

Salesian Missions

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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

EASTER 2020



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



EASTER MESSAGE

God created light and order in the world; sin brought darkness and disorder. Adam, Cain, Babel. God's chosen people sinned and repeatedly broke the covenant and were punished. Jesus, the Light of the World, came to restore order and to bring new life; to do that he had to pass through death and rise to new life. Yet sin continues and disorder refuses to go away. Governments, police and armies endeavour to restore law and order, but they fight a losing battle. Wars rage, innocent victims die or are maimed,

corruption is found in high places, crime fills our newspapers. While good people sacrifice themselves to spread the light of Christ, many prefer darkness to light. We believe that Jesus is God. Can God not restore order? Was Jesus' death futile? Jesus died in his physical body, but until we, his Mystical Body, die and rise to new life, disorder and sin will reign. Is there an answer to it all?

Only when all hearts turn towards Christ, our Light, and listen to his cry and die to sin will order return to the world. To celebrate Easter is to die to sin and to walk in the Light of Christ. *Fr Eugene Hennessy SDB RIP*

Congratulations to the new Rector Major

The 16 February was the start of the 28th General Chapter (GC28) of the Salesian Congregation: the main sign of the unity of the Congregation in its multiple diversity, the fraternal meeting in which Salesians carry out community reflection, the body that holds the supreme authority in the Society. Over 240 Capitulars will be busy at the Mother House of the Congregation in Turin-Valdocco to answer the Chapter's guiding question: "Which Salesians for today's young people?" During this Chapter the Salesian Congregation renewed the mandate of Rector Major to the standing Rector Major, namely Father Ángel Fernández Artime for 2020-2026. The election was decided at the first round of voting. The chapter concluded 14 March.



A Blessed and Happy Easter to all our Donors, Readers and Friends



**CHILDREN
FROM LAURA
VICUNA
EDUCATIONAL
CENTRE
ENNERDALE**



SALESIANS CELEBRATING 158 YEARS WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH THE WORLD OVER

The Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP)



celebrates their 110th anniversary this year.

“Showing our commitment to provide education, training and hope to youth who find themselves in a very vulnerable position, is our mission”, says



Fr Pat Naughton CEO of SIYP. During 2019, SIYP and the Learn to Live School, took in 226 registered learners. Of the

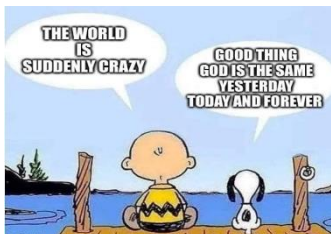


226, 52 completed their Year-4 education. A proud group of teachers and learners participated in a graduation event at the end of 2019, where learners got the opportunity to showcase their talents and to receive their certificates.

The Salesian Institute formally opened its doors in 1910 at Number 2 Somerset Road, Cape Town. The facility started its programmes by serving street children and offering education, trade training and accommodation. It has over many years, adapted its programmes to the youth, evolved and survived. These



Youth Projects rely heavily on funding to sustain their programmes. “We thank all our kind funders and supporters who have opted to invest in the youth of South Africa,” said **FR PAT NAUGHTON.**



NEWS FROM OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS LANSDOWNE



There was great excitement recently with the launch of YOUNIQUE, a Youth group for 13 to 17 year olds organised by a core group of youth with the support of a few adults. Father Bongji, Parish Priest, introduced Robin Pijoos, as the successful candidate elected to the position of Parish Youth Co-ordinator. The other core group members are: Sylvia, Shireen, Patrushka and Andre.

GLOW WORM

And in the picture below - Patti Abrahams, the Organist at the Parish, with a young lad who plays the violin. He is in Grade 6.




OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY EARLY LEARNING CENTRE HANOVER PARK



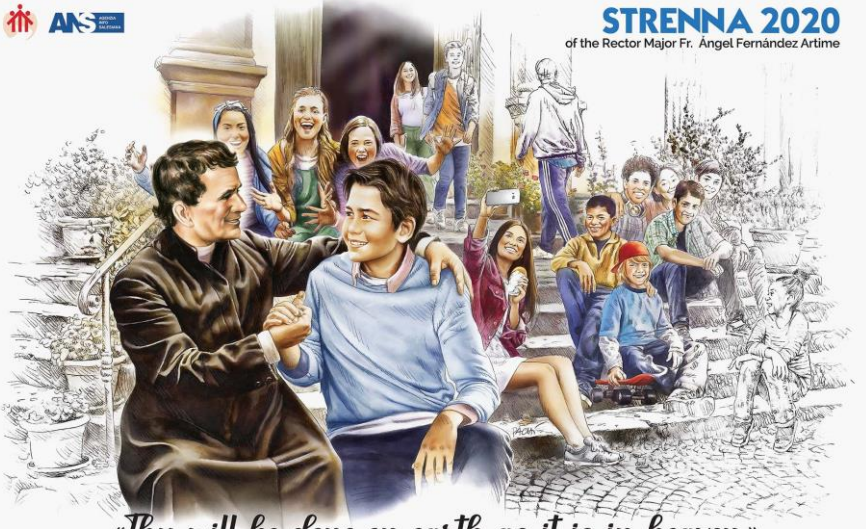
What a day of absolute fun as the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary Early Learning Centre celebrated its sports day. We thank all the parents for coming out and supporting the event. A big thank you goes out to all the staff for their hard work, dedication and energy! **Father Jonathan Daniels**





STRENNA 2020

of the Rector Major Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime



«Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven»
GOOD CHRISTIANS AND UPRIGHT CITIZENS

The Strenna for 2020, given by the Rector Major, Father Angel. Strenna means gift or present and it is usually given at Christmas on the previous year.

MASERU LESOTHO



As a result of generous donations Parish Priest, Father John Thompson was able to have white gowns made for the First Holy Communion children. 142 of them received Jesus for the first time in a beautiful Christmas day Mass. **KEVIN LUK**



At the Salesian mission of San Luca, the girls of the "Mazzarello Skills Center" participated in a retreat on the theme "In search of true identity". The retreat, led by several Salesians, concerned topics such as self-esteem, a meditation on love and team educational games.

BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE



RANDVAAL

Since the beginning of the year the Love Matters programme was attended by Loreto Convent from Pretoria and two Mini love Matters with Lourdes and St Matthews Primary. **NHLANHLA**



FOCUS VILLAGE ESWATINI



Newly ordained Father Odise Lazri joined the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians for fun and games with the young children in Focus Village.

SR ELSA JOSEPH



MANZINI ESWATINI

Our three aspirants started their journey on 15 January at Manzini community. The rector Fr. Mbongiseni, pointed out that this is a period of discernment for the young men as they undertake this journey in their lives. In the photo are from left to right:



Fr. Odise, Wandile Menzi Sithole [Eswatini], Lebohlang David Ranoko [South Africa], Lekhirikoa Cletus Mabote [Lesotho] and Father Mbongiseni. **BROTHER CLARENCE**

Dear Friends

As I write this missive, the world is in the midst of a catastrophic disaster and I can only hope that when you read this it might



possibly have worn itself out.

Throughout the centuries the world has seen plagues, disasters and epidemics, and it has healed itself, and people have climbed out of the ashes and built themselves up again.

Somehow I can't help thinking of the song by Roger Whittaker: "And will the grass be gone from underneath the sky? Will the golden flower wither soon and die, Will the fire burn out the land, And the sea fill up with sand? Will the last word ever spoken be why?"

Is God trying to tell us something I wonder? Do we need to take stock of our lives, our dealings with other people and our respect for God?

Maybe we need to step back and realise how we impact the earth and one another. Also that we aren't as significant or in control as we think we are. However, just as we can spread the disease, we can also spread love and kindness.

During this horrific time let us listen to God. He is all merciful and all loving. We can go into the tomb with Him and rise with Him at Easter.

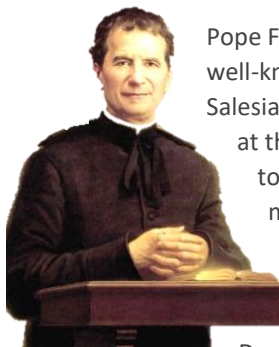
My sincere thanks to you all once again for your loyalty and your generosity. May God bless and reward you. Please continue to help us, as we need you to help the children in our care. In this newsletter all the pictures show them smiling. Help us to try and keep it that way.

May the Risen Lord be with you and may His Blessed Mother place her mantle round you all to protect you. Happy Easter and much love to you all. Denise Hards

The stone was rolled away from the tomb, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the Disciples to go in.

CHUCKLE: The President is walking out of the White House and heading towards his limo when a possible assassin steps forward and aims a gun. A Secret Service Agent, new to the job, shouts, "Mickey Mouse!" This startles the would-be assassin and he is captured. Later the Agent's Supervisor takes him aside and asks, "WHAT ON EARTH MADE YOU SHOUT, "MICKEY MOUSE?" Blushing, the agent replies, "I got nervous. I meant to shout..... "Donald, duck!"

“THE SALESIAN OF THE XXI CENTURY IS A MAN FULL OF HOPE”



Pope Francis' closeness to the Salesian Family is well-known - the numerous ties with several Salesians meaningful to his life, the school year at the Institute of Ramos Mejía, his devotion to Mary Help of Christians ... But in the message he sent, on the occasion of the 28th General Chapter of the Salesian Congregation, Pope Francis amazes for the intimate and profound knowledge of Don Bosco's charism. Thus, speaking with



familiarity, as if it were a simple "goodnight" in the oratory, he helps to identify the answer to the Chapter's question: "What Salesians for today's young people?" For the Argentine Pontiff, the answer is: "the Salesian of the XXI century is a man full of hope because he knows that his centre is in the Lord, able to make all things new."

The Pope's conclusion is almost a hymn to Don Bosco and his dreams for young people, and in particular those most in need: "Dream open houses, fruitful and evangelizing; homes that allow the Lord to manifest to many young people his unconditional love and allow you in return to enjoy the beauty to which you have been called. Do dream... And not just for yourselves and for the good of the Congregation, but for all young people without strength, deprived of the light and comfort of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith that sustains them, devoid of a horizon of meaning and life. Do dream ... and make others dream as well!"

Don Bosco was a big dreamer. He daydreamed, with his eyes open, like all prophets who see far and look to the future with hope. And with the desire to help those they meet on their way, especially if they are children and young people who live on the margins of society, of family, work and human relations. He dreamed at night in the few hours he could carve out for himself after an exhausting day of work.

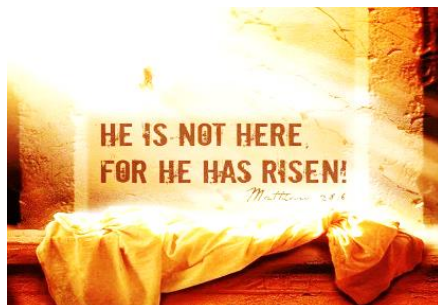


JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

A Lenten retreat for young people from the Salesian Youth Movement (SYM) in Johannesburg took place on 1 March. The retreat alternated times of reflection on Pope Francis' message for Lent 2020, moments of prayer and a final Eucharistic celebration.

FEAST DAYS

- 05 Apr Palm Sunday
- 09 Apr Holy Thursday
- 10 Apr Good Friday
- 12 Apr Easter Sunday
- 19 Apr Divine Mercy Sunday
- 29 Apr St Catherine of Siena
- 06 May St Dominic Savio
- 13 May Our Lady of Fatima
St Mary Mazzarello
- 24 May Ascension of Our Lord
Mary Help of Christians
- 27 May St Augustine
- 31 May Pentecost
- 07 Jun The Most Holy Trinity
- 14 Jun Body and Blood of Christ
- 19 Jun Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 20 Jun Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 24 Jun Birth of John the Baptist



Congratulations to Brother Marko Mhara who celebrated his Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession on the Feast of Don Bosco, 31 January. We wish him many more years of Priestly Life.



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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:

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- will be made by (please tick)
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LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

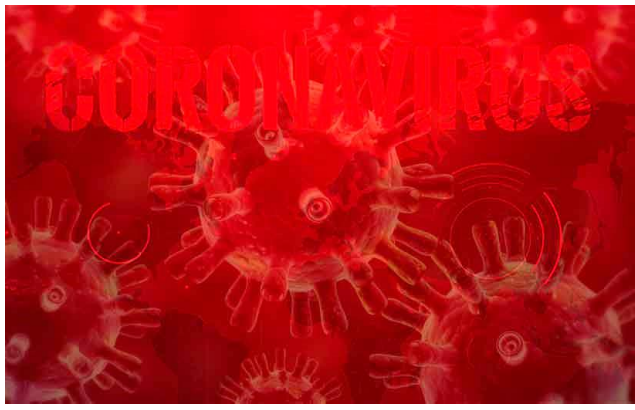
Perhaps you would like to leave something to
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in your Will.

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.

LIFE is a Miracle and every breath we take is a Gift from
GOD



UNFORTUNATELY, I feel the need to mention at least something about the current situation in the world. Since we cannot post the Spotlight Newsletter, I have added another page to it and hope that at least some of our donors/readers will have access to it. This extra page and my message within, it is to give you hope. We are entering difficult times and



the future looks bleak, but if we think of the words “What does it profit a man/woman if he/she gain the whole world but suffer the loss of his/her soul,” then all else fades away. When Pope Francis gave the Extraordinary “Urbi et Orbi” blessing he spoke of the times that Jesus had wept. The world is weeping now, and we are afraid, but we need to remember Jesus’ words to us, “Do not be afraid for I am with you always.”

SALESIANS ARE BUSY ALL OVER THE WORLD PROVIDING FOOD, HYGIENE KITS AND MASKS



In many parts of the world where people are most vulnerable, stay-at-home orders mean having nothing to eat. In places where poverty is a daily struggle, searching for food is also a daily task. They simply do not have an inventory of food to last more than a day or two and must go out in search of food to survive. Salesians are working to identify the neediest and develop ways to get them the food and supplies they desperately need. They are providing Hygiene Kits and supplies to those most in need. Hygiene and educational programs are particularly critical for at-risk people who are not able to take part in social distancing—such as migrant workers, day workers, orphans, refugees in camps and other vulnerable groups. They are also making masks in their local communities as part of their overall emergency response.



PEOPLE EVERYWHERE ARE BUSY TOO

Not only SALESIANS, but PEOPLE the world over are working to alleviate some kind of need, pain, grief or anxiety. Livia Borello is a young mother and a nurse at the forefront of the fight against coronavirus, a past pupil of the Salesian Classics Lyceum "Valsalice" in Turin.



Family, work and education are three dimensions intertwined in her life. “Before having contact with my son, Filippo, I always put on a surgical mask, and this implies no touches, kisses or hugs.” And consider how many abortions there are worldwide.

WE TOO CAN DO OUR BIT

PRAYER IS FREE. I always say that. It is the only thing that one does not have to pay for. And so – **LET US PRAY** - most especially for our country and our families – the suffering has not reached us yet. And let us offer **HOPE** to those we speak

to via social media, emails or the telephone. Try not to spread false information and most importantly, **PRAY TO OUR BLESSED LADY.** Let us pray for all affected by the current crisis, especially the sick and those who care for them, and the dedicated people operating all the vital services we rely on. Let us pray also for all those who have died, and we ask for God’s mercy for them. And in the words of Pope Francis we ask our Heavenly Mother for her assistance:

Happy Easter and may God bless and Love you all. Keep well by God’s grace. Much love. Denise.



O Mary,
 You always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm.
 You, salvation of all people, know what we need, and we are sure that you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.
 Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, Who has taken upon Himself our sufferings, and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.