

## Salesian Missions

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# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT E-NEWS



**JUNE 2021  
MONTH  
OF THE  
SACRED  
HEART**



## **POPE FRANCIS ON THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART**

“Jesus wanted to show us his heart as the heart that loved so deeply. This is why we commemorate this feast of God’s love. God loved us, he loved us with such great love. I am thinking of what St Ignatius told us.... He pointed out two criteria on love. The first: love is expressed more clearly in actions than in words. The second: there is greater love in giving than in receiving.



**“By blood, I am Albanian. By Citizenship, an Indian. By Faith, I am a Catholic Nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus.” Saint Mother Teresa**

These two criteria are like the pillars of true love: deeds, and the gift of self. The shepherd close to his flock, to his sheep that he knows one by one. The Lord loves us tenderly. The Lord knows the beautiful science of caresses — God’s tenderness. He does not love us with words. He approaches us, and in being close to us gives us his love with the deepest possible tenderness. **More difficult than loving God is letting ourselves be loved by him. Lord, I want to love you but teach me the difficult science, the difficult habit of letting myself be loved by you.... Perhaps this is what we should pray for at Mass.”**

**Pope Pius XI wrote in 1928 that, "Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart is the extraordinary remedy for the extraordinary needs of our time."**



## **FEAST OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS 24 May 2021 WORLDWIDE CELEBRATIONS**

**In Ennerdale, South Africa** a special Mass was celebrated at the Parish of All Saints, on the feast of Mary Help of Christians. It was attended by all the Co-operators.

**Turin Italy.** For the Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians, the principle leaders and animators of the Association of Salesian Cooperators (SSCC) shared messages to indicate the paths to be followed for the future. "It's time



to think about a new profile of the Salesian Cooperator ... Let us free all our Salesian creativity" is the invitation of the World Coordinator, Antonio Boccia. *"You are 'Salesians in the world' in accord with the original intuition of Don Bosco, who wants you to be passionate collaborators of God with our great options for Salesian mission: commitment for the well-being of the young, the family, social and political environment with the Salesian Preventive System. Therefore, we invite you to carry out this apostolic mission in the Salesian spirit, in the circumstances where each of you is living."* ANS





**Lahore, Pakistan.** The Salesian community of Lahore celebrated the Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians in the presence of some staff members and students of the house, together with Salesian aspirants, and representatives of the students and Salesian Co-operators. Due to the lockdown, the ceremony took place in a simple but meaningful way with the praying of the Rosary in procession to the place where the Eucharist was celebrated, followed by some recreation and agape.



**Melbourne, Australia.** The Salesian Province of Australia celebrated the feast day of Mary Help of Christians with a solemn Mass presided over by the Provincial Fr Will Matthew. In addition to being the patroness of the Salesian Congregation, Mary Help of Christians has also been the patroness of Australia since 1844.



**Don Bosco Araimiri, Gulf Province, Papua New Guinea.**

'I do believe that Mary the Mother of God is the Help of Christians.' This was the sentiment shared by the students of Don Bosco, as they celebrated the Feast of Mary Help of Christians. The Feast began with a Eucharistic Mass celebration, celebrated by the Rector, Fr. Pankaj Xalxo sdb and Fr. Tinh sdb, administrator of the school, as concelebrant.



**Buterere, Burundi.** The feast day was celebrated on the grounds of the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Buterere. The event began with the Marian procession, during which the faithful carried the statue of Mary Help of Christians on their shoulders. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Msgr. Anatole Ruberinyange, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Bujumbura, and during the Mass the first 22 Salesian Co-operators of Bujumbura made their promise.



**Fuerte Olimpo, Paraguay.** An evocative nautical procession of the fishermen of Fuerte Olimpo took place in honour of Mary Help of Christians, patroness of the Apostolic Vicariate of Chaco Paraguayo. The procession began in the port of "San Miguel" and culminated in the central port of Fuerte Olimpo, animated by the diocesan parish priest, Fr José Villalba, and accompanied by the faithful on board their boats.

**Italy, Turin.** The Feast Day ended with an embrace to the world - to the countries where Covid-19 is making the poor pay the highest price, such as India, Brazil, Argentina - the greeting of the Rector Major of the Salesians, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, on the Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians, celebrated in the basilica of Valdocco on Monday 24 May 2021.



**"Have faith in Mary Help of Christians, and you will see what miracles are" - St. John Bosco.**



# News From The Projects



## NEETS Work Readiness Programme

The pilot phase of the NEETS Work Readiness Programme (youth aged 18 to 26, not in employment, education, or training), is in the final stages of completing the Foundation Module. In this module, students have, through Project-Based Learning methodology been introduced to the process of active learning and inquiry through various short-term

projects. The curriculum is in concurrent development as authored by Emeritus Professor Ryan and funded by DG Murray Trust. Digital Portfolios of Evidence are compiled for all completed work. Throughout the Modules, accredited SAQA courses are being introduced. They are Informal Small to Medium Business Practice, Hospitality, and Generic Management Wholesale and Retail. We are working closely with the City of Cape Town and are looking at creating a symbiotic relationship with the city for the second Module of the programme which is the Community Based Module in which citizenship and understanding the needs of the community come into focus.



## Learn to Live School



energy to the classrooms. The Social Worker and Occupational Therapy teachers strengthen our Learning Support responsibility with great enthusiasm and creativity.

Learn to Live School has been included in a Project-Based Learning GEC (General Education Certificate) pilot program which is very exciting news. This is a Department of Basic Education initiative, and it will allow our learners the opportunity to attain a Grade 9 level qualification after 4 years.

The academic and vocational curriculum is firmly on track. A full staff complement is in place, with new staff members bringing a new perspective, dynamism, and

energy to the classrooms. The Social Worker and Occupational Therapy teachers strengthen our Learning Support

## Waves of Change Programme

Preparing youth to work in the maritime industry, we are thrilled that 4 of our March cohort clients have secured employment on fishing vessels in Cape Town bringing it to a total of 6 employed at sea since the start in February 2021.

After a 10-day Lifeskills Programme, SIYP facilitates maritime training through strategic partnerships. To date, the Waves of Change office has dealt with just under 2000 helpdesk enquiries for 2021, either facilitating the maritime training requirements or referring them to other facilities.





# Sancta Maria Nursery School Ennerdale

On 31st March 2021, the Staff of Sancta Maria Nursery School in Fine Town, Johannesburg, experienced a retreat day at Bosco Youth Centre in Walkerville, in preparation for Easter.

The participants, including some aspiring Salesian Co-operators, began the retreat by retracing the Stations of the Cross along the hill, to meditate on the suffering of Jesus, which continues in the lives of people today.

Among the intentions of the Via Crucis were prayers for Covid-19 patients, for the families of the victims, for the end of the pandemic, for heads of government, and for health personnel. The difficulties encountered in the climb allowed the participants to come closer to the path of Jesus towards Calvary.



Arriving at the top, before the Eucharistic celebration, celebrated by Fr. Vincent Hoang, SDB, there was the opportunity to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In his homily, Father Vincent emphasized: *“Jesus loves us, even if we are sinners. Judas betrayed Jesus and sometimes we betray Him too, but He still loved Judas and He loves us, He forgave us our sins”*. At the end of the retreat, one of the participants expressed joy for the intense day of prayer, which for many was their first experience: *“It was a wonderful day! Jesus, as a human being, managed to ascend to Calvary. He died and rose again. This is the hope: we too will overcome the sufferings of daily life”*.  
Sr. Maria Nguyen FMA

## SPORTS DAY AT SANCTA MARIA

The National lockdown since last year 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 brought the quiet in different activities to the whole nation and especially to little children. However, when the Lord closes the doors, he will open the windows. Indeed, the staff at Sancta Maria Early Childhood Development Nursery school in Finetown – Johannesburg managed to organize a Sports Day for the children this year. This took place in the courtyard at Sancta Maria Church in Finetown, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021, exactly one year after it should have happened last year.



As Don Bosco said, the children should be given full freedom to jump, run and make as much noise as they please. So, the children had a wonderful day with different games and music, to help them develop physically and



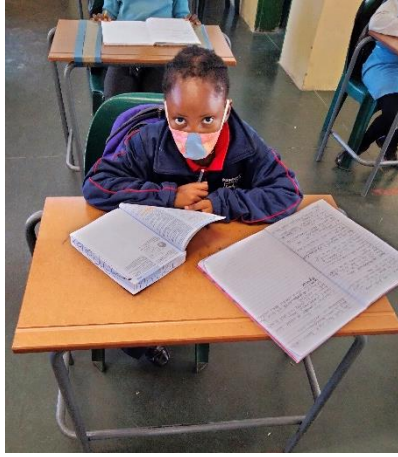
emotionally. The parents were also excited to see the confidence shown by the children demonstrating their talents. This was also a good time for the parents to get to know each other. The parents said that we

were unable to have this day last year, but we managed this year, by God’s grace. With thanks to all the Staff for making this day an enjoyable one. Sr Maria Nguyen FMA

# Don Bosco Educational Projects - Ennerdale

## Laura Vicuna Primary School

Never a dull moment! In January 2021, we were completing the renovations of the classrooms and other buildings. All the walls had to be plastered and painted, as the inter-locking blocks that were used for the building, had started to disintegrate and they were crumbling. It was a large undertaking that took a number of months to do, but at



last, it has been completed.

Due to the Corona Virus, we have had to change the double desks to single desks, to allow for distancing. In order to promote the dignity of the children, they now have a school uniform, which they are very proud of. They also have a track suit for winter. Our feeding scheme continues. Each day the children are given a meal, which for many, it is the only meal they get. There is always excitement when it is time to eat.



## Ennerdale Salesian Family Outreach

Our Salesian Fathers and Brother, the FMA (Salesian Sisters) and the Salesian Co-Operators are working together in assisting the people in the surrounding areas, spiritually and materially. The feeding of the poor continues. Now, that we are facing the cold Winter, the people are hungry and are most grateful when they receive food, especially to take



home to share with their families.

We have 13 Salesian Co-operators from All Saints Parish, Ennerdale and 7 new Salesian Co-operator Aspirants from Sancta Maria, Finetown, Ennerdale and Lenasia South. The new members meet every Friday afternoon. A special Mass celebrated at All Saints, on the feast of Mary Help of Christians was attended by all the Co-operators, where Chester Browne, the Provincial of the Co-operators in this Province, presented the new members to the existing group. This is a great joy for the Salesian Family!

**OUTREACH CONTINUED:** During the lock down, all the Co-operators have joined in praying. Imelda has been sending out different Novenas. For the Month of May, the Rosary Marathon to pray for an end to the Corona Virus Pandemic, as requested by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has been prayed at 6.00 pm each evening. We are grateful to Sr. Patricia Finn for sending us the history of each shrine where the rosary has been prayed. One Co-operator, Rosemary, organised a group to pray the



rosary at a street corner in Lenasia South at midday on one Saturday. Over 20 people joined them. The Co-operators take turns in

being represented at the Youth Meetings, especially for the SYM (Salesian Youth Movement). A number of them are also helping to give out food parcels and clothes to the needy. Cedric and Jessica have assisted in buying the food parcels.

Life goes on, so the activities will continue.

We take the opportunity to thank the donors to Salesian Missions, for the help we have received, for Laura Vicuna Primary School in Ennerdale and the Pre School of Sancta Maria in Finetown. We also thank them for supporting us with the feeding of the poor. The Salesian Fathers and Brothers have also supported us greatly. May God bless all the benefactors.

*Sr Charmaine de la Chaumette*

## Happy Birthday Uncle Fred

On Wednesday, 28 April, the staff at Don Bosco Educational Projects, had a surprise 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party for one of its most loved staff members, Mr. Fred Smith who is the welding instructor.



*Brother Clarence Watts*

**Mercy:**  
the bridge that connects  
**God and man,**  
opening our hearts  
to the hope  
of being loved forever  
**despite**  
our sinfulness.



-Pope Francis

The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious.  
Einstein



Dear Friends

We are almost half way through the year and we have been able to celebrate some of the greatest feasts in the calendar of the Catholic Church. Fortunately, this year, we have been able to attend Holy Mass in person. However



we are possibly, once again, looking at a curtailment of this freedom. We have really been on a roller coaster ride during the past 15 months, and it is continuing. Coupled with the virus is the question that so many people are asking: "Do we take the vaccine or not." Fake news has become more and more evident as well and life can be very confusing. And so, I go back to the same point I always make – 'we need to pray more.' We need more reverence in our attitude towards God and His Blessed Mother. Instead of referring to Them as 'You' and 'Yours' maybe we could go back to the old way of 'Thou' and 'Thy.' We are asking for Their protection, Their assistance and guidance and maybe therefore, we should put our Blessed Lady and Her Son, back on the pedestal where they belong. We also need to encourage others to pray and we need to pray together as families. Our confidence will be restored, and we will then see matters in a clearer light.

My sincere thanks once again, to all you wonderful people, who support Salesians with your prayers, your donations and your friendship. Thank you to our monthly donors, to our anonymous donors, to those who always somehow donate when we are most in need, and to those who donate with their prayers and support.

We are back to emailing this newsletter and the sad fact about this, is that I do not have everybody's email address. Help please!!! Remember the Sacred Heart this month, the Blessed Eucharist and the Rosary. Pray for me as I do for you. Much love. Denise Hards

**CHUCKLE:** She hurried to the pharmacy to pick up her medication. When she got back to the car, she found her keys locked inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger on the ground. She looked at it and said, "I don't know how to use this." She bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within five minutes an old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off his cycle and asked if he could help. She said, "I've locked my keys in my car. Please can you help me." "Sure," he said and in less than a minute he had opened the car door with the hanger she had given him. She hugged the man and thanked God for sending her such a nice man. The man heard her and said, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday for car theft." The woman hugged the man again, sobbing, "Oh, thank you, God! You even sent me a professional!"

# Hanover Park and Lansdowne Parishes - Cape Town

Jesus asked Peter to feed His lambs, to feed His sheep. Due to Covid-19, the parish soup kitchen could not function for a few months. However, because of the poverty-stricken Community we find ourselves in, with God's grace, we opted to start up again observing all necessary covid protocols. Thank you very much to the



brave and energetic ladies manning the soup kitchen. Like all mothers, they are given a few ingredients and they produce pots of food to literally feed hundreds. May this noble ministry of our Parish, feeding God's children, continue for a very long time. God bless. *Father Jonathan Daniels*



# Malkerns and Manzini - Eswatini



Praise the Lord! The church was opened once again after two months of lock down on **21st March 2021**. The Sisters and the faithful are very blessed to celebrate Easter this year. Last year they did not celebrate due to COVID 19 pandemic. The faithful who had been longing and waiting to receive the Lord in the Holy Eucharist came in good numbers for the Easter celebration, keeping in mind social distancing, registering and sanitizing. Fr. Odise Lazri concelebrated the Holy Mass with Fr. Bonginkhosi SDB and Fr. Dumsani Vilakati during Holy Week and Easter and gave inspiring homilies. May the Risen Christ

heal the sick world and end this terrible pandemic. This is the prayer of everyone. The children too, were delighted when the schools were allowed to open on **29 March**.



*Sr. Mary Clara Topno, Sr. Elsa Puthenpurackal and Sr. Susan Soren MSMHC*

# Prayers Please



For an end to the pandemic and those suffering with the virus.  
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 all children who suffer at the hands of abusive adults.  
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 worldwide peace and an end to corruption.  
For our Provincial, our sick and elderly Priests and their families.  
For a young man who desperately needs prayers.  
For an elderly lady who has had to move to Frail Care.  
For all those mourning a loved one.  
For all those who have gone before us, and especially for  
Connie Choate, Joan Swanson and Maureen Commins. 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  
Photos: canstock.com*



## Congratulations

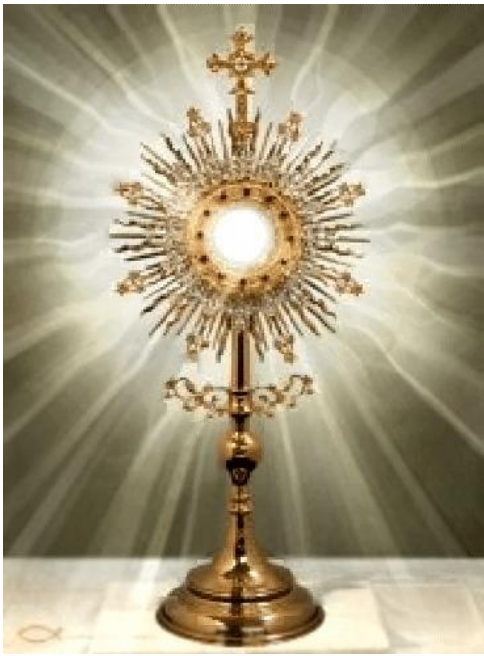
to Cleric Xolile Galata who received the Ministry of Acolyte at Don Bosco Utume, Nairobi, administered by Fr Francois Dufour.

*Articles from Brother Clarence Watts*

**LUANDA, ANGOLA** - The "Love Matters" team of the Vice Province of Angola celebrated the First Formation Session for the formators of the Salesian houses in Luanda. "Love Matters" is a training program on the emotional-sexual dimension of the person and is aimed at children aged 13 to 16 who attend Salesian schools and parishes. This program was conceived by the Salesians in South Africa and is giving excellent results not only in Salesian schools but also in Catholic and state schools. A second session is planned for the communities within the country.



# Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ



This month we celebrate another wonderful feast and to showcase this is the story of how Pope Francis recalls his love for Eucharistic Adoration from his youth. Pope Francis has sent a letter to Spanish Catholic weekly *Alpha and Omega* after receiving a photo of a record from the 1950's with his name and a number. The record indicated that as a young man, Pope Francis was one of the many faithful who made regular visits to the Basilica of the Blessed Sacrament in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to pray at night, alongside his brother Óscar.

"I was moved by the photocopy of the book on nocturnal adoration of the Basilica of the Blessed Sacrament," said Pope Francis in his handwritten note to the Spanish weekly.

From his home in the Flores neighbourhood in the outskirts of Buenos Aires, Pope Francis as a youth, would often go by bus to the Basilica, alongside his brother, in 1954 and 1955.

"The adoration began around nine o'clock at night after the preaching of Father Aristi," explained the Pope in his letter. At that time, the young Jorge Bergoglio was already living a Christian life, or as he describes it in his letter, he "already had the experience of St. Joseph of Flores" – the parish the Pope attended as a youth.

Pope Francis, in a meeting with priests in Rome in March 2014 explained that Fr. Aristi was his confessor and a good example of a merciful priest.

Sacramentine priest Fr. José Ramón Aristi served as a Provincial in his order and as a

professor. He was also a well-known confessor with long queues of people waiting for him at the Basilica of the Blessed Sacrament.

Pope Francis further told the priests that whenever an uncharitable thought crosses his mind, he touches a little cloth bag that he carries which contains the cross once attached to the Rosary with which Fr. Aristi was buried. "And I feel the grace! I feel its benefit," the Pope said. "What good the example of a merciful priest does."

**Vatican News staff writer**

It was there that he heard the phrase "*Venite adoremus*" (Come let us adore), which the Pope says he remembers "with emotion" in his note to the Spanish newspaper. As the nocturnal adoration was done in turns, the person from the previous shift would wake up the next person with the words "*Venite adoremus*" to remind them to go for the hour of adoration.

Pope Francis also explained in the letter that since at that time there was no evening Mass, many people who had been at parties during the day came to the Basilica on Saturday nights.

## ABORTION - FACTS

**A gruesome industry has developed because of abortion** – trading foetal body parts for medical research. We must expose, denounce, and end this evil. Human life is sacred, not a manufactured commodity. A human force alone won't cast out the darkness of this repulsive industry. We must bend our knees in prayer in order to **end to these crimes against human dignity**. **Abortion does not terminate a pregnancy it terminates a baby.**



## The Worldwide Rosary

Many people have been saying the Rosary every evening at 18.00 in union with the Holy Father to end the pandemic. Perhaps the Rosary could be continued each evening, petitioning God, through His Blessed Mother for an end to abortion. For an end to corruption in our country and for worldwide peace. Praying the Rosary with our Blessed Lady (one of her repeated requests) is a wonderful exercise that can be cultivated and practised on a daily basis – Ed.





# Trivandrum, India

The emergency linked to the Covid-19 pandemic continues in India. Faced with this serious situation, the Salesians are multiplying their efforts to help the population. In recent days, the "Don Bosco Veedu" organization of Trivandrum has distributed 200 medical kits to students and poor families in the Karimadom colony and delivered around 850 food packages. ANS

## Fear

Khalil Gibran

It is said that before entering the sea  
a river trembles with fear.

She looks back at the path she has traveled,  
from the peaks of the mountains,  
the long winding road crossing forests and villages.

And in front of her,  
she sees an ocean so vast,  
that to enter  
there seems nothing more than to disappear forever.

But there is no other way.  
The river can not go back.

Nobody can go back.  
To go back is impossible in existence.

The river needs to take the risk  
of entering the ocean  
because only then will fear disappear,  
because that's where the river will know  
it's not about disappearing into the ocean,  
but of becoming the ocean.

## Food Parcels - South Africa



### FEAST DAYS

- 06 June Body and Blood of Christ
- 11 June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 12 June Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 24 June The Birth of John the Baptist
- 29 June Ss Peter and Paul
- 03 July St Thomas
- 06 July St Maria Goretti
- 16 July Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 22 July St Mary Magdalene
- 26 July Ss Joachim and Anne
- 31 July St Ignatius of Loyola
- 06 Aug Transfiguration of Our Lord
- 15 Aug Assumption of Our Lady
- 28 Aug St Augustine



The year was 1861. A terrifying blast of thunder shook the whole house; it was followed by a blinding flash which seemed to engulf the house in flames; then there was eerie darkness and a dismal stillness. Some members of the staff suggested that a lightning rod be installed over the building. "Yes," Don Bosco replied, when they mentioned it to him. "We will place a statue of Our Lady there. She protected us so well that we would be very ungrateful if we now sought recourse to other means." This was done on the 8 December.



### SALESIAN MISSIONS

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Salesian work with needy youth!**

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- Cheques payable to **Salesian Missions**
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- Monthly  Once only
- Type of account:  Cheque  Transmission
- Name of account holder: .....
- Bank: .....Branch Code: .....
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**\*STANDARD BANK CLAREMONT 025109  
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Kindly fill in your Name, Address,  
Telephone Number and Email

**Please pass this on to a friend  
if you do not 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  
information can be given to you.

Tel: 27 (0) 11 476 8315

**We would be extremely grateful.**

**When you are going through hard times and  
wonder where God is, remember the teacher  
is always quiet during a test.**