

St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387 ---- 01-5611390



Third Sunday of Easter 05 May 2019

SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH SUDAN



On the Wednesday before Holy Week (11 April 2019) after speaking heartfelt words to the political leaders of South Sudan, Pope Francis pushed past his secretary and interpreter, and crossed the room. He knelt and kissed the feet of President Salva Kiir Mayardit, then struggled up and down again to kiss the feet of Kiir's mortal enemy Riek Machar (two men who carry responsibility for many wicked things). He then did the same again with three other

political leaders. It was evening time in Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio (STTC), when I heard the BBC World Service interrupt its schedule to report live as the meeting unfolded. For the 13 million people of South Sudan who have suffered so much (x4 million are still in camps, driven out of their homes), the Pope's gesture brings immense hope. This truly memorable meeting came just as I was preparing to leave Yambio after one term of teaching mainly English (the national language) to young women and men training to be primary school teachers.

There was (and is) nothing fairytale about this project in South Sudan. Each of the student teachers, without exception, has witnessed the most awful crimes against their own family members and neighbours. Their own education has been limited, as schools were destroyed during decades of war, and the illiteracy rate of 78% is the highest in Africa. The country lacks the most basic things: roads, sewage system, piped water, waste disposal, the list is endless. And yet, the student teachers, local South Sudanese staff and missionaries (several from Ireland, you would be hugely proud of them), are bursting with hope and ambition for this wonderful country.

The students are put forward for the privilege of teacher training by their local parishes and 'on the ground' organisations of all sorts (including the UN refugee camps); after an intense programme of 16 months (residential) they return home to all parts of the country to serve their local communities (and they do, a recent audit shows that this is true). The schools themselves have nothing - not even benches let alone books or pencils - and the huge youth population leads to class sizes of 120+. While outsiders want to fund desks (and rightly so), the training, and proper payment, of teachers is what will make the long-term difference.

I had the joy and privilege of being part of this venture for x16 weeks. The students are hugely appreciative of the 'outside' help to get things moving. School ideas we take for granted - alphabet on the wall, pictures, puppets, clock, flashcards - are taken up with zest, and the creativity of the students in transforming 'no cost' items (recycling) into teaching aids just amazed (and humbled) me. What they could do with a needle, blade, and empty rice bag is the match of anything Eugene Lambert (of puppet fame) could do. They reworked some girl-guide songs, adding wonderful actions, for classroom use. Every cardboard box and empty tin can saw further use.

The commitment to their faith must also be noted. The majority of South Sudanese are Catholic and STTC is a Catholic college that welcomes all faiths and none. I saw for myself something of 'the joy of the Gospel' in practice there. The young people are enthusiastic church members who find great joy and solace in their faith; the Legion of Mary in the college (27 zealous members) is one of several lay groups that give real witness. When they heard I was from the parish in which Frank Duff first started the Legion, they were truly delighted, and I felt obliged to respond with a short history talk each week (on the Legion), learning much myself in the process!

During my time with the people of South Sudan I was struck by their great courtesy, collaborative spirit, and resilience, and knew much kindness and warmth. I appreciate very much the weekly remembrance at the 11.30am Sunday mass, to keep me safe; thanks to Fr Martin and all who kept that intention alive. I ask that you continue to pray for peace in South Sudan, a country very dear now I think to all of us in this parish (as it is to Pope Francis).

Jacinta Prunty (Holy Faith Sisters, The Coombe)

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 28 April 2019

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p275
2nd Collection: p290
Share: p50
Family Offering: p465
St. Vincent de Paul: p505



Remembered at Mass

Catherine & Edward Walsh, Joe & Lena Walsh & Grandson Glen, Pat Lynam 8th Ann & Son Wade 4th Ann Deceased Members Lynam & Myers Families, James Brennan, Robert & Esther O' Sullivan.

Sun 11.30am: Teresa Duffy 1st Ann, John & Sarah Martin, Terry Walker 13th Ann, Annie Adams & Family

Recently Deceased: Bridie Sutcliffe



April Draw Results

1st: Eileen Doyle: p400
2nd: Anna Oman: p150
p10 each to :
Andy Styne, Pat Walker, Joseph Thompson, Sarah O'Leary & Tom Reilly.



Bonnybrook says Thank You!

Fr. Joe Jones and the parishioners in St. Joseph the Artisan Church, Bonnybrook, would like to thank all those who contribute to the Share Collection each week. Your contributions to this collection has enabled the diocese to support our recent renovations as we prepare to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our parish. The major renovations we have undertaken would not have been possible without the support of the Diocesan Share Fund. We are deeply grateful to

each of you for your generous contribution which has enabled us to do much needed work on our church. Thank you so much - from all in Bonnybrook



SICCDA

SICCDA (South Inner City Community Development Association) is currently in the process of compiling and producing a Community Profile and Needs Assessment for The Liberties and surrounding areas. In order for the Profile and the Assessment to be as accurate and representative as possible we have organised a whole range of research and consultative activities. These include four community consultation meetings to take place during May. You are very welcome to attend these meetings. The dates and the venues for these meetings are as follows: Monday 13th May 7.15 pm - 9.00 pm Donore Youth and Community Centre, Donore Avenue, Thursday 16th May 7.15 pm - 9.00 pm St. Catherines Sports Centre, Marrowbone Lane, Monday 20th May 7.15 pm - 9.00 pm St. Catherines Church, Thomas Street Tuesday 21st May 7.15 pm - 9.00 pm St. James Parochial Hall, James Street. For more info: Stephen Rourke at either 087-2743414 or srourke5@gmail.com www.sicdda.com



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. 'We gave you a formal warning' he said 'not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us.' In reply Peter and the apostles said, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' and they had the apostles called in, gave orders for them to be flogged, warned them not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalms 29

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. R/

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name. His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. R/

The Lord listened and had pity. The Lord came to my help. For me you have changed my mourning into dancing; O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. R/

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia!

A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night. It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord', Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land. As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?' they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead. After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you,' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. 'I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.' In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

An Eastern disciple who was proud of what he considered to be the spirituality of the East came to the Master and said: "Why is it that the West has material progress and the East has spirituality?" "Because", said the Master laconically, "when provisions for the world were being handed out in the beginning, the West had the first choice."

From 'One Minute Wisdom' by Anthony de Mello