

Swiss national day catholic service

Autor(en): **Boos, J. J.**

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1st OF AUGUST CELEBRATION BY THE SWISS COLONY OF THE MANCHESTER DISTRICT.

Following an invitation by the Swiss Club Manchester a happy party of Swiss gathered in Wilmslow on Saturday afternoon, August 9th, where, to their delight, three good friends of our Sister Club Bradford joined them.

It was a perfect summer's day when 36 "Männlein und Weiblein" set out on a walk which led them through the nice natural park "The Carrs," along the river Bollin under shady trees to Styal Road, and then through the woods of the National Trust to Morley. The rustling river Bollin with the shrubs and trees made all of us think of a pleasant walk in our own little country. Finally a tramp along a country road, shaded here and there by old trees amid typical Cheshire pasture land with fields of ripening corn and oats, led us to the hospitable Richardson's Café in Mobberley, where we were welcomed by other compatriots who had come from many parts by car or on foot. A private room had been reserved for us. The Swiss flag hung from the rafters and red and white flowers adorned the tables. The whole atmosphere made us feel at home, especially as a young Swiss lady had graciously painted the Cantonal flags on cards, displayed on the tables and had decorated empty egg shells very artistically, then filled them with sweet peas and a Swiss flag in the centre.

Our Vice-President, Mr. F. Heinrich, welcomed the guests very heartily, especially the many young ladies who have come from Switzerland to learn English and to get to know this friendly country. Our

Gang lueg d'Heimat a!
 Va revoir ton beau Pays!
 Va a vedere il tuo Paese!
 Va a vera teis Pajais !.....

.....and tell your English friends making holiday plans of the warm and sincere Welcome awaiting them in Switzerland.

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esteemed Vice-Consul, Mr. J. J. Huber, then addressed the gathering with a patriotic speech, expressing his delight at seeing so many of his compatriots gathered together like one large family, all with their thoughts turned towards Switzerland.

He brought us two much appreciated messages, one from the Head of the Political Department, Conseiller Fédéral Petitpierre, and the other from the Swiss Minister in London, Monsieur Ruegger, both of whom, he said, had the well-being of our Colonies in Great Britain very much at heart. He reminded us that we were to-day privileged to celebrate no less than the 656th anniversary of the day when our forebears, small in number, but great in courage, vision and faith, swore their everlasting pact. That the foundations laid in 1291 were good, the test of time had amply proved. He gave us some cogent reasons why, in a still troubled world, we Swiss had indeed a lot to be thankful for. The old Confederacy, he concluded, has developed into the "Bundesstaat" of 22 Cantons we know to-day, but now, as then, our individual security, well-being and happiness lie in the national motto: One for all and all for one. Finally, Mr. Huber revealed that the "anonymous" host of our gathering was none other than Mr. Heinrich. In the name of all present he thanked him most warmly for his generosity and painstaking preparations which enabled us to commemorate our National Day in such happy circumstances and in a really "homely" atmosphere.

We then sang our National Anthem, led by the choir of young ladies, who entertained us afterwards by the singing of Swiss airs.

All too soon our little celebration came to an end, but when we departed for home everybody felt happy to have spent a few hours in friendly discourse with compatriots, in the midst of the quiet pastoral scenery of Cheshire.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CATHOLIC SERVICE.

The attendance at the Service at St. Peter's Church on Sunday, July 27th, was very representative of the Swiss Catholics, though many usual faces were absent as a good number of our compatriots are no doubt enjoying a good holiday in Switzerland.

In the presence of the Swiss Minister, Dr. Ruegger, solemn Mass was sung by Pater Gähwiler, S.M.B. of Immensee, the catholic mixed choir rendering the beautiful Sacred Heart Mass by Gounod in a very fine way.

The Chaplain, Father Lanfranchi, preached an equally impressive short sermon, referring in particular to Saint Bruder Klaus of Flue, whose recent Canonisation is being celebrated during this whole year, the 656th anniversary of Switzerland's existence, by our Swiss compatriots at home. The three fundamental conditions of a peaceful and prosperous and happy life, as laid down by the Saint for the Diet of Stans over 450 years ago, still hold good to-day, and equally his advice and example of a christian life should be followed by us all.

With the blessing and singing of our National Anthem the very impressive Service came to an end, in good time to allow our compatriots to take part in the afternoon's Patriotic Rally.

The next special Swiss Catholic Service will be held on the "Bettag," Sunday, September 21st, at St. Peter's Church, Palace Street, S.W.1. Please make a note of the date.

J. J. BOOS.