

Salesian Missions

Trading under the name of

Salesians of Don Bosco

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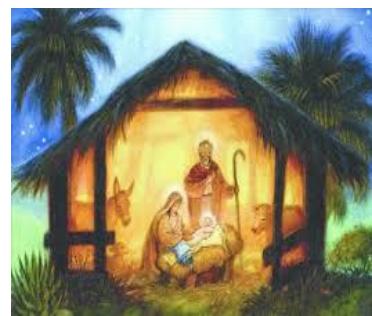
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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

E-NEWS CHRISTMAS 2022



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 33 YEARS

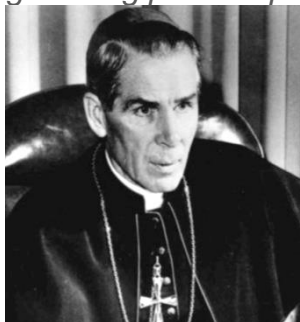


SALESIAN MISSIONS WISHES ALL OUR
READERS, DONORS, FRIENDS AND
FAMILIES A VERY BLESSED AND HAPPY
CHRISTMAS. MAY THE BEAUTY AND THE
PROMISE OF THAT SILENT, HOLY NIGHT
FILL YOUR HEARTS WITH PEACE, LOVE
AND HAPPINESS



NO ROOM IN THE INN

"When finally the scrolls of history are complete, down to the last word of time, the saddest line of all will be: "There was no room in the inn."...The inn was the gathering place of public opinion, the focal point of the world's moods, the rendezvous of the worldly, the rallying place of the popular and the successful. But there's no room in the place where the world gathers. The stable is a place for outcasts, the ignored and the forgotten. The world might have expected the Son of God to be born in an inn; a stable would certainly be the last place in the world where one would look for him. The lesson is: divinity is always where you least expect to find it. So the Son of God made man is invited to enter into his own world through a back door. When we look at sacred art and our nativity scenes at home, they



are clean. Mary's robes fall over her legs without a single wrinkle, Joseph looks like he just got home from the barber, the shepherds' clothes are clean, Jesus' diaper is perfectly white. But the reality of Christmas night was that the images we are accustomed to seeing are far from the truth. Christ was born into a mess. Mary delivered him in a stable after a four day long (maybe more) journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. After I travel, I always want to take a hot shower and a rest before I unpack. But Mary had no rest. Joseph probably had a long day of trying to negotiate with innkeepers to let them stay in their inns. I imagine Joseph as a more introverted type (he has no spoken words recorded in scriptures) so as an introvert, that sounds exhausting.



The shepherds were out in the pastures all day among the mud and manure of their flock. They probably were thinking of cozing up to the fire with a warm beverage until the angels appeared. Christ's birth was not clean. It was not picturesque. And yet, it was exactly how God intended it." **FULTON SHEEN**

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**“THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT” (IS 9:1).**

This prophecy of Isaiah never ceases to touch us, especially when we hear it proclaimed in the liturgy of Christmas Night. This is not simply an emotional or

sentimental matter. It moves us because it states the deep reality of what we are: a people who walk, and all around us – and within us as well – there is darkness and light. In this night, as the spirit of darkness enfolds the world, there takes place anew the event which always amazes and surprises us: the people who walk see a great light. A light which makes us reflect on this mystery: the mystery of walking and seeing. Walking. This verb makes us reflect on the course of history, that long journey, which is the history of salvation, starting with Abraham, our father in faith, whom the Lord called one day to set out. “God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all” (1 Jn 1:5). Yet on the part of the people there are times of both light and darkness, fidelity and infidelity, obedience, and rebellion; times of being a pilgrim people and times of being a people adrift. In our personal history too, there are both bright and dark moments, lights and shadows. If we love God and our brothers and sisters, we walk in the light; but if our heart is closed, if we are dominated by pride, deceit, self-seeking, then darkness falls within us and around us. “Whoever hates his brother – writes the Apostle John – is in the darkness.



On this night, like a burst of brilliant light, there rings out the proclamation of the Apostle: “God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race” (Tit 2:11).

The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, true man and true God. He has entered our history; he has shared our journey. He came to free us from darkness and to grant us light. In him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and

the tender love of the Father: Jesus is Love incarnate. He is not simply a teacher of wisdom, he is not an ideal for which we strive while knowing that we are hopelessly distant from it. He is the meaning of life and history, who has pitched his tent in our midst.

The shepherds were the first to see this “tent”, to receive the news of Jesus’ birth. Together with them, let us pause before the Child, let us pause in silence. Together with them, let us thank the Lord for having given Jesus to us. We bless you, Lord God most high, who lowered yourself for our sake. You are immense, and you made yourself small; you are rich and you made yourself poor; you are all powerful and you made yourself vulnerable.

God loves us, he so loves us that he gave us his Son to be our brother, to be light in our darkness. To us the Lord repeats: “Do not be afraid!” (Lk 2:10). And I too repeat: Do not be afraid! Our Father is patient, he loves us, he gives us Jesus to guide us on the way which leads to the promised land. Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness. He is our peace. Amen.

POPE FRANCIS – CHRISTMAS MASS 2021



**THE CHILDREN IN THE PROJECTS SEND THANKS AND GREETINGS FOR
CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR DONORS AND FRIENDS.
MAY GOD BLESS AND REWARD YOU ALL FOR YOUR KINDNESS, YOUR
PRAYERS AND YOUR DONATIONS.**



SALESIAN INSTITUTE - CAPE TOWN



Daily morning assembly 'circle of awareness'

with the Learn to Live teens, trying to promote greater awareness to fight Gender Based Violence, and instil respect for all human beings.



From small beginnings to bearing fruit! The Hydroponic Garden journey was an exciting one, proving that much can be achieved with innovation and planning.



The NEETS students had made a thank you card for Father Pat and despite his failing health, he insisted on being taken to visit them in their classroom earlier this year. They were all situated on the same floor, albeit on opposite sides of the building, and Father was determined to say thank you in person and share words of encouragement. With a wheelchair we were able to accommodate his request, this is one of the final photographs we have.



I hesitated to share it, but it is fitting in that NEETS was born out of Father's determination to see this programme move from dream to reality and he truly poured all his energy and love into it. Visiting these students was a source of great joy and it is in his memory that we are committed to continue as he would have expected us to; to grow and nurture all of our programmes. **FATHER FRANCOIS DUFOUR**



SALESIAN INSTITUTE YOUTH PROJECTS - OPEN DAY NETWORKING EVENT



Cape Town – The Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP) hosted an Open Day for businesses and interested parties in and around Green Point, with the intent to showcase their programmes and



network with local businesses in the area and people who may be able to assist in establishing employment opportunities, for the youth who attend the programmes.

This event provided an opportunity to get exposure to the four different programmes on offer. The event was well attended and created a festive atmosphere for staff and visitors. The Learn to Live choir welcomed guests with beautiful songs and some students drumming in the background.



Each programme was on display, to explain its specific training requirements and outcomes. The Learn to Live School of Skills vocational workshops displayed their products and services with great fanfare. The sweet smell of baked goodies from the Hospitality workshop was hanging in the air, whilst guests could sample these, with learners proudly taking joy in what they do.

The Strategic Fuel Fund which this year generously sponsored and equipped the Woodwork workshop with new equipment, came to see the lovely woodwork projects produced by learners during the past year.



The US consulate representative, Ms Emily Shaffer, was delighted to see the contribution that the Salesian Institute Youth Projects do towards youth skills development in Cape Town. Other guests included Khalid Sayed, a Member of the Western Cape Provincial Legislature.



“The youth development programmes not only provide opportunities to marginalised youth, said Fr Francois Dufour, CEO of SIYP, but also endeavour to place them into employment, through networking with local business partners in Cape Town.”



FRIEDA PEHLIVAN

ASSEMBLY 2022 – SOUTHERN REGION – AFM PROVINCE



The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, held their assembly at the Provincial House in Boksburg – Gauteng. Sister Cecilia Montanya, their Provincial, opened the assembly to eighteen members, with greetings from Mother General, the Sisters from Zambia and some elderly Sisters. She invited every member to take this Assembly, as a time of renewal, conversion and the way forward, to live the three choices that their GCXXIV had initiated. The theme **“Do whatever He tells you,”** invited them to create *“communities that generate life in the heart of contemporaneity.”* **SR. MARIA NGUYEN FMA**

ASSOCIATION OF SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS



The Regional Congress of the Association of Salesian Co-operators (ASSCC) was held in Johannesburg, Walkerville, Don Bosco Youth Centre. Present were Sr. Cecilia Montaya, Provincial of the FMA, Sr. Giovanna Pesenti, Provincial Delegate of the ASSCC and Regional Responsible for the Salesian Family, Fr. Emmanuel representing the SDB and Sr. Lidia Castro, local delegate. Present were 33 Salesian Co-operators from Lesotho, Malamulele, Cape Town and Ennerdale with their Regional Coordinator and Provincial Councillors.

The theme of reflection was the **Strenna 2022 “Do all through love nothing with constraint.”** The Congress was an elective one of the new Provincial Team. The meeting was carried on in an atmosphere of serene sharing and discussions where family spirit was very much felt.

The Congress began with a welcoming supper and a procession praying the Holy Rosary in the surroundings. It was followed by a processional entrance into the meeting hall, placing the flags, lighting the candle as symbol of God’s presence, and a beautiful plant representing the life of the children and young people at the heart of our mission.

Sr. Cecilia reminded the Co-Operators about the fact that they were the first collaborators of Don Bosco’s mission before even the founding of the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Salesian Sisters. Therefore, they have a great privilege and responsibility in carrying out the mission of Don Bosco today, by collaborating with the other members of the Salesian family.



Mr. Chester Brown, regional Coordinator, as a preparation of the elective process, presented the articles regarding the various roles and responsibilities, and the need to be available to serve the Association with generosity.

Sr. Giovanna Pesenti, before undertaking the election of the new members, reminded all of the importance of following all directions with responsibility.



After invoking the Holy Spirit, the election took place where the assembly re-appointed the Regional Coordinator and elected the new executive team for the period 2022-2025.

The Congress closed with various remarks and thanksgiving, and a beautiful Bible cover was offered to each participant as a gift. **SISTER LIDIA CASTRO FMA**

BROTHER ARTEMIDE ZATTI

DECLARED A SAINT

Artémide Zatti (Italy, 1880 – Argentina, 1951) was a Salesian nurse and religious, who **for fifty years dedicated himself to the care** of the poor and sick of Viedma, Río Negro. There he directed one of the first hospitals in Argentine Patagonia, which today bears his name. In 2002 he was declared **blessed** of the Catholic Church. On October 9, 2022, he was declared **a saint** by Pope Francis.



(ANS – Vatican City) – A detailed, precise, timely, and personal knowledge: this is what Pope Francis showed he had regarding the now upcoming saint Artemide Zatti. Speaking at the ceremony scheduled in Paul VI Hall on the eve of the canonization, he offered the faithful and pilgrims an accurate profile of Zatti as a migrant, a relative of all the poor, a Salesian coadjutor and an intercessor for vocations.



Welcomed by the general enthusiasm of all the faithful present at the event, while the choir directed by Fr. Francesco de Ruvo, SDB, sang the famous Salesian song *Giù da' Colli*, the Holy Father then received the greeting of the Rector Major, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime, who thanked him for granting this special audience to the pilgrims and devotees of Zatti. Afterward, the Pontiff began his address and started from the figure of Zatti as a migrant. While in the context of 19th-century migrations many migrants lost with their roots their

faith as well, the Zatti instead remained faithful. “Participation in the life of the Christian community, cordial relations with the priests, common prayer at home, and attendance at the sacraments did not fail. Artemide grew up in an excellent Christian environment.” That is why, after meeting them in Bahía Blanca, Zatti later matured the decision to become a Salesian.

Describing Zatti in light of the nickname he was given early in life, “relative of all the poor,” Pope Francis then recalled his tireless zeal for all the sick, the fruit of that promise he made in his youth after he was himself cured of tuberculosis. “In that sliver of Patagonian land, where the life of our Blessed flows,” the Pontiff commented in words of great delicacy, “a page of the Gospel was rewritten: the Good Samaritan found in him heart, hands and passion, first and foremost for the little ones, the poor, the sinners, the last. He continued further, “Thus a hospital became the ‘Father’s Inn,’ a sign of a Church that wants to be rich in gifts of humanity and Grace, a dwelling place of the commandment of love of God and brother, a place of health as a pledge of salvation.”

It was precisely his unity with God that enabled him to act as he did for the needy: “His intense work and tireless availability for the needs of the poor were animated by a profound union with the Lord:



ARTEMIDE ZATTI WITH HIS MOTHER

constant prayer, prolonged Eucharistic adoration, praying the rosary. Artemide was a man of communion, who knew how to work with others: nuns, doctors, nurses; and by his example and counsel he formed people, shaped consciences, converted hearts.”

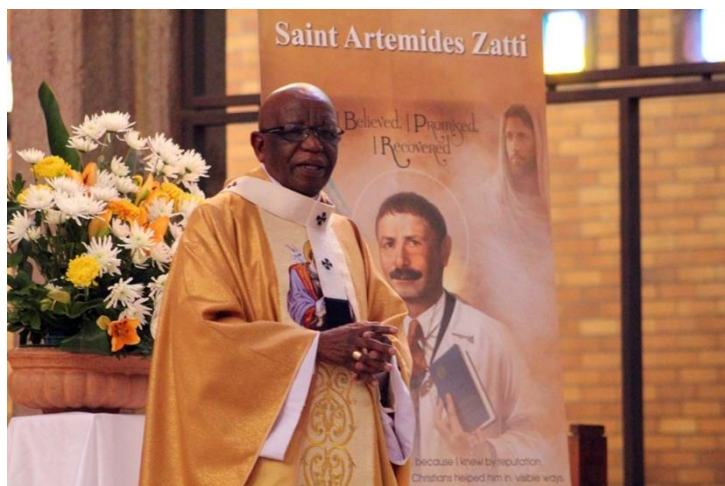
Zatti as coadjutor was the third aspect highlighted by Francis. He cited Zatti’s words that shape the canonization motto – I believed, I promised, I was healed – and the episode in which Zatti himself uttered them. For Zatti, such words expressed a program of life, a life that, as the Pope noted, once “regained is no longer his property, but is all for the poor,” and he lived this mission in communion with his Salesian confreres: “he is the first to be present at community moments, with his joy and sympathy he animates the fraternity.”



Lastly, Pope Francis, who as Provincial Superior of the Jesuits of Argentina promoted novenas and prayers for new vocations of consecrated brothers through Artemide Zatti, underlined Zatti’s role as intercessor, reporting his direct testimony. And finally concluding, the Pope reiterated the testimonial and operational value of the consecration of coadjutors, a vocation chosen with full awareness and lived to the full by the future saint. “The brothers have a special charism that is nourished in prayer

and work. And they are good for the whole body of the congregation. They are people of piety, they are cheerful, hardworking. One does not see ‘inferiority complexes’ in them for not being priests, and they do not aspire to become deacons. They are aware of their vocation and they want it that way,” the Pope said clearly, before imparting the apostolic blessing to all and leaving the Paul VI Hall accompanied by the jubilant greeting of all the faithful.

Viedma, Argentina - 1916 - Salesian coadjutor Br. Artemide Zatti, is portrayed in this photograph together with the medical staff of the "San José" hospital, which the Salesians ran from the end of the 19th century and of which he was the real soul. In the image, dating from the year 1916, it is possible to see, in addition to Artemide Zatti, Salesian coadjutors Giovanni Cartella and Angelo Mori and Fr. Andrea Pestarino.

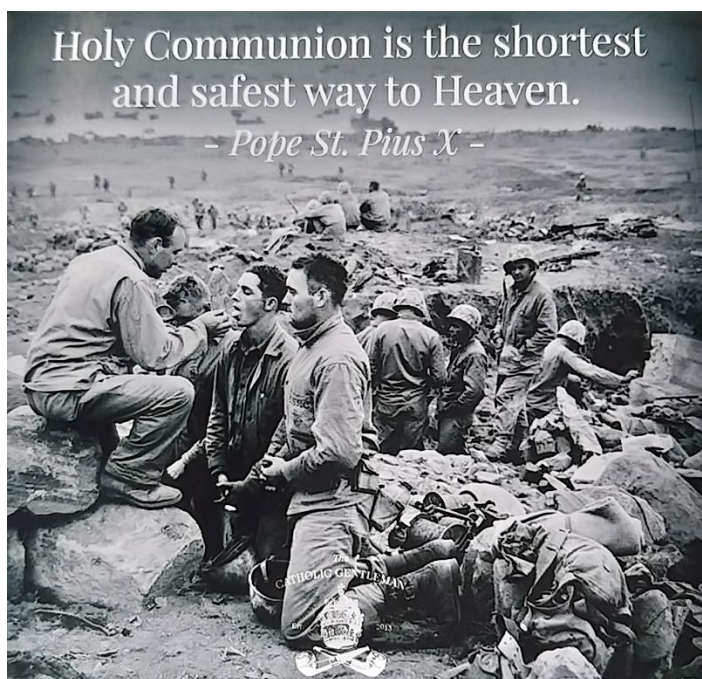


Johannesburg, South Africa - December 2022 - Almost two months after the canonizations of Artemide Zatti and Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, the Archbishop of Johannesburg, Msgr. Buti Joseph Tlhagale celebrated a thanksgiving Mass for the new saints. The Archbishop, in particular, wanted to thank the Salesians and Scalabrinians for their tireless work in the Archdiocese and underlined how these two new figures of holiness are a model for many faithful. Artemide Zatti and Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, as stated by Msgr. Tlhagale, show the face of Christ in their attention to the poor, the marginalized and the sick.

STRENNA OF THE RECTOR MAJOR FOR 2023



Strenna or Strenna di Natale is a gift that is usual to make or receive in Italy at Christmas time.



“And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And Mary gave birth to her first-born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

LUKE CHAPTER 2



PICTURE COURTESY ALOYSIUS RAMPOLOKENG

BOOYSENS - GAUTENG

Grade 3 children from Mary Help of Christians Creche in BooySENS, practising for their Nativity Play in the Salesian Chapel, with the help of their Teachers, Kirsten Herbert and Netsai Maposa.



Prayers Please



For all Readers, Donors and Friends of the Spotlight.
For those who have been retrenched and have no money.
For the starving children and families, the world over.
For all women who are used and abused.
For children who suffer at the hands of abusive adults.
For a mother, whose daughter has moved in with a wayward boyfriend.
For the protection of Our Blessed Mother and Her Son.
For all carers, nurses, doctors and those in religion who help without expecting thanks.
For an end to corruption in our Government.
For our dedicated Priests, Brothers and Religious.
For all those who will be lonely this Christmas.
For all those who have gone before us. May they rest in peace.
And here we pray especially for the repose of the souls of:

Mike De Gouveia, Gauteng, Father James Summers SDB, Ireland, and Mrs Cynthia Maggott, Lansdowne, Cape Town.

Eternal rest give unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.

“Almighty, ever-living God, whose love surpasses all that we ask or deserve, open up for us the treasures of your mercy. Forgive us all that weighs on our conscience and grant us more even than we dare to ask. Through Christ our Lord. Amen



Mrs Cynthia Maggott went to her heavenly reward on 18 October 2022, and her funeral was held at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Lansdowne, on 25 October 2022. The requiem Mass was conducted by Father Jeffrey Johnson, the Parish Priest, with a number of Priests, who concelebrated with him.

Cynthia worked tirelessly for over 60 years in the Lansdowne Parish as Minister of the Eucharist, Catechist, Legionary, Social Worker and general hands-on of all events and festivities. She was known by all and sundry, and whenever there was a query or request for help, everybody went to Cynthia.

Cared for by her daughter Colleen, Michael and their two children, for many years, she suffered much towards the end of her life. She will be missed by her large immediate family, and by her much larger family in the Parish. May her dear soul rest in peace.





Hanover On a recent trip to Cape Town, we stopped over in Hanover. What a wonderful experience! We met with dozens of small children sitting around on the streets, of whom, five gave me a tour to my sleeping quarters – a rondavel of note. The smallest one, in the yellow T-shirt, stuck out his chest and took the lead. As we laughed and joked there was flattery to boot, as I said, “Ek het ook nie tande nie,” the reply came back “maar Tannie is mooi.” Naturally, there was the unmentioned request for ‘geld,’ and R5 each made them very happy. And then my request: “Sal jy vir my asseblief bid?” Immediately hands joined together, heads went down and out came the ‘Onse Vader,’ right to the very end. Wrapped in this moment of sheer bliss I failed to take a photo, but the picture will be imprinted on my memory for as long as I live.

I was sad to say good-bye to Hanover the next morning when the town was quiet and sleeping, and the air was clean and fresh. Back again to my mode of transport. Back again to watch the extraordinary folds in the passing landscape, under white fluffy clouds in a sea of blue.



JUNIOR CHOIR – ALL SAINTS PARISH

On Sunday 13 November the Junior Choir of All Saints Parish celebrated the Feast of St. Cecilia- their patroness. The Junior Choir was established in May 2017 by the Salesian Sisters in Ennerdale. There are 22 children including boys and girls who range from 8 to 16 years old. Sr. Maria Nguyen FMA and Cathy Moreki, a Salesian Cooperator, helped the Junior Choir to reflect on St. Cecilia’s life. After that, they had group sharing and gave feedback on what they learned about St. Cecilia, who died while singing and praying to the Lord.



Greetings from the mountain Kingdom of Lesotho

The K-Way Jacket I felt kind of out of place this winter as I donned my old Anorak from last year and the year before that. I quietly observed that almost everyone I knew was wearing a special kind of raincoat/ windbreaker/anorak. I was informed that this was the K-way jacket. “Oh, you must get one.” “They are so warm.” “They can fold up into a small pocket to be carried easily in your baggage.” “Everyone has got one.” “You can actually feel how thick they are.” “It’s the fashion!” And so, the praise for these jackets went on and on. “What do they cost?” I asked. It is summer now and I am still shocked when I think of that answer – R1,700.

I began counting the people who were wearing these jackets and adding up the cost. It reached almost millions in one night, and most of the people wearing them, if asked for a donation for poor, abandoned, abused children, would say that they didn’t have the money. I won’t go into the excuses that they would give, the list is too long.

I have now got a new label “Denise has got a thing about the K-way jacket.” Yes, I have, and I am challenging all of you, this Christmas – a time of giving – if you own a K-way Jacket, whether it has been bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, to give a donation to our projects with children. These children are not only my children and your children, but they are also God’s children. If no donation is forthcoming, I sincerely hope that I have pricked your consciences. I ask that you are not offended as my good mother isn’t here any longer to guide me in what I say. God love and bless you all.



In response to the Holy Father’s appeal to care for the environment, Laura Vicuna Preschool organized a fashion show where the parents had to prepare the attire of their children using nothing but recycled materials. **SISTER MARIA NGUYEN FMA**

MESSAGE FROM OUR CURRENT PROVINCIAL

“To all our Friends and Benefactors, please accept my sincere gratitude and every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.”

Father Joy Sebastian Thekumcherikunnel



Laura Vicuna Preschool Ennerdale together with the children from the Maputsoe area, graduated together.

**JOY TO THE WORLD
THE LORD IS COME –
LET EARTH RECEIVE
HER KING!**



Chuckle A lady is driving her car when she gets flagged down and pulled over by a policeman. The policeman asks: “Good day ma’am, may I see your driver’s license please?” “Certainly” the lady replies. The policeman checks over the license card and says to the lady: “Ma’am, unfortunately, I’m going to have to fine you... it says here that you need to be wearing glasses while driving” “I’ve got contacts,” says the lady. “Listen here lady,” replies the policeman. “I don’t care who you know, you still need to wear glasses while driving!”



FEAST DAYS

- 25 Dec Nativity of Our Lord
- 26 Dec St Stephen
- 28 Dec Holy Innocents
- 30 Dec The Holy Family
- 01 Jan Mary Mother of God
- 08 Jan Epiphany
- 09 Jan Baptism of Our Lord
- 24 Jan St Francis de Sales
- 31 Jan St John Bosco
- 02 Feb Presentation of Our Lord
- 11 Feb Our Lady of Lourdes
- 22 Feb Ash Wednesday
- 17 Mar St Patrick
- 20 Mar St Joseph
- 25 Mar Annunciation

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

Perhaps you would like to leave something to Salesian Missions in your Will. An enquiry can be made, and the necessary form can be sent to you.
Tel: 27 (0) 11 476 8315
We would be extremely grateful.



Kindly fill in your Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email

Please pass this on to a friend if you don't need it!

Dear Friends

It’s Christmas – it is that wonderful time of the year – that time of mistletoe and sleepy-eyed children, of presents and surprises, of shopping and gifting, of holidays and fun.



The local shops and malls have been decorating since late October, and the messages displayed now are: “Seasons/Festive Greetings.” Sadly, the most important reason for Christmas has almost been deleted from our existence. That reason is Jesus, the Son of Mary, the little Babe at Bethlehem Who came into this world to save each one of us. Babies always bring delight and love and a cosy feeling of complete distraction from the trials of life.

Emotions are rife over Christmas. It may be the first Christmas after we have lost a loved one. Our children may be far away due to immigration, and it can be a very sad time for so many. The late Queen Elizabeth once said: “With great love comes great sacrifice.”

We lament the fact that there is no more PEACE, and that there is terrible poverty and crime. Before we celebrate this year, let us stop and think. Why is Christmas the most wonderful time of the year? And then let each one of us spread that message.

My prayer this Christmas is for the elderly, the lonely and the unloved and for those who are suffering. I pray that each one of you will experience the PEACE and LOVE that only Jesus can give, and I pray that you will all have the most wonderful Christmas filled with kindness and happiness. God bless you all for your gifts, your prayers and your loyalty. Pray for me please, as I do for you. Much love. Denise Hards



SALESIAN MISSIONS

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YES! I want to support the Salesian work with needy youth!

I enclose my gift of:

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- Name of account holder:
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