

Salesian Missions
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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT



CHRISTMAS 2019

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 31 YEARS



We wish all our Readers, Donors and Friends A Blessed, Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Christmas to you all. I renew the joyous proclamation of Bethlehem: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favours" (Lk 2:14). Like the shepherds who first went with haste to the stable, let us halt in wonder before the sign that God has given us: "A baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Lk 2:12). In silence, let us fall to our knees and worship.

What does that Child, born for us of the Virgin Mary, have to tell us? What is the universal message of Christmas? It is that God is a *good Father* and we are all *brothers and sisters*. This truth is the basis of the Christian vision of humanity. Without the *fraternity* that Jesus Christ has bestowed on us, our efforts for a more just world fall short, and even our best plans and projects risk being soulless and empty. For this reason, my wish for a happy Christmas is **a wish for fraternity.**

Jesus came to reveal the face of God to all those who seek him. By his incarnation, the Son of God tells us that salvation comes through love, acceptance, respect for this poor

humanity of ours, which we all share in a great variety of races, languages, and cultures. Yet all of us are *brothers and sisters in humanity!* Our

differences, then, are not a detriment or a danger; they are a source of richness. As when an artist is about to make a mosaic: it is better to have tiles of many colours available, rather than just a few!

May this Christmas help us to rediscover the bonds of fraternity linking us together as individuals and joining all peoples. May the little Child whom we contemplate today in the manger, watch over all the children of the world, and every frail, vulnerable and

discarded person. May all of us receive peace and consolation from the birth of the Saviour and, in the knowledge that we are loved by the one heavenly Father, **realise anew that we are brothers and sisters and come to live as such!**

Pope Francis Christmas 2018



SILVER JUBILEE OF ST JOHN BOSCO CHURCH, MALKERNS, ESWATINI 1991 - 2019



It was a joyous and auspicious occasion. The band played, the flags waved and the children sat waiting for Holy Mass to begin.



Everyone was thrilled, the moment had arrived and Bishop Jose Ponce de Leon drew back the curtain to show

the consecration stone. Tribute should here be given to the Priest who stood quietly and humbly in the background. Father Michael Whelton (pictured left) came out from Ireland almost 30 years ago and has spent his life building up the Mission Station in Malkerns,



alongside a number of his confrere. One could not tell from his demeanor, but I am sure that he was greatly pleased. Congratulations and may the good work continue for many years. *Pictures Father Martin McCormack*



AN APPEAL FOR THE MOUNTAIN KINGDOM – LESOTHO.

The Salesians of Don Bosco were first invited to Maputsoe, Lesotho during the 1970s. The Bishop of Leribe was happy to hand over St Luke’s Mission to the Salesians in 1980. The Salesian Sisters joined forces with the Salesian priests and brothers in 1983. It is a thriving centre for the many Catholics in the parish, with schools for the youth. There are about 2500 learners in various streams, from preschool to high school with vocational training. Hundreds of youngsters attend the festive oratory daily, for recreation, games and fun after the motto of Don Bosco... “have a good time, but do not sin”. **But**, this is not the full picture!



St Luke’s Mission is also responsible for a Church and Primary School in the rural outstation at **Ha Chaka**. Ha Chaka is about seven kilometres, along a dirt road, from St Luke’s Mission in Maputsoe. About four hundred children from the surrounding villages attend school for their primary education. There is no church building! Sunday Mass for some seventy to eighty Catholic families is celebrated in one of the classrooms of the small rural school.



After many years they continue to use the classroom which last year had to be partially renovated to avoid total collapse. **The** Community feel it is time for a separate church building with the title of *Maris Stella*. And they have set about with their plans and action! A few years ago they decided to begin fundraising among themselves, by putting aside donations from every family. Some Sodality members donated cement bricks and sand was collected from the River nearby. **In** spite of securing more than ZAR50k in savings, it is still not enough to begin their dream of building their own church. As you can imagine, the majority of families are poor and unemployment is very high. They survive on the little agricultural efforts in the plots of land that each family has. Without the support of generous sympathisers and well-wishers, they are unable to raise the needed funds. Hence, I appeal for support for this Rural Community of Catholics to build their own Church. The property is already demarcated! God’s blessings be upon you, and be assured of the grateful prayers of the Community, Yours humbly in our blessed mother, *Father Joy Sebastian sdb*

NEWS FROM LANSDOWNE CAPE TOWN

Taize, Food Festival, and 2 Parishioners at the Inauguration of Auxiliary Bishop David OMI



NEWS FROM SALESIAN INSTITUTE CAPE TOWN



WAVES OF CHANGE: To date 93 men and woman, between the ages of 25 and 35, have completed the orientation and life skills training at SIYP. With the assistance of our maritime partners, they are in the process of completing all relevant training required to be issued with a seaman’s logbook that will enable them to seek employment in the maritime industry. This programme offers opportunities for at-risk youth to pursue a career in this industry. (Picture above. Proud family with Father Pat Naughton and Graduate.)

LEARN TOLIVE: Three students from our group were chosen to represent the Western Province LSEN Soccer Team. The students selected were Aiden Hendricks, Xhanti Pama and Nkubeko Khabingesi and our own Gavin Fortuin was chosen as the coach of the Western Cape LSEN Soccer team.

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



BOSCO CENTRE – WALKERVILLE – LOVE MATTERS



The Love Matters Programme was attended by young ladies from the Assumption Convent in Malvern, Johannesburg.
Nhlanhla Mdlalose



Dear Friends

Christmas is the most beautiful time of the year. It is the time when we celebrate the



birth of Jesus. And when I look around the shops and listen to the ads on the TV, I don't hear anything about Jesus and there are no cribs anywhere. I wonder shouldn't we be making a fuss? I think we should, even if we only speak to the manager in the shop/mall.

Christmas is a time of giving and of spreading happiness. **When I** apologized to the young gentleman who came to sort out my computer, for giving him some sweets (I found out later that he was cutting down on sweets), he simply said, "no need to apologise, as the bag of sweets will not go to waste, as either my Mom or my work colleagues will enjoy them. So, in a way you are spreading happiness regardless." From a young man who had helped me out so tremendously, I thought that was so honourable. My thanks and my prayers go with him for is wonderful example and his kindness. "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving."

Once again as we come to the end of the year, I must say a **BIG THANK YOU** to all our monthly donors, all our Anonymous donors and all who support us with their generous donations and prayers. My deep gratitude also, goes to all who have assisted me with articles for the newsletters – my kind reporters countrywide. God bless and reward you all.

Please pray for Pope Francis, our bishops and Priests and all those who need our prayers. I will remember you and your families in my prayers at the crib. Pray for me too, as I do for you.

This Christmas Season, and in the **New Year**, may you rest in the deep assurance that in knowing Him and His Mother, you have everything. Much love and God bless. Denise Hards

It's OK to talk to yourself,
It's even OK to answer yourself...
But when you ask yourself to repeat what you just said, you have a problem!



LIKHAYA LAMARIA PRE SCHOOL

Children from the Pre-School, in Malkerns, enjoying themselves during feast day celebrations. The school is run by the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians.
Sr Susan Soren



Young people from the Salesian Youth Movement (SYM) gathered at the "Don Bosco Educational Projects" for the monthly reflection meeting on the gift of knowledge. They also created a talent show in which they composed poems and songs about Don Bosco.

DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS - ENNERDALE



And another group gathered in the Salesian parish of Ennerdale to reflect on



Salesian Mission Day.



VIDES IS AN ORGANIZATION founded by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters) on November 30, 1987. It is -

V: Volunteers I: International D: Development E: Education S: Solidarity

The initial vision is to give young people the possibility to become protagonists through a Volunteer experience. **VIDES** proposes to form responsible citizens who take an active part in promoting and defending human rights and in building a culture of solidarity, of justice and of peace in our world, according to the Salesian style.

A Seminar was held, and the young people's participation was lively and full of enthusiasm. They showed great interest to become members of **VIDES** to bring joy, hope and love to those who are in need.

Sr. Maria Nguyen FMA
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"HIS NAME IS WONDER, COUNSELLOR, MIGHTY GOD, PRINCE OF PEACE."



FATHER EUGENE JOSEPH HENNESSY

died on the 12 September 2019 at Bosco, Walkerville, at the age of 86, after a long battle with cancer. During his life he was Provincial, Provincial Economer, Rector, Retreat Master and just plain humble Fr Hennessy. He once told me that he preferred sport to study when he was at school and yet



he spent most of his life behind a desk. A strict disciplinarian, but always kind, he laughed once when I jokingly gave him my blessing before he left on a journey. May his good example continue to inspire us as we pray for the repose of his soul. May he rest in peace.

We also pray for the repose of the souls of Mr Bill Murphy, brother of Father Sean Murphy; Martin Connell, the brother of Father Michael Connell; and the brother in law of Father Vincent Quang Thai. Eternal rest give unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.



MEMORIAL EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION for Fathers Hennessy and Dooley at Booyens Chapel, Johannesburg



Salesian Sisters Provincial Chapter - Lusaka, Zambia



MAVIS, granddaughter of Mavis Lewis, long time sacristan in Lansdowne, has received the Queen Elizabeth bursary to study at Alberta University in Canada.



SALESIAN CO-OPERATOR FATHER HOVSEP BEDO, WAS MURDERED IN ATTACK IN SYRIA

The Salesian Family of Syria mourns yet another victim who was killed on, Monday 11 November. Hovsep (Aphraham) Bedo, the Salesian Co-operator and Priest of the Armenian Catholic rite, was killed while traveling by car with his father, who was also killed, and two other people, who managed to save themselves. The murder was perpetrated by fundamentalist militants.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH



FEAST DAYS

- 08 Dec Immaculate Conception
- 25 Dec Nativity of Our Lord
- 30 Dec Holy Family
- 01 Jan Mary Mother of God
- 05 Jan Epiphany
- 12 Jan Baptism of Our Lord
- 24 Jan St Francis de Sales
- 31 Jan St John Bosco
- 02 Feb Presentation of Our Lord
- 26 Feb Ash Wednesday
- 17 Mar St Patrick
- 19 Mar St Joseph
- 25 Mar Annunciation



“May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up His Countenance on you and give you His Peace.”



SALESIAN MISSIONS

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- Bank:Branch Code:
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Please pass this on to a friend if you don't need it!

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.