



Wundersame Heilige Nacht

Kohlscheid. — Schlicht, aber voller Ausdruckskraft und echt in ihrer Gestaltung wirkt die neue Krippe der Pfarrkirche Maria Heimsuchung in Kämpchen. In überraschend gelungener Art wird dem Betrachter dieser Krippe die Schilderung des Wunders der Heiligen Nacht nahe und durch eine neue künstlerische Auffassung mit dem Leben und den Menschen unserer Tage voller Harmonie in Einklang gebracht. (Foto: Pfarrer Stieler)

Article from the Aachener Volkszeitung, 1956

Please visit our crib during the opening hours before and after the services as well as during the time when the crib is being guarded during the Christmas holidays and beyond. Please note our notices in the display box as well as the information in the parish newsletter and on the web pages of the parish of Christus-unser-Friede. www.christus-unser-Friede.de

You are welcome to donate to our crib. There is an appropriate donation container in front of the crib. The joints of our figures need to be readjusted and made passable. For this we need the money from the donation pot. Thank you very much!

On the back is the „Kohlscheid Chistmas song“ with lyrics and sheet music. Should we not be able to sing this carol in church at Christmas due to the pandemic, we invite you to do so at home, whether you sing, play music or hum!

Source references: Some contemporary witnesses of the parish of “St. Maria Heimsuchung.”

Book - KOHLSCHIED, contributions to its history and development by Josef Aretz, 1971 · Parish Archives “Christus unser Friede“ · Chronicle of the parish

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Kohlscheid Christmas song



1. Ihr Hir-ten, wollt ihr mit nach
 2. Die Him-mel ver - kün-den des
 3. Die Gott-heit ist gü - tig, die



1. Beth - le-hem gehn', das grös - ste der
 2. Höchsten Ge - walt Gott wan - delt auf
 3. Gott-heit ist mild, sie hat euch die



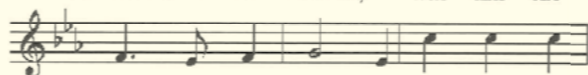
1. gött - li-chen Wun-der zu sehn? Ver
 2. Er-den in Men-schen-ge - stalt Wer
 3. al - te Ver - heis-sung er - füllt. Wenn



1. nehmt ihr die Stimme, ver - nehmt ihr das
 2. mag dies be - grei-fen, wie kann das wohl
 3. das ist, ihr Hir-ten, so säu - met auch



1. Wort? Was ist denn ge - sche-hen, was
 2. sein? Ist denn für die Gott-heit der
 3. nicht. Wie herr-lich ist, was uns die



1. fin - den wir dort?
 2. Mensch nicht zu klein? 1-3 Die Botschaft ist
 3. Stim - me ver-spricht.



herr-lich, die Bot-schaft ist groß, sie



bie-tet der Mensch-heit ein göttliches Los.



THE CHRISTMAS CRIB IN KÄMPCHEN





The Christmas Crib in Kämpchen

Hand-carved wooden figures with joints from Oberammergau in Bavaria

The chronicle of the sub parish of “St. Mariä Heimsuchung” in the parish archives “Christus unser Friede” reports on the nativity scene:

Die Chronik der Gemeinde St. Mariä Heimsuchung im Pfarrarchiv Christus unser Friede berichtet über die Krippe:

In the first year after the consecration of the new church of “St. Mariä Heimsuchung” in Kämpchen, the 85 cm high nativity figures made of wood with joints were shown to the parishioners and guests for the first time on Christmas Eve 1954. It was a surprise first to see the wintry splendour with plenty of snow in front of the church and inside on the steps of the altar on the left side the Holy Family with Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. The purchase costs for Mary and Joseph were paid from the church treasury, the baby Jesus was a donation from the children of the primary school Kircheich. The Holy Family was the beginning of the nativity scene in the church in Kämpchen. Father Josef Stieler had bought it from a carver in Oberammergau (Bavaria). The sisters in the kindergarten and the women of the parament association tailored the costumes by hand.

In the years that followed, new figures were constantly added to the nativity scene, including shepherds, sheep and the three kings. A contemporary witness tells us that her aunt and the ladies of the parament association made the royal robes, including velvet from the town of Hinsbeck. These original robes are still in good condition and are worn by the kings.

In later years, members of the KAB (Katholische Arbeiter Bewegung - movement of catholic workers) formed a crib team, which set up and designed the crib every year and took it down again after the Christmas season. With a lot of skill they built a wooden stable, as it still characterises the nativity scene today. Of course, the ox and donkey had not to be missed.

In the 1990s, it was decided to set up the crib in the side chapel, today’s day chapel. There the crib could be presented on a larger display area and in a closed room. Extensive frame work was necessary to decorate the entire space of the chapel. This location remained for several years. With the introduction of new 3 priests in December 2005, the wish came from the pastoral team to set up all Kohlscheid nativity scenes in the altar area, which was then also practised as from 2011.

Since then, the crib has been back in its original place on the left side of the altar, visible to all the faithful and guests entering the church. The landscape of the crib was constantly expanded, most recently with a watercourse (flowing water over a stream), a campfire site with flickering light, connected via a separate switch box for the entire electrical system. Coloured neon tubes and small spotlights conjure warming light. In addition, in the years from 2000 onwards, the background foils were added, a considerable investment. These are made of flame-retardant foil and show the shepherds’ fields in Bethlehem. The photographs were taken by parishioners on a parish trip to the Holy Land.

There is a special feature of the Kämpchen nativity scene, the „pet sheep“. This small woolly „cuddly“ sheep lies at the very front of the crib so that children can touch it with their hands. The sheep is particularly popular and parents say that the younger children often talk about it and remember it well.

To complement the original landscape of the crib, small plants and olive trees have adorned the crib landscape for several years; a free loan from a local garden centre.

Without the hard-working helpers in the crib team who, together with our sacristan, put up the fir tree outside the church in time for the first Advent, set up the crib and its landscape during Advent and also the large Christmas tree with hundreds of lights and later take it down again, this beautiful crib with its unique landscape could not be experienced. Therefore, a big thanks to all the helpers.

It was a special honour for the community that the nativity scene appeared as the cover picture 2019 on the annual calendar of the “Herzogenrather Bürgerstiftung”. In this way, the level of awareness was extended even further beyond Kohlscheid.

