

## Salesian Missions

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# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT



## CHRISTMAS 2018

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 29 YEARS



### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

Christmas is usually a noisy party: we could use a bit of silence, to hear the voice of Love. Christmas is you, when you decide to be born again each day and let God into your soul. The Christmas pine is you, when you resist vigorous winds and difficulties of life. The Christmas decorations are you, when your virtues are colours that adorn your life. The Christmas bell is you, when you call, gather and seek to unite. You are also a Christmas light, when you illuminate with your life the path of others with kindness,

patience, joy and generosity.

The Christmas angels are you, when you sing to the world a message of peace, justice and love.

The Christmas star is you, when you lead someone to meet the Lord.

You are also the wise men, when you give the best you have to no matter who.

Christmas music is you when you conquer the harmony within you.

The Christmas gift is you, when you are truly friend and brother of every human being.

The Christmas card is you, when kindness is written in your hands.

The Christmas greeting is you, when you forgive and re-establish peace, even when you suffer.

The Christmas dinner is you, when you serve bread and hope to the poor man who is by your side.

You are, yes, Christmas night, when humble and conscious, you receive in the silence of the night the Saviour of the world without noise or great celebrations; you are a smile of trust and tenderness, in the inner peace of a perennial Christmas that establishes the Kingdom within you. A very Merry Christmas for all those who look like Christmas.



*To all our donors and friends: May the Blessings of the Divine Child and the Love of His Mother be yours at Christmas and every day of the New Year.*



### BUILDING BETTER FUTURES FOR OUR YOUTH – SALESIAN INSTITUTE, CAPE TOWN

The Learn to Live School of Skills is the only special school of skills in South Africa. It is an initiative of the Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP) in Cape Town, South Africa. The School provides specialised basic education and vocational skills development training for very poor and at-risk children and youth in the Western Cape Province.

The School welcomes learners that cannot access, afford or cope with mainstream education. The youth that attend the Learn to Live School have often experienced trauma, abuse or malnutrition. They live in poor communities where drugs, gangsterism, unemployment and poverty are widespread.

SIYP has been empowering vulnerable youth for over a century and provides free basic education and vocational training to vulnerable learners aged 14 to 18 over a four-year period. All classes comprise approximately 15 students to ensure focused and quality intervention. The vocational training workshops follow the Western Cape Education Department's skills curriculum for Schools of Skills. Learners choose one stream in which to develop their skills. They can choose from hairdressing, woodworking, hospitality studies and electrical work. *Frieda Pehlivan*





**MAPUTSOE - LESOTHO**



A Congress of the Association of Salesian Co-operators (ASC) was held from 6 to 9 September aimed at establishing the association of South Africa as a Province and electing the new council. The congress was presided over by the Provincial, Fr Joy Sebastian. On the final day, five new members of the ASC made their promises.

**DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL CENTRE ENNERDALE**



Children posing for their photograph and Graduations (picture below)



**MALKERNS ESWATINI (SWAZILAND)**



The children came in great numbers for this festive oratory

celebration. Prizes were given, as well as a cooked lunch and take home food parcels. Most of the children come from poor families and were happy to receive the gifts. *Sr Elsa Joseph*

"Do you want to do a good deed?  
Teach the young!  
Do you want to perform a holy act?  
Teach the young!"  
St John Bosco



**Don Bosco Centre - Walkerville**



Children enjoying themselves at play

**BOOYSENS HOLIDAY CAMP - JOHANNESBURG**



**Prayer of Pope Francis**

Lord, help me to be like you, give me the grace of tenderness in the most difficult circumstances of life. Give me the grace of closeness in the face of every need, of meekness in every conflict.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR DONORS AND FRIENDS -FROM THE CHILDREN IN OUR PROJECTS**







**(JUBA) -** On 9 July 2011, **SOUTH SUDAN** officially became an independent state. It was a day of celebration and its inhabitants hoped it would also be the beginning of a journey of prosperity and peace. More than 7 years later, it hurts to see that the problems have even, alas, increased. For the Salesians, all this represents a further stimulus to dedicate themselves to the population in a state of dire need. The last few years have been truly difficult. The numbers of this new conflict that has been oppressing the country for five years now speak for themselves: over 300,000 victims, huge refugee migrations, but above all: food is scarce. About 60% of people - a percentage that has doubled from 2014 to date - do not know where and when the next meal will come, while some areas of the country risk starvation. Malnutrition rates have reached high levels of criticality. Over 1 million children are malnourished and 250,000 risk death by starvation.

## **NOJIRIKO, JAPAN, -**

The 46th Bible Camp, the annual vocation-promoting camp by the Youth Ministry department of the Japan Province, took place on the shores of Lake Nojiriko. 66



boys, between 10 to 18 years of age, attended. The participants from various parts of the country reflected on their relationship with the Lord.



At **ANISAKAN, MYANMAR** - a three-day seminar was held, with Salesians, Religious, lay people and past pupils from 12 provinces of the Asia-Eastern region

participating. The discussion was – “What kind of Salesian family should we have for young people today?”

## **BONN - GERMANY**

- 51 young Germans between the ages of 18 and 28, began their voluntary service in September as "Don Bosco Volunteers," in the homes of the Salesians of Don Bosco all over the



world. For a year the volunteers were prepared with seminars at the "Aktionszentrum Benediktbeuern" and "Don Bosco Mission Bonn," for their destinations in Albania, Benin, Bolivia, Ghana, India, Colombia, Kosovo, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Rwanda, Zambia and Togo.



Dear Friends

It has been a hard year, a painful year and a sad year for many people. We all need upliftment, the country needs upliftment and we need some joy in our lives.



It seems that whichever way we turn we encounter some new problem. I can hear you saying “well has she got a magic wand to make things better?” No I haven’t and I can only say, “Turn **BACK** to God.” We have abandoned our Saviour in so many ways. So many of us have told God that He is not welcome in public, on TV and in schools. The Nativity pageant which was always a feature in Malls and Shopping Centres does not feature any more. Christmas is not a time for Jesus, it is just for parties, drink and presents. The Holy Family had to flee to Egypt to escape Herod. Today children can’t run away, they are murdered in their millions by abortion. Many famous athletes are glorified for drugs and immoral actions, but if they talk about their faith they are judged. Do we teach our children how to pray? Can they make the sign of the Cross and do they say Grace before they eat, instead of connecting with someone on their cellphones? **We** need to pray for safety, for peace and that God will be allowed back into our lives. We need to pray without shame. If you have forgotten how, ask Our Lady and she will show you how. This Christmas we remember all our loved ones who have gone before us. May the Lord grant them eternal rest. **We** remember all those who have helped us during the year, those who have prayed for us and kept us going. We remember our donors, without whom we would not be able to continue our work, especially the monthly and the anonymous donors. We remember our printers, our webmaster, our helpers and correspondents, who have answered all my pleas. **We** remember all those who have prayed for us and have asked for our prayers, those who are sick and suffering. **AND** we remember all those whom we have forgotten to pray for. **MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE** goes out to you all. **May** God bless and keep you all. **And** now I ask you to turn down the volume of the world this Christmas and listen for the whisper of God, as you kneel at the crib. A Blessed Christmas to you all. Much love Denise

***Chuckle:** While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly people, I used to take my 4 year old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, “The tooth fairy will never believe this!”*

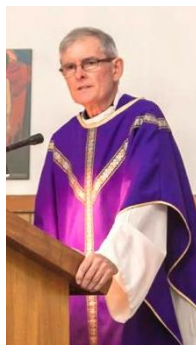




First communions *Photos courtesy Kevin Luk*



Fr Eugene Hennessy  
21 December 2018  
50 years ordained



Fr Robert Gore  
1 January 2018  
40 years ordained



Fr Jeffrey Johnson  
8 September 2018  
40 years profession



Fr Marian Kulig  
20 August 2018  
40 years profession & 30 years ordained



Confirmations



First inauguration of the C.W.L.

**Fr. Angel – Rector Major - with children in India.**



**ADVENT PRAYER – COME AND SLOW ME DOWN**

Come, Lord Jesus, You Who took time to notice lilies bobbing, birds soaring and bread rising; come and slow me down.  
 You Who took time to dine with acquaintances, go fishing with Your Apostles, and barbecue breakfast on the beach for your friends; come and slow me down.  
 You Who took time to play with children, listen to people’s stories, and share their joys and sorrows; come and slow me down.  
 When my mind is crammed with plans, when my “to-do” list is pages long, when I feel carried away by conflicting concerns; come and slow me down.  
 Give me the grace to stop and to be – with You, with others, with my own hopes, fears, questions and dreams, help me to bear you slowly but surely into the world; a world languishing and lovely, dark and delightful, sinful and saintly.  
 I ask these things of You, through Mary the pondering disciple, Your Mother and mine. Come Lord Jesus, come.

- FEAST DAYS**
- 08 Dec Immaculate Conception
  - 25 Dec Nativity of Our Lord
  - 30 Dec Holy Family
  - 01 Jan Mary Mother of God
  - 06 Jan Epiphany
  - 13 Jan Baptism of Our Lord
  - 24 Jan St Francis de Sales
  - 31 Jan St John Bosco
  - 02 Feb Presentation of Our Lord
  - 06 Mar Ash Wednesday
  - 17 Mar St Patrick
  - 19 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.

Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Just walk beside me and be my friend.



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

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

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



**I enclose my gift of:**

- R120  R175  R200  Other R..... will be made by (please tick)
- Cheque  Debit Order  Direct deposit\*  
 Cheques payable to **Salesian Missions**  
 Please debit my bank account with R.....  
 Monthly  Once only
- Type of account:  Cheque  Transmission
- Name of account holder: .....
- Bank: .....Branch Code: .....
- Branch name: .....
- Account number: .....

Signature: .....  
**\*STANDARD BANK CLAREMONT 025109**  
**A/C NUMBER 07 256 1572**  
**A/C HOLDER – SALESIAN MISSIONS**