kirche vor Ort eine besondere Rolle. Dort werden gemeinsame Entscheidungen für die Ausgestaltung der pastoralen und sozialen Aufgaben in der Pfarrei getroffen.

Liebe Pfarrgemeinderatsmitglieder, ich danke Ihnen von Herzen für Ihre vielfältige Mitarbeit in den synodalen Gremien unseres Bistums. Sie sind ein wichtiger Teil der Kirche vor Ort. Sie sind Gesichter vor Ort, Entscheider, gestalten Kirche für die Menschen an ihrem Wohnort. Und sie sind ein Hoffungszeichen – besonders in diesen schwierigen Zeiten, durch die wir uns bewegen. Wie kraftzehrend und herausfordernd dies sein kann, weiß ich. Umso mehr gilt Ihnen mein Dank für Ihr so wichtiges Engagement.

Wir sind, auf Einladung von Papst Franziskus, auf dem Weg zu einer synodaleren Kirche. In Deutschland haben wir mit dem Synodalen Weg bereits ein Stück zurückgelegt, im Oktober tagt die Welt-synode in Rom. Themen, die vielen Menschen den Blick auf die Frohe Botschaft verstellen, werden besprochen.

Doch es braucht die Menschen in den Pfarreien, in den Kirchorten, die mit Leben füllen, die Weichen stellen und Pfade auf tun. Dabei gilt es, die vielfältigen Perspektiven einzubeziehen und das gemeinsame Gespräch zu suchen. Ein besonderer Ort dafür ist in der Pfarrei der Pfarrgemeinderat – hier kommen Menschen ins Gespräch und beraten gemeinsam.

Sie alle sind dazu eingeladen, in Ihrer Pfarrei nach erfahrenen und nach neuen Kandidatinnen und Kandidaten zu suchen, die diese Herausforderungen aus vielfältigen Perspektiven angehen möchten.

Auch Wahlen ist Mitverantwortung. Es braucht Menschen, die mit ihrer Stimme zum Ausdruck bringen: Ich unterstütze Dich. Oder vielleicht wollen Sie sich als Kandidatin oder Kandidat zur Wahl stellen?

Auf jeden Fall aber: Wählen Sie mit und lassen Sie uns am 25. und 26. November 2023 Kirche in Vielfalt gestalten!

Gottes Segen für Sie alle!
Ihr

• Dr. Georg Bätzing
Bischof von Limburg

Dear Parishioners,

The parishes in the Diocese of Limburg are holding Parish Council Elections on **November 25 / 26** and you are invited to take part in this important process of selecting representatives to help in the running of the International English-Speaking Parish. Since 2020 we are one Parish for the whole diocese, consisting of three church locations and we have experienced an exciting time together. We remember the challenges that the pandemic confronted us all with but also the joy of growing into a good community.

We are amazed and delighted that the people in our Parish are very different - even in the three locations, St Leonhard's, Holy Cross, St Mary's. We love to be in this international and very special congregation, connected by the same faith and language. It is obvious that we successfully try to live all four essential basics of the Church life: Together (coinonia) we love God and His creation by worshipping Him (leiturgia) in addition to evangelising (martyria) and serving (diakonia) the people we deal with. The Catholic Church emphasises on synodality in order to be on the way TOGETHER, lead by the Holy Spirit; that's why elections are held in order to form a Council which meets regularly to help run the Parish.

With great gratitude and respect we thank the old Parish Council (2020-2023) and look forward to the new one (2024-2027). It is important for you as parishioners to support the idea of synodality – by voting in the elections and thereby taking responsibility for our parish. All registered members will receive an invitation for an online election, but you can also come to the poll stations on the 25./26. November or vote via absentee ballot.



Father Christian Enke
Parish Priest



Lori Bemb
Pastoral Associate

CANDIDATES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

The order in which the candidates appear in this booklet – and on the ballot sheet – is purely random.

The names were drawn from a hat on 23.10.23



**Benjielita
Dimaunahan**
“Benjie”

Frankfurt

I have been serving as a Parish Council member for two consecutive terms and as a FHC teacher since 2016. I was asked to run again, so here I am. Talking to a lot of our active and some inactive members, I feel the need to develop more programs and activities involving the children and their families thus making our parish more family oriented, this can only be achieved by working together.



**Philippe
Molitor**

Frankfurt

I am running for the Parish Council and ask you for your vote. I have experienced the International English Speaking Catholic Parish as embracing Christian fellows from all parts of the world working and living in Frankfurt and its surroundings or simply passing the area. My family and I have been warmly welcome in this parish. As part of the elected parish council, I would like to ensure that our parish remains a vivid, welcoming and open church community, which accompanies parishioners and visitors on their religious journey and assists them in difficult times.



**Amalorpavaraj
Arokiaswamy**
„Amal“
Frankfurt

Since my family and I relocated to Frankfurt, the English-Speaking Parish has been our cherished spiritual haven, where we come together to practice our Catholic faith. I am deeply committed to our church, actively participating in various ministries, and serving as a member of the Church Committee. I firmly believe that a vibrant and united congregation is the cornerstone of our Christian journey. With a heart full of enthusiasm, I aspire to contribute to the Parish Council's efforts in building a warm and welcoming community that is relevant to the demands of our modern times.



**Thomas E.
Lavell**
Frankfurt

I've been a Parish Council member for much of my 25 years in Frankfurt, and would like to continue serving as our community recovers further from the Covid-19 pandemic. I'm a reader and a choir member at both St. Leonhard's and Holy Cross, and have been chair of the Holy Cross Church Location Committee since it was revived. Bringing back the previous vibrancy of our community will continue to be a priority of the new Parish Council, and as the Limburg Diocese encourages lay people to take a more active role in the church, I'll be eager to nurture our parishioners' ideas for developing spiritually-focused activities or social events.



**Krystyna
Cullinane**
Niedernhausen



**Daniel
Mba**

Offenbach

I have served and continue to serve my parish in various ways, the Holy Cross is very special to me, here is where my son was baptized. I am currently working on the creation of a booklet for children that will help them understand the Holy Mass. If elected, I will not only bring new ideas, but I will also accompany parishioners on their religious journey and assist them in difficult times.



**Marina
Gillespie**

Schmitten

Having moved from Romania and not speaking a word of German I found a home in the English parish in all three locations. It would be an honour to serve as a parish council member.



**Giancarlo
Polvara**

Schmitten

Born and raised in Italy, I moved with my family to Frankfurt in 1996 and have been a member of this community ever since. St. Mary was our first parish, while St. Leonhard and Holy Cross are the communities we currently spend most of our time. I have been a Communion Minister and a Parish Council member for the past years. I am a positive and optimistic person, always happy to help others and being a Parish Council member will help me continue my "life mission" as a devoted Catholic, by (hopefully) positively impacting our Parish.



**George
Ewusi**

Offenbach

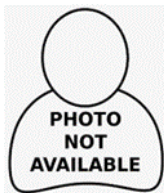
The diverse nature of our Parish is something we all cherish and wish to protect. My intentions will be to help in every way I can to promote our aspirations and help this community as we fellowship together. It will be my honour to serve in every little way possible.



**Apollonia
Couthino**

Frankfurt

This parish has been like a family to me, since I moved to Frankfurt few years ago. I understand the commitment and time needed to be devoted on Council matters and am prepared to work for, as well as on behalf of my fellow parishioners towards the building a stronger community. A mix of experienced and fresh faces will also help cultivate diverse ideas.



**Christopher
Cullinane**

Niedernhausen



**Deidre
Yahootfam**
Hofheim

I was born and raised in Ireland, am a mother of 3 and have been living in Germany since 2007. I was very active in English-speaking parishes in Ireland, Norway and Germany and I feel very blessed and grateful that we have such a welcoming and enriching English-speaking church so close to our home in Hofheim. I have volunteered to run for the Parish Council as a way of giving back to the Parish. If elected, I will serve Fr Christian, the Parish and its parishioners to the very best of my ability.



**Cindy
Dias**
Frankfurt

I have moved to Germany a year and a half ago and wish to extend my service to the community where ever possible. I would love to help the children of our parish grow to their full potential by guiding and helping them on God's chosen path to be a good catholic. Helping the aged, spending time with the lonely and simply spreading joy and happiness.



**Niall
Lenihan**
Frankfurt

I am an Irishman who has been a member of the English-speaking parish in Frankfurt since 1998. I work as a lawyer at the ECB. I have served as a member of the Parish Council for two terms, and also as a Minister of the Word for many years, and occasionally as a substitute sacristan. If elected, I would be happy to continue to serve the Parish Council in whatever way I can.