

# Newsletter

**No. 82 — Easter 2026**

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## **FROM THE ERZOBERLENKER, JOÃO TORUNSKY**

Dear Members and Friends of the Christian Community,

Five years ago I assumed the office of Erzoberlenker. This was shortly before our 100th anniversary, a milestone where we sought to shape the transition of our Movement for Religious Renewal so that impulses for the future could become visible. During many celebrations, we looked back with gratitude on our first century while facing the challenges of our time with confidence. We trust that if we work selflessly, the spiritual guidance that made our founding possible will continue to help us contribute to the becoming of the human being on Earth.

Now, our work stands at the beginning of a new century. The world has changed – and we are in the midst of that process. It brings uncertainty and risk, but also opportunities. Our Christian Community must also continue to transform to meet these modern challenges. While this brings its own uncertainties, we do not face disorientation. Our orientation remains the working of Christ. The Representative of Humanity is the source from which we

receive the strength to help humanity become ever more human.

Personally, I look back with deep gratitude on these five years and the fruitful cooperation within the Circle of Seven. I am also grateful to all priests, members, and friends who supported this transition with dedication.

Due to health reasons, it now seems right to hand over my office to a successor. At my request, Christward Kröner has agreed to assume the office of Erzoberlenker at the Priest Synod in Stuttgart this June. Ordained in 1990, he has served congregations in Johannesburg, Bremen, and Hamburg–Blankenese, and held a leadership role at the Priests' Seminary in Hamburg. Since 2005 he has been a member of the Circle of Seven. The hope for the continuous development of our community in its second century is connected with his appointment.

With my departure, it also becomes necessary to complete the circle of Oberlenker. We are grateful to Martin Merckens for his willingness to join Oliver Steinrueck and Christward Kröner in this task.

In deep connection, gratitude, and confidence, I extend my heartfelt greetings,

*João Torunsky, Erzoberlenker*

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## **LENKER'S LETTER**

The preparations for building the new church in Edinburgh are proceeding. Planning permission was granted in the autumn, the house is on the market, a builder has been appointed and the plans are being refined.

We have started planning an Orientation Course with Patrick Kennedy from the North American Priests' Training—for more information, see below.

Over the last years, accelerating particularly in the Covid time, various colleagues have offered online study sessions.

There are occasional sessions on the *Perspectives* Substack (see <https://tinyurl.com/persp-subs>). Michaël Merle is also offering two lecture series via Zoom:

Tuesday evenings at 7 pm:

**The Symbolism and Deeper Significance of The Signs of the Zodiac**

Wednesday evenings at 7 pm:

**The Book of Revelation**

Zoom link for both:

<https://tinyurl.com/CCLondonlectures26>  
(Meeting ID: 854 0144 4994 Passcode: 055141)

*Tom Ravetz*

## RESTRUCTURING OF THE FOUNDATION AND LEADERSHIP

In recent years, we have said farewell to long-serving members of staff. Subsequent staff departures and the move toward remote work have left our premises in Berlin largely underutilised.

The *Circle of Seven* has also adapted to an 'intercontinental' workflow, increasingly using Zoom and rotating meeting locations to be close to priests' synods and ordinations, reducing the need for a fixed base in Berlin.

### Key Changes and Relocation

Due to a structural budget deficit and the high costs of maintaining our outsized Berlin office, the following changes are being implemented:

- *Relocation:* The headquarters will move from Berlin to *Stuttgart*. The Berlin premises will be sold or rented out, though the *archive will remain* at its current location.
  - *Management:* To reduce costs, Executive Committee members Thomas Nayda and Christine Jost will take over managerial duties.
  - *New Staff:* *Christine Burger* joined as the new part-time secretary in Stuttgart in mid-January 2026.
  - *Contact:* Email addresses remain unchanged. New telephone numbers and postal addresses will be announced shortly.
- These steps ensure the Foundation's financial sustainability while aligning with modern, flexible working practices.

*Thomas Nayda*

## Changing Perspectives

Nothing is more unpredictable than the future of humanity and our world. In the face of uncertainty, is it still possible to develop trust in the future?

In this thought-provoking book, Bastiaan Baan explores the many ways in which humanity has tried to predict the future through the ages, from old forms of clairvoyance to more modern methods based on technical expertise. Baan argues that while predicting the future may be impossible, how we view events can be just as important, if not more so, than the events themselves. He suggests that adopting a more positive and open attitude can be a necessary first step in taking action.

*Trust in the Future: Facing Uncertain Times with Confidence*  
204 pages | PB | 978-178250-919-6 | RRP: £16.99 | OFFER: 13.59



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