

United Under God's Roof – A New Chapter for Baumgartenberg Monastery Campus

On 10 July 2026, the school year came to a joyful and prayerful close with a joint service under the theme "**Under God's Roof – One Shared Home.**" At the same time, the celebration marked an important milestone for Baumgartenberg Monastery Campus: for the first time, all institutions based on the campus came together for a shared end-of-year service, making their unity and sense of belonging visible.

Gathering in the monastery garden were the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, the pupils and teaching staff of BASOP/BBS, the Europagymnasium and the Europa Primary School, the residents of *Lebenswert Guter Hirte*, as well as the employees of the monastery. The service was led by Josef Froschauer, Head of Pastoral Ministry for the Parish of Perg.

In their words of welcome, the three headteachers – Verena Schuster- Schedlberger (Europagymnasium), Katrin Blauensteiner-Vuketich (BASOP/BBS), and Lisa Winter (Europa Primary School) – expressed the central message of the day. The monastery campus is far more than a collection of neighbouring institutions. It is a place where people of different ages learn, live, work, pray and meet one another. Under God's roof, they form a community sustained by mutual respect, openness and shared responsibility.

The celebration was enriched by a specially formed joint school choir, bringing together singers from the BASOP/BBS Choir and the Europagymnasium Choir. Through their music, the students created a festive and uplifting atmosphere, giving joyful expression to the spirit of community that characterised the celebration.

The theme of togetherness was also reflected in posters created by the students, depicting the image of one shared home. Each institution contributes its own gifts, experience and mission, helping to strengthen and enrich the whole campus community.

The initiative to deepen cooperation across the campus was launched by Sister **Beatrix Lewe**, Provincial Leader of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, together with **Christine Hödlmayr-Gammer**, Chair of the Europagymnasium School Association. Sister Beatrix explained: *"Together we want to make the bonds within our campus community visible, encourage meaningful encounters, and further strengthen the many relationships between our different institutions."* This vision reflects the mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to create places where people experience community,

dignity and a sense of belonging.

As a visible sign of hope for the future, members of the campus community planted an **apple tree** in the monastery garden. Just as a tree needs time to take root and bear fruit, so too will the growing community of the monastery campus continue to develop and flourish.

The celebration concluded with the traditional **Euphrasia biscuits**, commemorating the foundress of the congregation,

Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier. The biscuits were lovingly baked by BASOP/BBS students in the monastery's training kitchen. Afterwards, members of the monastery kitchen staff carefully attached the edible wafers that gave the biscuits their distinctive appearance. This small but meaningful gesture beautifully reflected the spirit of cooperation shared by the various institutions on the campus.

The biscuits symbolise the hospitality and charism of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, who have shaped life at Baumgartenberg Monastery since taking over the historic monastery in 1865.



This shared celebration not only offered a **grateful conclusion** to the past school year but also looked forward with **hope to the future**. Baumgartenberg Monastery Campus continues to grow as a place where education, faith, social commitment and genuine community enrich one another – **in the spirit of the Good Shepherd**, who brings people together and offers them a place they can call home.

