

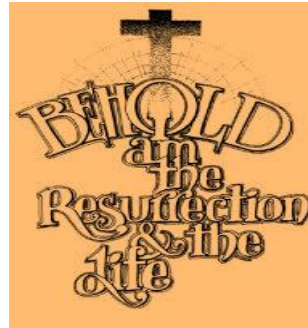
## Salesian Missions

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EASTER 2016

# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN  
MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 28 YEARS



“Love has triumphed over hatred, Life has conquered death, Light has dispelled the darkness! Out of love for us, Jesus Christ stripped Himself of His divine glory, emptied Himself, took on the form of a slave and humbled Himself even to death, death on a cross. For this reason God exalted him and made him Lord of the universe. Jesus is Lord!” *Pope Francis Easter Sunday 2015*

**WE WISH ALL OUR DONORS,  
READERS AND FRIENDS A VERY  
BLESSED AND PEACEFUL EASTER**

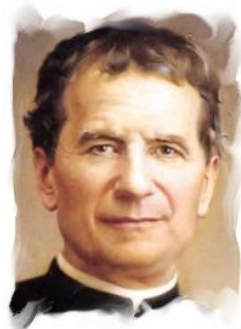


**200 YEARS AND STILL VIBRANT**

In the summer of 1815, on 16 August, John Melchior Bosco was born to Margaret and Francis Bosco. Overcoming several hurdles he would become the great Don Bosco, known the world over as **‘the Father and Teacher of Youth,’** a term affectionately given to him by St John Paul II. Don Bosco realised that education was the key to helping young people. His system of education the Preventive System, based on reason, religion and love, banished corporal punishment and public humiliation. He impressed upon all his helpers and followers that **the young must not only be loved, but that they must know that they are loved.**

200 years later, the Salesians still walk in Don Bosco’s footsteps stretching out their hands and hearts to offer youngsters a better life, a future filled with hope and love, encouraging them to fulfil their dreams and much more! And our presence reminds them that **Don Bosco is still here to care for them.**

Throughout the country the youth in our projects have celebrated the Feast of Don Bosco which was on 31 January. **Don Angel Fernandez Artime**, the current Rector Major and 10<sup>th</sup> Successor of Don Bosco sent this message to youth the world over, for the feast of Don Bosco. “My dear young people all over the world, my dear friends: Do you know something? I think I can very well understand what Don Bosco felt when he wrote to the boys in his houses and oratories saying that he missed them and that he so much wanted to be back among them. I can assure you that I would like to spend the beautiful feast of Don Bosco in every single Salesian presence in the world and greet you personally. And also pray together with you. And also laugh and rejoice, sing and dance as we usually do to express our Salesian happiness. And, as I think of you my message to you is this: **My dear young people, allow yourselves to be captivated by Jesus.**”



*Scenes from the Salesian Youth Movement Don Bosco, Randvaal and Robertsham Parish.*

**Heroes are people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.**

# CELEBRATIONS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

## CAPE TOWN

Br. Victor sent some photos of the Salesian Institute celebrations. The hostel youth dramatized the story of the meeting between Garelli and Don Bosco which formed part of the prayer service. Father Jeff Johnson gave the homily. This was followed by a festive lunch for all youth and staff.



Some of the learners took part in a creative arts workshop facilitated by a group of artists. They also took the learners to the Youngblood Art Studio in Bree Street, so that the youth can appreciate various forms of Art. Some of our learners are very talented artists and it is hoped that this initiative will help them develop their talents in this field.



A braai was hosted for the girls who completed their Sewing Course. They were the first group that started in July last year.



## LESOTHO

News from Br. Mojela.  
Glory to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother for bringing many young, enthusiastic, agile, joyful, and ready to learn youth, to celebrate the feast of Don Bosco.

We had approximately 100 young people from the ages of 12 and above. The programme was jam-packed with recreational, educational and spiritual activities. We reflected on the life of Don Bosco and had a quiz which allowed the youth to win books on the life of Don Bosco and Bicentennial T-shirts. There was such joy and excitement and contentment that the young people did not even want to go home..... they kept dancing and chatting among themselves.



97 Children received their First Communion at Maputsoe and Maristella outstation, Ha Chaka.



Young people from the SYM held a talent show in order to raise funds for the upcoming Bishops Conference.



## BOSCO RANDVAAL

Don Bosco Centre welcomed 40 Masolenyane, (Little soldiers of Jesus), under the guidance of their own Mamma Margaret, and Mamma Bridget, who never seems to get old!



The Salesian Youth Movement celebrated the feast of Don Bosco at Don Bosco Centre. They started with the viewing of the STRENNNA 2016 video followed by small group discussions on what challenges it held for them. Sr. Lidia explained to the youth the purpose of SYM and how they can change other youth through involvement. Sandile shared with the youth his Turin experience. Fr. Francois celebrated Mass for them in the Bosco chapel.



Afterwards they all moved to the pool area for a braai. Yummy cake was provided by Colette and Manfred.



A little boy walked carefully along a crowded beach, where starfish by the hundreds lay there within his reach. They washed up with each wave, far as the eye could see and each would surely die if they were not set free. So one by one he rescued them, then heard a stranger call, "It won't make a difference...you cannot save them all." But as he tossed another back toward the ocean's setting sun, he said with deep compassion, "I made a difference for that one!"



# MORE CELEBRATIONS



## ENNERDALE



Last month I attended the feast day celebrations of Laura Vicuna School in Ennerdale. Father Sean McEwen started the day with Mass and during his homily he expanded on the virtues which made Blessed Laura Vicuna such an outstanding model of holiness. And it was good to see the question and answer style (with sweets as encouragement!!) and quite impressively the learners answered all of the questions. The Mass was followed by reflections on the life of Laura in the form of poetry, drama,



dance and music. Sister Lidia also introduced the prefects for the new academic year. The celebrations concluded with a meal for all the learners. It was such a joy to be part of the celebrations.

*Brother Clarence Watts*



## SWAZILAND

The marimba band was founded in 2008 by "Gogo" Joyce and the first teacher was Father Larry McDonnell. The main goal is to keep the boys at Enjabulweni residential care home busy in their free time. As a result it was decided that the boys should be taught a new skill in music which would be useful. Playing marimba gives the residents the opportunity to have fun and take their mind off their daily life.



Mr. Thembela is the schools' music teacher and a former MYC resident who used to live at Enjabulweni back in the old days.



**Father Joseph Nguyen having fun with the young people at Malkerns.**



## EDITORIAL



Recently I saw a short film on how ISIS treat little children. It chilled me to the bones. A boy of 12 years had his arm and leg chopped off, because he would not pledge allegiance to them. That poor child is now maimed for life. Even though I have a cyst near my elbow, which is pressing on a nerve, and I am battling to type/use the mouse, I cannot imagine the implication of living with half limbs. Tie one hand behind your back and try and work normally for even half an hour. It's not easy, and allows us to appreciate a God of Love, Who has given us so much.

It is Easter and the suffering of Christ has led to the glorious Resurrection of our Saviour. Let us increase the prayers to our Blessed Lady to alleviate the pain and suffering of these little children.

Children are also suffering in our own country, not to such an extent, but there is much poverty, trafficking and sexual harassment of them. Salesians are doing their best to alleviate a lot of this abuse, and we do this with your help. Life is hard for most people, but I am appealing to you all to increase the help that you give us, by your prayers, donations and support. It is the duty of all of us to create a country of law abiding, Christian citizens, and to do this we have to start with the children. "Let the little children come to me for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Those were Jesus' words.

**Thank You All once again for your kindness. God bless and reward You.**

May I wish you a very Blessed Easter and may the Light of the Risen Lord infuse you with Peace and Mercy. Pray for me as I do for you. Much Love. Denise Hards.

**SMILE** In a trial, a prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmother of 89 to the stand. He asked her, "Mrs Jones do you know me?" She responded, "Yes, I do know you, Mr Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs."

The attorney was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs Jones, do you know the defence attorney?" She replied, "Yes I do. I've known Mr Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. The defence attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counsellors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, "If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair."

# SNIPPETS

## NEWS FROM LANSDOWNE

Our most senior Salesian, Father George Gallagher turned 89 on Saturday 23 January.



**Happy Saint Patrick's Day to all our Irish Readers - 17 March.**



### FEAST DAYS

- 03 Apr Divine Mercy Sunday
- 04 Apr Annunciation of the Lord
- 16 Apr St Bernadette of Lourdes
- 29 Apr St Catherine of Siena
- 01 May St Joseph the Worker
- 06 May St Dominic Savio
- 08 May Ascension of Our Lord
- 13 May Our Lady of Fatima  
St Mary Mazzarello
- 15 May Pentecost
- 22 May The Most Holy Trinity
- 24 May Mary Help of Christians
- 27 May St Augustine
- 29 May Body and Blood of Christ
- 31 May Visitation of Our Lady

**"True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice." Pope Francis**



Your prayers are requested for a few very dear friends who went to their eternal reward during 2015:

**Elaine Olsen Agnes Hart  
Pam Fuller Fr D Curran**

Also for all those, not known to us. **May they rest in peace.**

### 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.**



### BOOYSENS HOLIDAY CAMP

True to the mission of the Salesian Family, which is to provide disadvantaged young people with chances of an education and to become honest citizens and good Christians, a non-residential holiday camp was organised by the Parish of Robertsham, the Salesian Sisters, Priests and Brothers, during the December Holidays, in BooySENS. Over 80 young people gathered from morning till mid-afternoon for food, fun, swimming, novelty games, learning and other activities, which were part of the camp's programme. Generous benefactors contributed to all the costs, so it was free, including breakfast and lunch.



## SWAZILAND

Sister Dimaya Amdep and catechist Bongile Nxumalo teach Catechism in a village - **Ntondonzi in Swaziland**. They use their skills, visual aids as well as gifts to make the lessons interesting and understandable. There were 45 participants. These classes conclude with questions and competitions. The winners were awarded with small prizes sponsored by the community.

### JACKSON'S DRIFT

Father Michael Connell celebrates Mass every Sunday at Jackson's Drift for the small Catholic community who live there. It is quite a remarkable place which serves as an oasis of hope for the 450 children who attend school there. The Salesian Sisters started this project more than 15 years ago.



**HAPPY**  **EASTER**

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