

## Salesian Missions

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# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT E-NEWS JUNE 2020



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



## POPE FRANCIS HAS LUNCH WITH THE POOR IN THE PAUL VI HALL

### HIS MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF POOR: "PRAYER INSEPARABLE FROM SOLIDARITY WITH POOR"

it, is a condition for a fully human life," Pope Francis says. "The power of God's grace cannot be restrained by the selfish tendency to put ourselves always first."

In his message, the Pope acknowledges that "keeping our gaze fixed on the poor is difficult", but, he underlines, it is "more necessary than ever if we are to give proper direction to our personal life and the life of society."

Concluding his message, the Pope recalls that in the book of Sirach it is written, 'In everything you do, remember your end'. He continues by saying, "the 'end' of all our actions can only be love. This is the ultimate goal of our journey, and nothing should distract us from it."

Even a smile, remarks Pope Francis, is something we can share with the poor and is a "source of love and a way of spreading love. An outstretched hand, then, can always be enriched by the smile of those who quietly and unassumingly offer to help, inspired only by the joy of living as one of Christ's disciples."

*Vatican Media*

Pope Francis released his message for the Fourth World Day of the Poor, observed on 15 November. The Pope calls on people to keep their gaze fixed on the poor, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, and warns against succumbing to a "whirlwind of indifference".

The theme for the 4<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Poor is "Stretch forth your hand to the poor", taken from the book of Sirach. The Message was released on Saturday 13 June 2020, while the actual World Day is observed on 15 November 2020.

The Pope tells us that "time devoted to prayer can never become an alibi for neglecting our neighbour in need." "Generosity that supports the weak, consoles the afflicted, relieves suffering and restores dignity to those stripped of

## RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

### THE FEASTS OF PENTECOST – 31 MAY CORPUS CHRISTI - 14 JUNE AND THE SACRED HEART 19 JUNE

**BREATHE IN ME O HOLY SPIRIT,  
THAT MY THOUGHTS MAY ALL BE HOLY.  
ACT IN ME O HOLY SPIRIT,  
THAT MY WORK, TOO, MAY BE HOLY.  
DRAW MY HEART O HOLY SPIRIT,  
THAT I LOVE BUT WHAT IS HOLY.  
STRENGTHEN ME O HOLY SPIRIT,  
TO DEFEND ALL THAT IS HOLY.  
GUARD ME, THEN, O HOLY SPIRIT,  
THAT I ALWAYS MAY BE HOLY.  
AMEN**

*St. Augustine*

In his homily, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, Pope Francis reflected on the importance of remembering God's many gifts.

*"Without memory, we uproot ourselves from the soil that nourishes us and allow ourselves to be carried away like leaves in the wind."*

The Pope said the act of remembering helps us rebuild our strongest connections and makes us feel part of a larger story. "Memory is not something private; it is the path that unites us to God and to others," he said. The Bible, he added, recounts how our relationship with the Lord is transmitted from generation to generation by word of mouth.

But, what happens, asked Pope Francis

when the chain of transmission of memories is broken?

God, he replied, knows how short our memories can be. Because of this "He left us a memorial," which goes far beyond words or signs. "He gave us Food, for it is not easy to forget something we have actually tasted. He left us Bread in which He is truly present, alive and true, with all the flavour of His love." The Eucharist, he said, is no mere memory, it is a fact. "In Holy Mass, the death and resurrection of Jesus are set before us."



**"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." Bill Graham.**

**HAPPY FATHERS DAY – 21 JUNE 2020**



## LOCKDOWN OUTREACH FOLLOW UP OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY – ENNERDALE

Our sincere thank you to the wonderful people who responded so generously to our 'outreach' for food for the vulnerable. An exceedingly kind family assisted us to transport the food parcels after the shopping was done. There was a 'special' for 10kg Mielie meal, 10kg rice, 10kg flour and 2Lt cooking oil. We decided to give the parcels to the people as soon as was possible, as they were in desperate need. The families were contacted to inform them to come to the school with their children who attend Laura Vicuna, to collect a parcel of food. By the time we arrived at the school, the large crowd of people were standing in lines on the open land, across from Don Bosco Educational Projects. They had arrived early in the morning and were anxious to receive help. The necessary screening was done as they entered the Centre and they were divided into the classes of the children. When they arrived at the classroom and saw what they were going to receive, they were amazed. There were tears of joy in their eyes and their faces sparkled with relief. They could not thank us enough for the food supplies. They even danced with joy.



They have sent messages to say how much they appreciate this tremendous help and that they could now feed their families for a while. Their gratitude was great. Some came with a pram and some with a wheelbarrow. Others carried the parcels, on their heads or by hand. The children from the Sancta Maria Pre School received something when we celebrated the feast of Mary Help of Christians. Over 350 parcels were given out.



We have been promised more help for food parcels, that will be distributed at a later stage. We thank God for the great response we received and pray for the generous donors who have given so much to touch the hearts of the most vulnerable. What a joy it is for them to now have a meal, due to the kindness of those who have made it possible. There are no words to express our gratitude, on behalf of the poorest of the poor. *Sister Charmaine de la Chaumette*

5 Loaves of bread are prepared every day at the Convent in Ennerdale. That is 35 loaves per week. The cheapest loaf of bread costs R12. Add to that some peanut butter and jam. Not cheap (do the maths) and children are always hungry.



## SALESIAN INSTITUTE – CAPE TOWN

Celebrating 110 Years of selfless commitment to the youth of Cape Town, The Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP), are now facing an unprecedented challenge. The COVID-19 pandemic, national lockdown, and resulting economic slowdown affects every aspect of South African society. Given the already weak state of the economy, the country's high levels of unemployment, poverty, and inequality, we as an organisation are now faced with financial constraints to continue with our programme offering, to youth from marginalised backgrounds.

Despite the negative impact of COVID-19 on the NGO sector, we are operating remotely during the lockdown, providing essential services, such as food



parcels to our beneficiaries in vulnerable communities across Cape Town. These interventions complement those of government and other stakeholders and form an integral part of a collective national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Our goal to uplift and provide training and employment opportunities for youth at-risk and facilitate sustainable livelihoods is an important one," says Fr Pat Naughton, CEO at SIYP. **Frieda Pehlivan** (picture: Mr Thembinkosi Dube handing out food parcels in Parklands)



***"The Spirit loves us and knows everyone's place. For Him, we are not bits of confetti blown about by the wind, but irreplaceable fragments in His mosaic." POPE FRANCIS***



## WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY, 24 MAY 2020

Pope Francis in his Message for the 54th World Communication Day suggests the theme of storytelling.... **SHARE YOUR STORIES** In this historical moment, with the pandemic raging in many parts of the world and which confines millions of people to live in seclusion, Pope Francis reminds us to "weave stories". "The act of telling is essentially human. We feel the need to tell what happens to us and to others to find the meaning of life," writes S. Kohan. The Pope, for his part, invites us to tell "stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength to go forward together." Moreover, he encourages us "to tell and share constructive stories that help us understand that we are all part of a bigger story than ourselves." ANS - ROME

### STORIES FROM CAPE TOWN



In 1984 during troubled times when Arlene Brown could not get into the townships, Fr Frances Treanor gave permission for dance classes each week in the Parish Centre. Milk and biscuits were shared, and the group went from strength to strength, through all adversities. I was there and it was lovely to watch. A few years later I saw an article in the local paper "Zamas gifts to the world. It was good reading and there was a picture of a "white haired" lady and children. It stayed in my

memory and my file and then once again in March 2019 I saw an advertisement showing Abbotts

College, which is not far from my home, with Arlene Brown's telephone number. She was taken aback at my 'phone call and I promised to 'phone again, as I wanted her to revisit Our Lady Help of Christians. She also said that she would come and visit. I feel that Our Lady Help of Christians helped these members to change their lives and I wanted to introduce Arlene, our Parish Priest and myself. **Cynthia Maggott**



GUGULETHU LEGACY: Zama Dance School founder Arlene Westergaard gets farewell hugs from recent Royal Academy of Dance Intermediate ballet graduate Khulile Mbizeli, left, and the Intermediate Foundation class children. PICTURE: SUPPLIED

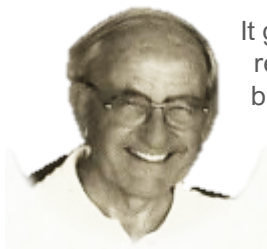
### A FIRE - AND THE OTTERY CHAPEL – 30 YEARS OLD



Reggie Sauer and his family were responsible, 30 years ago, for what has now become the Ottery Chapel. He recently had a fire at his home in Lansdowne, which he tells us about, followed by a brief summary of the existence of the Ottery Chapel.

The fire was caused by an electrical fault on the second floor (attic), I was on the same floor at the time when I smelt smoke, and called my wife on the floor below, to check its origin. But she could not smell any smoke. I immediately thereafter went back to the attic and just saw flames. I tried to dowse them with buckets of water but to no avail. The fire brigade was summoned, and the fire was eventually extinguished.

We are blessed to be alive especially with the disaster taking place at 9am and not in the early hours of the morning while we were all asleep. We are eternally grateful to GOD our Almighty Father. We are further blessed that there were no fatalities, except for a nephew's scorched arm.



It gives me great pleasure, and on behalf of my family, the Sauer family, to reflect briefly on the past 30 years of Ottery chapel's existence. Prior to the birth of Ottery chapel, the late Fr Martin Daly said Holy Mass in a "garage" to accommodate those parishioners who relied on public transport to get to our mother church in Lansdowne.

Many of you will no doubt recall that Fr Daly's only transport was his bicycle which he used to get to Mass and do his visitations, assisted by the late George Virgin. When we heard of this, we approached Fr Daly

and the rest of the clergy, and offered them one of the two vacant spaces in our building. They chose the very one where we still are today.

We were faced with many challenges from outside forces threatening to shut down the chapel but we persisted and persevered with the full conviction that "if God is on your side, who can ever be against you."

The Chapel started off with only 25 parishioners. The then parish priest was the late Fr Canice Dooley. In a short space of time the word rapidly spread about the chapel's existence and soon the first part of the chapel was fast filling up so much so that we had to extend the floor area to accommodate the growing congregation. By the Grace of God, we have a thriving parish today. Reggie Sauer. (and the Sauer family) (Pictures: Father Martin Daly RIP and Reggie dressed in Fireman's apparel.)





## **A SHORT STORY FROM ANNE WOZNIAK**

I am fine here in my little Granny flat on my son's property and they do all my shopping and are so caring that I feel very blessed. We have all had extra calls on our help to the poor and underprivileged and our church is collecting donations to help provide food parcels. In our area there are a few churches, served by three Norbetine priests from the Norbetine Priory in Kommetjie, Fathers Subeesh, Sebastian and Galal. They also do daily live streaming of the Holy Mass which we can watch from our phones. Also, members of the Parish Council live stream the Rosary too from their homes, which is wonderful as it really helps one to feel very much still a part of daily worship.,

I miss very much my best friend Maisie Swoboda, who is a parishioner at Our Lady Help of Christians, Lansdowne. Maisie was part of the care group there and very involved in other activities at the church. She was also involved with the SPCA on a voluntary basis, and has just turned 85 yrs. She is having a well-earned rest through this lockdown, but we talk every day on the phone. It has been particularly good to receive your newsletter by email.

Linked to these two friends is another good lady, who is the Co-Ordinator of the Care Group in Lansdowne Parish, Lucille Mendes. The work of the Care Group has almost come to a halt now, except for contact via the telephone and email.



Maisie and Anne before the lockdown

## **JUST LIKE ME – ESME HEYNES**

I started working at the Salesian Institute at the tender age of 16 in the tailoring department. I was taught by Mr Fortune how to make school blazers for the then Salesian boys High School, also cassocks for priests. I worked in the tailoring shop for at least 3 years and was then transferred to the Repository.



my late husband Gordon when I worked in the Repository. Every evening on my way home from work Gordon would wait for me and follow me all the way to the station. We courted for 10 years before I decided it was time to tie the knot. We got married on the 21st of January 1978. He was a good husband and father. He died of a heart attack in May 2009 and is sorely missed.

I remained in the Repository for 43 years of loyal service until I was retrenched in 2013. I enjoyed working in the Repository and got to meet many Religious people, such as Bishops, Priests, Nuns and Brothers.

I had the privilege of taking care of and nursing Brother Peter after his hip operation. Also, Brother John O'Kane and Father Aloysius Carrol who were both very ill and who eventually passed away.

I also took care of the Sacristy in the chapel which I loved doing.

Elaine and I ran the Repository with the help of Jenny when Brother Peter decided to start The Learn to Live project. Elaine and Jenny decided to leave the Institute in December 2012 and I was left on my own to prepare for the closing down of the Repository in April 2013. When the Repository closed for good, I had to stay on and make sure everything was packed up and accounted for. It was sad leaving after so many years.

I then got to spend quality time taking care of my mom who passed away on the 19th of December 2019. I am Blessed with two beautiful grandsons, Connor who is now 2 years old and the light of my life, and Jaydan, a loving and gentle young man of whom I am very proud. Also, my loving Son Clint and daughter in law Laurie- Anne. Let me not forget my lovely companion and friend Chloe my collie dog.



Thank you, Denise, for giving me this opportunity to relate my story. You are a good and loyal friend and you work so hard to do the right thing. (Pictures: Esme in the Repository with a young Fr Pat Naughton and Fr Pat Ahern of happy memory; and with her grandson Connor).

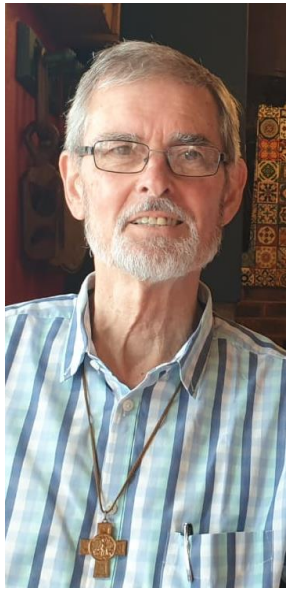
## **BREAD DELIVERY IN LANSDOWNE/HANOVER PARK**

What the Lord has done for us, we cannot tell it all! Thank you very much again to all who assisted us with another food parcel distribution. A big thank you to Sasko who donated 200 loaves of bread to the drive. Today we managed to deliver food to 85 families. God bless you. Father Jonathan Daniels



# STORIES FROM GAUTENG

## FORMATION TO SALESIAN LIFE



We have all watched at one time or another three aeroplanes doing acrobatics in the air, in an exciting formation. They are a team, but also individuals. With their skills of flying and their discipline to work with others they form a dynamic team. A vocation to the religious life is somewhat like that. Certainly not up in the air, but very much grounded on the same principles. A young man who feels the call to religious life as a Salesian – like a young pilot wanting to be a stunt flier in an aeroplane – needs to grapple with the skills required and the challenges of working in a team. This is called FORMATION when referring to a Salesian. It takes several years to qualify adequately in maturing as a religious in a community, as also to enhance those gifts and skills required by the apostolate.

Unlike the acrobatic pilots, formation for a Salesian continues all his life, as circumstances, attitudes, societies change, he needs to meet the new

challenges, with his community. As with any training / learning / growing not only does it take time, it takes money! The costs involved with preparing young wanna-be Salesians in formal training and formation to the religious Priesthood or Brotherhood is great. In these difficult times, the begging bowl is held out to all to assist in this important mission.... To train and form a new generation of Salesians in the style and charism of St John Bosco. **FATHER ROBERT GORE**

## FROM THE PARISH DESK - ROBERTSHAM

**Covid - 19** has altered the way in which the world has viewed itself and significant adjustments have been made by all especially at Parish level. No one could have foreseen, or desired, the sudden disruption to life and the tragedies which have been suffered by so many of our Brothers and Sisters across the Globe.

However, when our back is against the wall, new situations always bring fresh opportunities, and our Christian Faith assures us that God's imagination will never be exhausted.

Many wonderful initiatives and resources have come available including Live - Streaming of the Masses. The hunger for the things of God is very real; many feel that there is a dimension missing from their lives which can only be answered by a Faith Commitment. **St. Peter tells us: "Reverence the Lord Jesus in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for the people who ask you for the hope you have".**

Following the State President's address on the 26th May 2020, the Archdiocese of Johannesburg issued a directive clarifying measures to be put into place to ensure the safety of the Parishioners, the Priests as well as the community at large.

Our Parish Elect met to deliberate on the above statement and a decision was taken **Not to re-open** until further notice. We will continue to monitor the situation monthly.

**The Feast of Corpus Christi** would have seen our **First Communion Candidates** encounter Jesus in a very special way as they received him in their very being. Those **Adults who had been preparing for Fuller Communion** with the Church at Easter are **still awaiting** their sacraments. **This Year's Cohort of teenagers receiving Confirmation in July** will unfortunately be put on hold. Added to that are the number of **Babies for Baptism**. **The Elderly and the Housebound** for whom pastoral care in their homes have also been compromised in a big way. **Couples who had planned their Weddings** have had to reschedule their dates. We are aware too that this is challenging for **our faithful Parishioners** who are all this time without receiving Communion.

We can only **Hope and Pray** that the frustration engendered by the current situation will have increased peoples longing for the things of God, and the old saying:

**"Absence makes the Heart grow fonder." Father Tim Wrenn**

**OH, SACRED HEART OF JESUS I PLACE ALL MY TRUST IN THEE – MAKE MY HEART LIKE THINE**

Dear Friends  
At last I have completed this eight-page newsletter. I decided to change the content and give you the stories of



friends, donors, and religious. I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading them. Each has their own story to tell and space and time prevented me from giving each a preamble. I have known some of them for many years and others for just a short time. The kind words that have been meted to me in some of them, I feel, is not warranted, but the authors have insisted.

So much is being said about this terrible pandemic that I do not wish to add to it. Just one thing however worried me when I listened to one of the President's speeches, when he spoke about the sanctity of life. "All life is sacred" he said. My question is what about the thousands of babies who are aborted each year. Are their lives not sacred?

Once again I offer my thanks: to all our loyal donors, known and unknown; to all those who pray for the success of our mission; and to all those who 'phone or send a message, just because they care. We need prayer more than ever in these sad times – sincere, reverent and devout prayer to the good Lord and His Blessed Mother. I have many daily requests for prayer, so I ask you to help me out. And remember to pray for me please, as I do for you. Much love and keep safe. Denise Hards

**CHUCKLE:** A couple was going out for the evening. The last thing they did was to put the cat out.

The taxi arrived, and as the couple walked out of the house, the cat shoots back in. So, the husband goes back inside to chase it out.

The wife, not wanting it known that the house would be empty, explained to the taxi driver "He's just going upstairs to say goodbye to my mother."

A few minutes later, the husband got into the taxi and said, "Sorry I took so long, the stupid thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger to get her to come out!"



## SISTER MARY MARGARET WALSH



(pictured: l. to r. Sisters Isabel, Mary Margaret, Therese and Helen)

Sister celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 14 May 2020. We offer **CONGRATULATIONS** to her as we follow her story. "I was born into a family of three brothers and three sisters, plus Mum and Dad, in Kilrush, County Clare, Ireland. The same town from which Father Joe Lowe, of happy memory, came from.

**I did Nursing** before entering the Convent in Brosna where I had 3 cousins who were Salesian Sisters. I experienced the warm friendliness of the Sisters there and was attracted to the Don Bosco spirit.

**I came** as a Sister to South Africa in 1965 and from Johannesburg I proceeded by plane to Cape Town. Looking out of the window in the plane I could see neither houses, nor people. Strange? I learned later that the plane was flying over the Great Karoo.

**I still remember** the great welcome I got in Cape Town. After a short spell in Paarl I went with some of the Sisters to open the house in Booyens. At that time there were many Pressure Bursts from the mines which frightened us at first, but we got used to them.

**A few** years later I went back to the Cape again and I was in Paarl when the earthquake occurred in Ceres. We were frightened again but this time we went to the Chapel to pray the Rosary. The big statue of Our Lady swayed and forgetting the Rosary we called on Mary Help of Christians to pray for us.

**I worked** in the Nursery School at Booyens and also in Delft, on the Cape Flats. It was a joy to teach the children of all ages: Catechism, RCIA, prayer groups and family visiting in Kuils River, filled my days.

I thank God for my life as a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, for my family, the Congregation, the Salesian SDB'S, and the Sisters who helped me on my journey. May God reward them abundantly and grant many vocations to South Africa.



**Brother Xolile Samson Galata**, who received the Ministry of Lector at the end of the first year of Theology studies, The Ministry was conferred on the 16th May at Don Bosco Utume, Nairobi. He is the first on the front line, on our left as we look at the picture. **Father Joy Sebastian**

## A CHALLENGING PIPE BURST DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

**I heard** the sound of trouble, just after 13h00. The hot water pipe under my bathroom basin burst and flooded, a few centimetres of water, just about over the entire unit. I was still in my pj's and had to dash a few doors up for help. Morne came as quickly as he could and succeeded in turning the water off.

**I slipped** and fell flat on my back trying to answer the phone. It was Debbie, my neighbour across the road, offering help. She fetched towels and a bedspread to help contain the stream. I had called Steven, my son, and he came armed with towels.

**The complex** manager, Gwen came too - she phoned a plumber, Bennett. R850.00 later and the pipe was replaced. She also told me about Ernst, who owns Clicks Clean, a resident in the village. Fortunately, he was at home when I knocked on his door. He came and assessed the damage and fetched his industrial water vacuum cleaner. He worked in my bedroom and some of the other rooms. He would not charge me, so once things are more back to normal his team will come and clean my lounge furniture and charge me for that. The furniture did not get wet, it is just in need of a cleaning.

**Within** two hours or so the water had been mopped up. Steve, Debbie and Gwen did an amazing job sweeping water out of the two external doors with brooms, squeegee and mop.

**After** having no news for so long I had a news- worthy story to share. I chatted and laughed about it with Natz, and some of my sisters. Imagine if I had been at work and returned to that disaster?

The laminate flooring is a bit the worse for the water cleaning it underwent, but besides that all is well.

**Looking** back on this from nearly a month on - it was not as bad as it felt at the time! **GAIL WILES**



**LAURA VICUNA AND SANCTA MARIA** centres in Ennerdale and Finetown are most grateful to Mr Joseph Siju, Chairperson of the World Peace Mission and Mrs Catherine Babu, also a member, who passed on news of our appeal for food distribution from the May 2020 Salesian Spotlight. The generous contribution from the World Peace Mission has once again enabled us to allocate food to the disadvantaged. Lockdown



Outreach, through the generosity of these benefactors, has come as another blessing for these people. Father Emmanuel has given us much moral support and has helped the Sisters do the shopping for this cause. May God reward the generous donors.





**THE FOLLOWING STORY** is from a lady whom I spoke to 16 years ago. I telephoned her to ask about the renewal date on her credit card. Her response to my request was CAUTION personified. "How do I know who you are," she said. I appreciated her caution and told her so, but she still was not convinced. I offered to send her a copy of my ID and a letterhead from

Salesians, which I duly did the following morning. I 'phoned her again and we talked. She had lost her husband in a tragic robbery just a few months earlier and hence her caution. Both her sons left the country as a result. I am happy to say that she trusted me after that, and we have become good friends. She prefers to remain anonymous and so this story is from

A GOOD FRIEND.

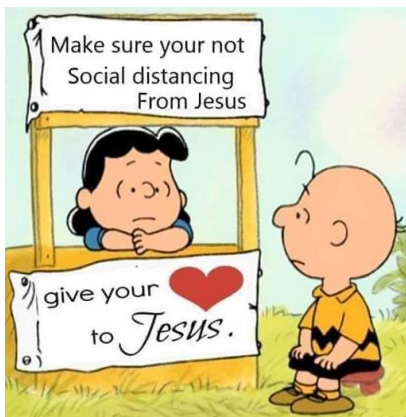
"I went overseas on 18th December 2019 to see the Boys and their Girls. It was a total surprise for Raine, (youngest) as he was turning 30 on Christmas Eve. This was our first Christmas that we have all been together in 16 years! Far too long and, after having been invited for the surprise birthday, I thought why not and stopped with the excuses and just booked a ticket. I also went up to Scotland to visit a friend/ex neighbours Joe and Ellen Gilmartin. Ellen had an uncle who was a priest and, once retired, stayed at Nazareth House in Yeoville.

I needed to see them as they lost their youngest son Matthew aged 38 in June 2019, he died peacefully in his sleep and that was a year after he had a series of about 7 heart attacks (June 2018). Matthew was the youngest of 5 children and was only 3 when we moved into our home here and the Gilmartin's stayed only about 8 doors away. I so enjoyed my time with them. They are now 80 and 78, respectively. I was determined to do the trip as they were there for me when our tragedy struck, and they are just such a lovely family.

I had Christmas and New Year with the boys plus their girlfriends, extended family, and friends. I flew home on 11th January 2020 and that was very sad, but I was happy that I went and have seen how nicely they have got on with their lives. They are men now; Grant having turned 35.

I am in regular contact with Allan's Mom (my Mother-in-law) and she turns 100 on 6th August 2020. She is very fit and very with it, she tells them all to walk up straight in the retirement home. She is in Pinetown at The Village and her oldest son is not too far from her, Cowies Hill. The youngest son, Ian, is in Oxford, UK.

Well Denise, it is very cold in this bedroom and I must still do my French lesson. You must come round for coffee when lockdown is over."



"Prayer liberates us from our instinct toward violence. It is a gaze directed toward God, so that He might take care of the human heart." Pope Francis

## FATHER JOHN COLEMAN

turned 90 on 14 June 2020.

Some of his fellow Confrere and a few Sisters, gathered at Bosco Randvaal, to celebrate his Birthday with him. Just a small party due to Covid-19 restrictions. A beautiful cake was cut, and all enjoyed their tea.

FATHER will be celebrating 60 years of Ordination on 3 July 2020

and it is only fitting that we try to remember a little bit about his life, since he is rather reticent about sharing at his age. He has enjoyed a great life as a Salesian of Don Bosco and spent most of it in Gauteng, although he did have a short spell in Cape Town. He was responsible for organising the visit of the Holy Father – Pope/Saint John Paul II, to Eswatini, and that was an event of huge proportions. He has many albums with some marvellous photos of this occasion.

He was Provincial Secretary for many years and kept records with perfection. Father John has taken a few knocks health wise, but he has survived them all.

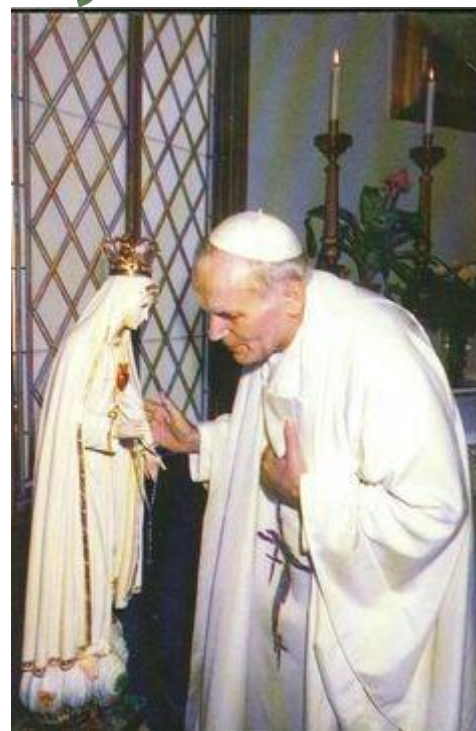
Quiet and retiring he was usually in the background taking everything in. May this year of double celebration be a wonderful one, even though he cannot visit family. May God bless and reward him for his long life of sharing and giving, as we say: (pictures: Brother Clarence Watts)



**CONGRATULATIONS FATHER – AD MULTOS ANNOS.**



During an interview that St John Paul II gave in 1980, he held up his Rosary and said: "Here is the remedy against evil. Pray, pray, and ask for nothing else. Put everything in the hands of the Mother of God. We must be attentive to the prayer of the ROSARY."





## A PARTING WORD

'I am thankful to be given the chance to perhaps be in the right place at the right time and so be a light in life of a few.' ~Roisin Hall



It takes a few seconds to say hello and forever to say goodbye. I am not good at goodbyes. The two hardest things are to say hello for the first time in a new culture and goodbye for the last time. Dr Seuss once said, 'don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened'. I hope you smile sometimes because I came and lived among you. You know in life some people stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we will never ever be the same. The poet George Elliot wrote 'Only in the agony of parting do we look into the depths of love'. If one person gets on well in life because we crossed paths, then my life is worth something. As I depart, you

will travel in my heart. Life wouldn't be the same without you and the memories you have given me. In the coming months we will hear echoes of each other across the miles. The eSwatini countryside will be a silhouette in my soul. As I leave, I carry you in my heart. May God bless each one of you and may AFM continue to shine and grow. At the other side of every ending there is a new beginning.

Martin McCormack S.D.B.



## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

- A young lady** who has a growth in her abdomen.
- A lady** who has been diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.
- A young man** who is being unfairly paid at work and is very confused with life.
- A family** who has been left open to the corona virus without knowing.
- Some elderly Priests** in the Western Cape who have been diagnosed with the virus.
- A woman** who has rejected her faith and has cancer.
- Another woman** who lost her job because of jealousy.
- A man** who has left the faith because of misunderstanding.
- All those** who are suffering with the virus, and their families.
- All nurses**, care workers and helpers.
- A Sister** who has cancer.

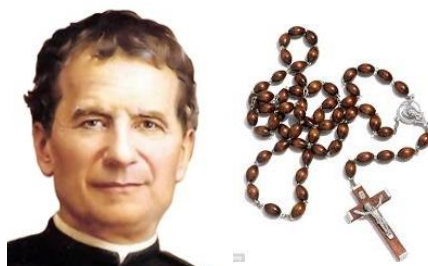
*If you have a prayer intention, please let us know and we will add your name to the list. Prayers are offered daily for all friends, donors, and the Salesian family.*

### FEAST DAYS

- 03 July Saint Thomas
- 15 July Saint Bonaventure
- 16 July Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 22 July St Mary Magdalene
- 31 July St Ignatius of Loyola
- 06 Aug Transfiguration of Our Lord
- 16 Aug Assumption of Our Lady
- 22 Aug Queenship of the Virgin Mary



Don Bosco's devotion to the Sacred Heart was admirable. He recommended it in a big way to his boys. He showed his love and devotion by undertaking, near the end of his life, and at great cost and sacrifice to himself, the construction of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, next to Rome's Termini Station.



## HAPPY FAMILIES

FOOD HAMPERS GIVEN TO THE POOR IN ESWATINI BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

### 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 information can be given to you.

Tel: 27 (0) 11 476 8315

We would be extremely grateful.

**PRAYER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONVERSATION OF THE DAY. TAKE IT TO GOD BEFORE YOU TAKE IT TO ANYONE ELSE.**



## SALESIAN MISSIONS

PO Box 3209, North Riding 2162 • Tel: 27 (0) 11 476-8315

E-mail: [missionoffice@bucknet.co.za](mailto:missionoffice@bucknet.co.za)

[www.salesianmissions.co.za](http://www.salesianmissions.co.za)

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

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

### I enclose my gift of:

- R150  R200  R250  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**

**Please pass this on to a friend if you do not need it!**