

## Salesian Missions

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# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

## E-NEWS SEPTEMBER 2020



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

### Strenna 2021 Presentation: Moved by Hope

RMG, Rome, 11 August 2020 -- The annual 'Strenna' (life and pastoral direction for the whole Salesian Family) for next year 2021 was presented in the message of the Rector Major posted on the web, dated 2 August 2020: **MOVED BY HOPE** - 'See, I am making all things new' (Rev 21:5).

A short, five-A4-page message is inspired by a truly Salesian response and life attitude in the current pandemic situation:

"Our message emphasises and insists that faced with this tough and painful reality with its weighty consequences, we continue to express the certainty of being moved by hope: because God in his Spirit continues to make 'all things new'".

Pope Francis invited the world to be infected with "the necessary antibodies of justice, charity and solidarity" for reconstruction after the days of the pandemic."



the same thing on the feast of the Nativity of Mary," Pope Francis said. He asked people to say a Hail Mary from the heart and not to forget to tell her "Happy Birthday." "Mary teaches people to experience the joy of Christ and share it with others; to never let adversity beat you down; and always to help those in need with love and mercy. People should imitate how Mary responded to God's call with the same joy, haste and perseverance," the Pope said.

### POPE FRANCIS VISITS VATICAN'S SUMMER CAMP

and surprises the children who were participating in various games and activities.

The presentation is divided into 6 points:

1. A world reality that questions us and that we cannot ignore
  2. Don Bosco is not far from these situations, since he has lived them himself
  3. A movement of the Spirit that can 'make all things new' (Rev 21:5)
  4. A Salesian interpretation of the present moment.
  5. Places where we learn and exercise hope
  6. Mary of Nazareth, Mother of God, Star of Hope.
- And the presentation concludes with a short prayer to our Lady:



"Holy Mary,  
Mother of God, our Mother,  
teach us to believe,  
to hope and love with you.  
Show us the way to the Kingdom.  
Star of the Sea, shine above us  
and guide us on our journey."



### FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

**Pope asks for Mary's intercession to overcome pandemic.** Pope Francis asked the Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede so that humanity might overcome the novel coronavirus, as the Church prepared to celebrate the feast of her Assumption. "Mary, who is a human creature, one of us, reaches eternity in body and soul," he said. This is why we invoke her as the "Gate of Heaven." There she awaits us, just as a mother waits for her children to come home. We are all pilgrims on our way home to Heaven." 15 August 2019

### 8 SEPTEMBER – OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY

"When a mother has a birthday, children send their greetings and love, so make sure to do





## 2 TRAGEDY AT SANCTA MARIA IN FINETOWN GAUTENG



In the early hours of Monday morning 10 August 2020, the telephone rang in the Sisters Convent in Ennerdale. It was the Security Company, telling them that the alarm had been activated in the Sancta Maria creche. After trying to contact the watchman/guard, who did not answer his mobile, Sister Maria Nguyen, principal of the crèche, called his wife, who also got no response from her husband. Sensibly, they decided to wait until morning.



Women's day turned out to be a horrendous day. The watchman had been axed on both sides of his head, the creche was ransacked and many of the food parcels packed for the poor, which were due to be given out that day, were stolen.

Father Emmanuel, from the nearby Salesian House, came to the rescue, and with the help of the watchman's wife, they transported Ntate to the nearby hospital, from where he was taken by ambulance to Baragwaneth Hospital, while Sr. Maria was seeing to the documents.

**THE WATCHMAN DIED THIS MORNING 11 AUGUST.** And the terrible tragedy is that people were stealing from the poor, and possibly because they were recognized, murdered the watchman.

Sancta Maria Early Childhood Development was started in Finetown as an informal creche in the Grasmere area in 1994, as a response to the women who wanted to find a way to support their families, but could not leave their children in the streets all day. Over the years the Salesian Sisters tried to build up this much needed place of safety for the little children. Just recently the painted tyres in the playground were stolen. The creche now accommodates a hundred children.

**WHAT HAPPENS NOW.** The Sisters will have, as a matter of courtesy, to pay for the funeral of Ntate. His wife is traumatized as he was the breadwinner for their Children. The school will have to be repaired, and extra security, burglar bars, iron gates and possibly cameras, put in place. More food parcels will have to be bought....

**HOWEVER** all the material loss is of no consequence when a life is lost, and we ask for your prayers for Ntate, his wife and family, the Sisters and Staff, who are also traumatized and we pray for the perpetrators, that they will see sense and repent.

**APPEAL:** We appeal to the generosity of our donors. Please donate whatever you can afford. We are aware that so many people are struggling, but if you can assist please put SANCTA MARIA next to your donation. We would all be extremely grateful.



**PHOTOS: SANCTA MARIA CRECHE BEFORE LOCKDOWN AND ABOVE – SR MARIA NGUYEN**



**And in the early morning the queue starts forming – waiting for a sandwich to feed their hunger.**

Work for a cause,  
Not for applause..  
Live life to express,  
Not to impress..  
Don't strive to make your  
presence noticed,  
Just make your absence felt ..



The **strongest** people  
make time to **help** others,  
even if they are **struggling**  
with their **own** problems.





## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS –LANSDOWNE

**FAITHLINE** is a group of young adults of Our Lady Help Christians, and Ottery parishioners. They are doing wonderful work. They have been helping the poor by handing out bags of clothing (which they appealed for), to the poor children in the area. They have also been cooking food and feeding the starving.



## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEGION OF MARY IN SOUTH AFRICA

In 1933, Anthony McCarthy, brother of the late Father McCarthy OMI (of Johannesburg) met FRANK DUFF in Ireland. He became enthusiastic and interested to start the Legion of Mary in South Africa. Permission was granted by the late Reverend Father L. Peron OMI of the pro-cathedral, Johannesburg. A Praesidium of men only, "Mater Dolorosa" with Brother A. McCarthy as President. In the same year, a group of men and women began a similar meeting in Port Elizabeth. Although they began after Johannesburg, they were officially affiliated before Johannesburg with the honour of being the first Praesidium in South Africa. Other Praesidia were then formed in Belgravia, Kerk Street, La Rochelle, Malvern and two in Yeoville. The Legion of Mary spread fast in a small period of time. By 1936 the Legion was established in Cape Town. In 2006 the Senatus celebrated 70 years of serving Mother Mary with 15 Praesidia, 2 Curia and a few Junior Praesidia. The founder of the Legion of Mary is Frank Duff, however Edel Quinn was chosen as envoy to East Africa and Central Africa. She established the Legion even as far as Mauritius from 1936 – 1944, and established hundreds of branches in Africa. Both Frank Duff and Edel Quinn are up for beatification. **CYNTHIA MAGGOTT**

## A LANSDOWNE PARISHIONER

A telephone call to **CHARMAINE SHELLAR** during the week, revealed the



following: She was still very sad as her husband had died on 16 November 2019 and just a week before that her sister, Denise, (pic far right) had also passed away. After dwelling on the horrible reality of death, she became more cheerful and said that as a result of her husband's good example she had converted to Catholicism on the same day that her daughter had made her First Holy Communion. Bishop Green officiated. She had been married for 49 years. This year would have been their Golden Jubilee. She has 4 children and 6 grandchildren. They weren't always in the Lansdowne Parish, but since their move, her daughter, Kim, works for the St Vincent de Paul, and Charmaine helps out. She thanks God for her many blessings.







## GOOD NEWS STORY CAPE TOWN

**Sameer de Wee**  
**Grade 4, 18 Years old**

Born in the Mowbray maternity hospital on 9 September 2002, Sameer was the 3rd child in his family. Sameer's father left when he was 3 years old, leaving his mom and siblings to fend for themselves for quite some time. Supporting a family of 5 on a single income was not sustainable, so his mother got a second job. Sameer grew up in a community where there was always some form of struggle, no money, and not enough food, but he was thankful to have a roof over his head, although it was a shack, he had something to eat, he was content.

His mother met a wonderful man and remarried. They moved to a new house and the family grew

with added siblings. From being a star student, with his family dreaming of him becoming someone great one day, Sameer became a rebel, deep down knowing that this was not right. During his first year of high school Sameer dropped out of school during the second semester, because of peer pressure, whom he refers to as "wanna-be-gangsters". For a while Sameer lost his dream of becoming an IT specialist, his motivation, and deeply disappointed his mom, who told him that he should pull his weight financially. At the age of 15 he was then forced to work for his brother, in a construction company, but left after one year.

With no prospects of a decent career, due to not finishing his high school education, Sameer slowly realised that he should do something to complete his education if he wanted to have any career prospect one day.

Being out of mainstream schooling for 2 years, made it difficult, because there was no way back into high school due to his track record. Someone in his community heard about Sameer's wish to return to school. She approached his mother and told her about the Salesian Institute Youth Projects and the school they run in Green Point. It was a school of skills, which was not appealing to him at first, but he had no other choice. Four years at the Learn to Live School of Skills lay ahead of him like a mountain. He had his doubts about the academic standard and the vocational training aspect. Little did he know what an important part the Learn to Live School would play in his life.

Sameer now in his 4th and final year, realised his potential and working through all 4 vocational skills workshops on offer at the school, decided that his passion resonated with the Hospitality Workshop. He did not particularly, like baking, but Chef Romeo Kern, the Hospitality workshop facilitator showed him how exciting cooking can be.

He realised this was his calling and he wanted to make a career doing this.



"I hope to find a good job in the Hospitality industry at the end of 2020. The Salesian Institute showed me new ways, it opened a gateway for me, helped me to discover my real passion. They instilled in me real values of honesty, trust, and respect. I have learned various skills which will serve me for the rest of my life. I want to make them proud; I want to make my mother proud. I have my dream back."

## Waves of Change Programme Inspirational Story

**Darion Michael Lottering**



***Darion Michael Lottering second left, receiving his Life Skills Certificate, with Father Pat Naughton on the right***

Research shows that to transform from being a typically masculine gangster to a reformed, prosocial man with a desire to care for family, and be a role model in the community, is usually marked by key turning points such as incarceration and religious experiences.

Darion has such a story. He has experienced a great deal of violence, crime and belonged to one of the most brutal gangs on the Cape Flats. He joined when he was only 19 years old. For years this was his life. Dealing and using drugs, fighting rival gangs, and even committing murder. He sustained serious injuries, once almost losing his arm due to a gun related incident. He eventually landed in jail and was absorbed into the internal prison gang system for his "survival". When he was released from prison, he once again fell back into his old life of crime.

He landed back in Pollsmoor maximum security prison. It was there that he met a German religious worker who over time became a very good friend of his. As a result, Darion converted to Christianity. When he was released, he was referred to the Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP), Waves of Change Programme, where he could participate and be eligible over time, for employment in the maritime industry.

Darion successfully completed his Life Skills course at SIYP in June 2020, despite the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown regulations. "The Salesian Institute Youth Projects gave me a second chance in life," Darion said in his motivational speech to the other graduates. "We must follow a motto of never giving up."

Darion will now be part of a journey where he will, with the assistance of the Salesian Institute Youth Projects, obtain all the relevant training through SIYP industry partners, getting his Seamans logbook eventually, and starting a career at sea.



## LEARN TO LIVE SCHOOL OF SKILLS



The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us, old and young alike. Suntosh Pillay, a clinical psychologist working in the public sector in KwaZulu-Natal, has described the pandemic as “an emotional tsunami.” “People’s feelings are exacerbated to extremes now, especially because of the uncertainty of what’s going to happen,” he said.

The Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP), an NGO working with youth from at-risk communities in Cape Town in the field of education and skills training, has

witnessed this first-hand. Our Learn to Live School of Skills caters for youth who can no longer cope in mainstream schooling. Our learners are aged 14 to 18, a very vulnerable period in a teenager’s development.

“Since our learners come from socio-economically marginalised communities, the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly evident. The ongoing and uncertain opening and closing of schools during this pandemic has brought much confusion and disruption to our learners, with emotional effects that we do not yet fully comprehend”, says Fr Patrick Naughton, CEO of SIYP. To determine some of these effects, learners were asked to write a short essay on how the pandemic has affected them so far. The results were sobering if unsurprising.

### What COVID-19 is doing to our communities on the ground: young learners speak

*“As the virus started spreading, more people died, it is so sad. My mom lost her job, so there was no income and no money to buy food to make sure our family was OK. So as the first born, I must try and make a plan, but I don't know how?” – 14-year-old learner*

*“COVID-19 has become something very important in our lives. It is very dangerous, and I am depressed about this pandemic. None of my family members have contracted the virus so far, and that makes me very relieved. My oldest sister lost her job and financially we are not coping so well. We must ration our food and are struggling to make ends meet. This pandemic has changed our lives.” – 17-year-old learner*

*“I am worried about my future, what is going to happen with school and me finishing school, is there going to be a job for me? I had such big plans for my future and now everything feels like nothing. I do not want to sit at home doing nothing. I do not want to depend on my father who is already a sickly person. If he dies, what will become of me? There were many days that we did not have food. We must share a plate of food amongst all or go to bed hungry. I had to do something to help, so I took all my pocket money that I had saved and bought sweets and chocolates to sell on the street. With the money I made, we could put some food on the table.” – 15-year-old learner.*



### What you can do for these young learners right now

The most pressing need throughout the country is for food. It is no different here in the Western Cape. In response to this, SIYP secured some funding which enabled us to provide food to the learners’ families on a bi-weekly basis: a small step towards assisting these families in need. SIYP further supports learners with transport fares, to enable parents to send their children to school with no further financial burden. In addition, three meals are provided to the learners whilst at school, consisting of breakfast, a sandwich at teatime and a cooked lunch.

But this is not all. “The psycho-social support we offer is of vital importance. The Learn to Live school has a full-time social worker on site, tending to the learners’ psycho-social welfare. She is definitely seeing signs of additional strain”, adds Father Naughton.

Consequently, the pandemic has revealed a need for additional support and funding to enable SIYP to provide a holistic



solution to our vulnerable youth in need during these challenging times. To this end, SIYP is seeking support in the form of donations, however big or small, that will assist a learner with food, learning materials and psycho-social support. As one of so many NGO’s asking for such assistance, The Salesian Institute Youth Projects understands the overpowering need and the raft of requests currently prevalent in the media. “However, these young people were already living at the margins: the pandemic is relentlessly pushing them further to the edges of society. And so, we ask for your help.

The Salesian Institute Youth Projects has been assisting youth in need since 1910 here in Cape Town. Since then we have focused 100% on providing the much needed help our youth require and our commitment to them will not falter if we have funding in place,” concludes

**Father Naughton.**





*Salesian Co-operators Mass in Ennerdale in February 2020, where Josephine made her promise and the group renewed their promises. Present too is Fr. Marian Kulig, Parish Priest, Sr. Marie Claire Jean, FMA Provincial and Sr. Giovanna Pesenti, Coordinator for the Salesian Family and the FMA delegate for the Co Operators in Southern Africa.*

mission to be involved in Community work. As the Priest in Barkly West only comes to the Parish once a month, Val and Perry, who are both Ministers of the Eucharist, take turns to do Communion Services for the community. They are actively involved in serving the people and have arranged for 100 food parcels to be distributed among the needy during the Lockdown. When possible, they attend the Co-operators meetings.

**We are** very fortunate to have the Co-Operators who are always ready to assist our Salesian Works. They are also trying to spread the Salesian Charism with others and are all involved in the Parish in different ways. Most of them are Catechists. We are also blessed to have the Salesian Fathers who are very much involved in supplying food to those in Ennerdale and the surrounding areas of Finetown, Grasmere and Orange Farm.

**We, the FMA Sisters**, take this opportunity to thank Dymphna Hannan from Ireland, for her great generosity in assisting us in providing food parcels and food to the many who come to our door each day for sandwiches. We also thank Denise Hards, who has assisted Dymphna in providing the food parcels, soap, and soap powder. May God bless and reward you both abundantly.

**Our Lockdown Outreach** in Ennerdale is continuing. Generous Donor Organizations are assisting to provide food parcels to the families of all the children, who attend our Educational Projects in Ennerdale and Finetown. We thank God for the great spirit of sharing we experience. May they all be blessed and rewarded. **Sister Charmaine**

who usually meet monthly at the Convent. During Lockdown, we have met through WhatsApp and Zoom. The Co-operators are really very committed and are happy to be part of the Salesian Family. During this time of lockdown, several of them have been involved in making masks and helping the poor with food parcels and sandwiches. There is a daily sharing of spiritual talks, as well as contacts to link up to daily Mass online. The Salesian “Good Night” is on WhatsApp each night.

**Josephine Nogoli** prepares food parcels for an orphanage and she also collects clothes to distribute to the orphans and the needy. Jessica Polley assists the people coming to her door, with food parcels, and she and Cedric Polley have delivered parcels to the needy, also to the families who have Covid 19. Cedric and Jessica have assisted the Sisters in purchasing supplies for distribution, as well as donating supplies for distribution, for which we are most grateful. Rosemarie is giving out food hampers, and Chester and Belinda Browne are also giving out sandwiches each day to the street children. Charmaine Bagley has been assisting at Laura Vicuna School with the food parcels. The other Co-Operators are involved in one way or another.

**In 2016**, two of our Co-Operators, Val and Perry Drift moved to an Outstation in the small Parish of St. Peter Claver, Gong Gong, outside Barkly West, in the district of Kimberley, in the Northern Cape. They live on a rural farm and came to this



*Val and Perry Drift together with Father Colin Bowes, who was the first person from Ennerdale Parish, to follow his vocation to the*



**Ennerdale Co-operators**



**Josephine giving clothes and food to the Orphanage**





## RETIRED NURSE RETURNS TO WORK TO SAVE LIVES

On the 4<sup>th</sup> August, the Feast of St. John Mary Vianney, there was a

flood of messages expressing appreciation, gratitude and support for Priests and their ministry. This was expressed more passionately this year in the overall experience of the Pandemic, and the lockdown that has deprived us of the Spiritual services and consolations through the priestly ministry. These expressions of appreciation fill the hearts of us Priests with contentment and gratitude to God for His Graces and Mercy. One of the strong impressions and experiences that I cherish most, is the selfless service rendered by our faithful people to their own sisters and brothers. That has been a fulfilling, and at the same time challenging Fruit of the Ministry of Faith and Religion, urging us to be more available through the Priestly ministry to these apostles of God's Love: An old mother nursing and caring for her adult son dying of Aids, even sleeping next to him on the floor! Another old mother (granny) who moves from house to house to attend to the sickly home bound people, and their needs, day after day! And these are the ones coming to call us to minister the Sacrament to these sick and dying people! A most recent experience is that of a parishioner of All Saints Church, Ennerdale, a retired staff nurse who is returning to work, because she felt compelled to offer her service to help save lives. She is not worried about herself as she feels personally protected by Jesus! Faith big enough to move mountains indeed! I share below her side of the conversation with me. It is such living witnesses of our Faith that give life and strength to us missionaries to go on being available more and more as channels of God's Grace and Mercy. And I feel the many years of training and the large amount of resources, used in the training of Priests and Religious is worth it, because these people are called to be available 24/7 to be the channels of Love and Grace alongside the mix of a multitude of people in the various missions. It is with a heart full of gratitude to all our collaborators, supporters and benefactors that I share these lines. May God's blessing be upon you all in abundance, and our Blessed Mother shield you under her protective mantle and lead you to Jesus her Son, our Saviour and Lord.

**Fr Joy Sebastian SDB Provincial Southern Africa**

Thank you so much to the Zambian Province for accompanying our young candidates to Salesian life in Southern Africa. Seen here are Reece Heuvel (left) and Tefo Motlemekoane (right), our two newly professed Salesians, with Father Krzysztof Rychcik, the Provincial of Zambia, after their profession on 6 August.



*"Dear father, just another message letting u know that I am starting work on Monday. I thank you for all your support and prayers. I am praying for them because 12 nursing staff in ICU and 17 nurses in theatre plus 2 doctors are infected with covid. They are now so short staffed they need staff, especially specialized nurses. They are not closing the hospital. It is actually very frightening; please pray for them. Father this virus is not a lie; it is for real. When I look into the eyes of my patients, I can just see them asking for some love and comfort. Please pray for them. I pray that people may realise how serious this virus is. One man was screaming from just not being able to breathe: it is really sad indeed. You know father, when you look after such sick people, there is no time to worry about yourself. You want these people to get better. The protocol at the hospital I work at has a very intense dress code. Your uniform is taken off in a different ward, specially made for changing into scrubs. When u get to*



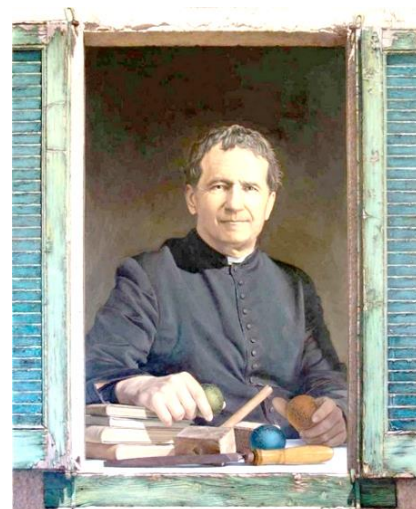
*the ICU you are covered with 2 gowns and apron, 2 caps on your head, a mask, and a face shield, and 3 pairs of disposable gloves. When your shift is over, you shower first and then go home.*

*Please, continue praying for these people, they really suffer with pain and they struggle to breathe. But*

*there is no time to be emotional because they need your attention all the time. Thank you, Father, I will take care and so must you. God bless, all our priests who said Mass for us on WhatsApp today. I felt so blessed because I think it was meant for me. I only had a cup of coffee, there is just no time to eat at all, it is just go-go-go straight for 12hrs. Take the greatest care. Jesus and our Blessed Mother use you, bless you and may God be glorified. Priscilla King*

St John Bosco celebrated his 205<sup>th</sup> birthday on 16 August.

David Pastor Corbí, an artist from Alicante, says he has recently created a work he has had in mind for 20 years. A portrait of Don Bosco at the window of his room in Valdocco. "Green shutter, a point of hope and trust in the future."



## 8 THE CLOSING OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN LESOTHO



Covid -19 has hit society severely on many levels. I make a short reflection on how it affects Catholics in Lesotho (population 2.2 million), a small landlocked country, 50% Catholic. The parishes are usually called Missions from

the days of their foundation by missionaries. At present there are very few missionaries as the Lesotho Church has become self-sufficient in priestly and religious vocations, and in financial matters for ordinary running expenses. The Mission Parish Churches are generally large, holding between 500 and 1000 people as there are usually only one or two Masses on Sundays; each Mass lasts between 2 and 3 hours, generally followed by various meetings. People celebrate Sundays by coming to the Church for most of the day. So, when the churches were closed, with only a few days' notice in mid-March, it was thought to be a very temporary arrangement. Here at St Luke's Salesian Mission in Maputsoe, the women have been coming on Fridays and Saturdays to clean the church as usual, always disappointed to find out that there is still no Sunday Mass.



More than 4 months later, the churches are still closed and may remain that way for months to come. The effects of this are strongly felt by regular churchgoers. The nature of their Sunday has changed dramatically. The Church is the centre of their lives. The most common comments and questions are: "when will we have the Mass again?" "We miss seeing the priest." And the sodalities (a very strong dimension of Catholic life in Lesotho) miss having their meetings, retreats and monthly animation of the liturgy on their allotted Sunday; and the choirs miss their animating role and their long singing practices. There is the big disappointment of those who were to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter. Catechism classes have stopped and the children are no longer looking forward to receiving their First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The social outreach to the needy has become more difficult.

**All these things are felt as a spiritual deprivation. It is as if the day Sunday itself has been cancelled!**

The Catholic churches have not opened partially in Lesotho as in some countries. The bishops follow government directives. They know that if the churches were to re-open, crowds would flock to attend Mass, making it very difficult to organize the usual precautions against Covid -19.

A number of Catholics, especially younger ones, have been attending the smaller Pentecostal churches that remained open. The larger churches, like the Anglican Church and the Lesotho Evangelical Church, are closed. Will the people come back when our churches re-open? The older Catholics will come back, the sodalities will come back in their large groups, the sacramental preparation classes will resume. Perhaps the church will have to become missionary again. The Catholic schools, like all schools in Lesotho, closed at the same time as the churches, and remain closed. With both the churches and the schools closed for a long time, life has changed for many people, and the pressures on families have increased.

And what about Covid -19 in Lesotho? When the news about the virus was first reported, there were no cases; now (at the time of writing this) there are a few hundred cases, with fewer than 10 deaths. Has the closing of churches and schools and the lockdown of business in Lesotho helped to keep out the virus? It has certainly helped. We don't know how it will spread in the future. The Catholic Church has fully cooperated with Government guidelines. Jesus pronounced that the Sabbath is for the good of humankind, and the Church has not allowed church gatherings on the Sabbath to become occasions for the spread of Covid -19. Praised be the Lord of the Sabbath.

**FATHER MICHAEL CONNELL**

## **GOLDEN JUBILEES – SR MARY HUGHES AND SR MAURA HICKEY**

Today, during the Booyse, we celebrated the golden religious of Sister Hughes

7h30 mass at celebrated jubilee of profession Mary FMA.

Together Maura they were missionaries Africa, 59 years ago.

with Sr. Hickey, the first sent to South

Sr. Maura is also celebrating her golden jubilee. The Salesian Family is very grateful for their many years of dedication and service in the Lord's vineyard. This date is also very significant for the Salesian Sisters. It was on 5 August 1872, that the first Salesian Sisters (including St Mary Mazzarello) made their first professions. Congratulations to all.

**Brother Clarence Watts**





## DOWN MEMORY LANE



FATHER JOHN KIRBY was born in Ireland on 4 December 1915. He decided to join the Salesians and was professed as a Brother in 1937. He studied and obtained a diploma in Horticulture and this was to be a lifelong pursuit of his. Wherever he was told to go the gardens would be blooming. He gave advice freely about gardening as well as spirituality. He was a kind

and genial man and people loved him and his quiet, courteous manner.

He came to South Africa in 1956 and spent a short while in Swaziland. He was then transferred to Lansdowne in 1960, where he endeared himself to many.

While there he promoted the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association and the Legion of Mary, and his beloved gardening. Leon Lewis says of him: "I used to pack newspapers and water all his plants back in the days when he was a Brother."

Brother John then decided that he would like to become a Priest. Back to Ireland he went and studied in Maynooth. He was ordained in the Parish Church in Limerick on 17 June 1979.

His next move was back to Lansdowne in South Africa, where he continued the

friendships that he had made years ago. Only now he could carry out his counselling from

his learning as a Priest. In the late 1980's he retired to Nazareth House. There, he was diagnosed with haemophilia, but this did not deter him from continuing his cultivation of plants and landscaping gardens.

He had a friend in the late Elaine Olsen, who would supply him with compost for the gardens. Father Kirby never drove a car and so he relied on the friendly assistance of Father Pat Ahern, who was resident at the Salesian Institute at the time. Many were the long drives that they had along the coastline around Cape Town. He loved his oats in the morning and his faithful friend, Mrs Cuff would make sure that he had some, if it was not served at breakfast. Father Kirby died in the Groote Schuur hospital of his illness, on 9 August 1992, and one of his last requests to Father Pat Naughton was, "Could I have some porridge?" I am sure that he is now tending to the gardens in heaven. May his dear soul rest in peace.



### TUMI NTOME

Tumi is a 26-year-old man, who was one of the first to receive a food parcel from the Sisters. He is extremely poor and takes care of his 2 sisters aged 9 and 14 years. The third sister was knocked down by a car and died. She was 10 years old.

Tumi did a course at Don Bosco Skills some years ago. While working, he fell off a building and broke both his legs. He had an operation, but one leg is really in bad shape. He walks over 2 kilometres to come for sandwiches each day. He is using a stick and has been in agony. The doctor at the hospital said that they would have to amputate the leg. He was incredibly grateful for the food

parcel and said that he was happy that his sisters would have food while he is in hospital. Tumi arrived from another visit to the hospital to inform us that he would be receiving a grant to help him cope with his disability. He was so happy and could not wait to tell us the good news. With tears in his eyes his gratitude was immense. **Sr Charmaine**

"If you wish to convert anyone to the fullness of the knowledge of Our Lord and of His Mystical Body, then teach them the Rosary. One of two things will happen. Either they will stop saying the Rosary - or they will get the gift of faith."

### 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 woman** who has rejected her faith and has cancer.

**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.

**Maureen Macdonald** RIP 20 July 2020

**The Holy Cross** Sisters Orphanage

**The family** of Maggie Daniels

**Sr Malgorzata** and the FMA Sisters

**Lebanon** especially the people of Beirut.

**A single mother** with 3 children

**All those** who have lost loved ones.

**An end** to this pandemic.

**For all women** especially during this month.

*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.*

### FROM A GRATEFUL MOTHER – ROZINA

"To the Salesian Family" from Rozina, the lady you helped in Scorpio Street, Ennerdale. "Thank you for caring and helping us. God is merciful." Rozina's heart rending story is about events in her family life. She has lost 5 family members, including her 68-year-old father to Covid-19, and this in the space of 2 weeks. Her mother is totally blaming herself for forcefully taking her husband to hospital, after he said that old people are getting killed there. Now she is also pleading for intervention/counselling for the family. "Thank you," she said, "for being a blessing to our household in these trying times. I am really honoured to have met such humble women living right here in our area. May the Lord keep you and bless you; and may the work that you do for our Father in heaven, be forever a blessing in your lives. Thank you so much, from Rozina. You know Mrs Poley, I am still a new born in Christ coming from an Islamic background and past life but growing up I always knew that I was destined to be a follower of Jesus Christ."

**Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen**





## EDUCATION IN THE TIME OF COVID -19.

Education has been severely impacted by the pandemic, probably more so in rural areas than in urban areas. The pandemic has brought a level of stress to educators, parents, learners and all who support them, that is unprecedented. We must not lose the

academic year as we will condemn all learners to ongoing inequality. The impact of losing another month or another term of education is that it creates a bottleneck in the pipeline of students stretching from grade 00 to grade 12. The entire country will have to gradually return to a 'new normal' – in other words, a fully functional economy, but with ongoing precautions regarding social distancing, hygiene, and travel. This is likely to happen gradually over the next months. It is better to keep the schools open and be slightly ahead of this wave, than lagging, partly because parents will be returning to work and will not be able to supervise their children at home, and partly because there is much learning to be done by the school and the learners, on how to implement the evolving new approach. Health precautions are being taken at most schools, if possible, at great financial cost, which has been made worse by corruption. The lack of water provision to many rural schools has been a major problem but it did highlight the ability of the government to respond to the emergency by providing water tankers and portable toilets in many rural schools across the country. This is evidence of where there is good will and persistence some of our social problems can be quickly addressed.

**The decision** making associated with the primary, secondary and tertiary education systems caused great anxiety. It is extremely difficult for parents and educators to act when the rules keep changing and often overnight on a Sunday. There is good medical evidence to show that impacts of transmission of the virus in younger children is not severe. Despite the best efforts of both parents and teachers, e-learning is an imperfect substitute for face-to-face teaching. Particularly for grade 12 learners, entering a critical phase in their school careers, the consequences of a suboptimal educational experience are large and long-lasting. However, e-learning is still a better solution than no-learning.

**We cannot** be complacent in terms of not offering educational opportunities. We can make it happen, if we work together and be accepting of efforts made to provide the youth with the best possible education. I am a Professor in the Faculty of Science at Wits University and have been actively involved in making sure that most students have access to education, this has taken an enormous amount of logistical support. Tracking 37,000 students and getting detailed information of who needed laptops, tablets, data and internet connectivity required everyone to work towards the same goal of giving the students the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will equip them to move into the world of work. It is much more time demanding to prepare online lecturers and I salute my educators as well as the learners and their parents for their tremendous efforts over the last few months.

*Professor Mary Scholes is the daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Collins, who attended St John Bosco Parish Robertsham.*



**ANOTHER GRATEFUL FAMILY – A MOTHER AND 3 CHILDREN - AFTER RECEIVING THEIR FOOD PARCEL FOR THE MONTH.**



Dear Friends

This really is a mammoth edition –my apologies, but the news just kept coming. I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading it. Let me know, please, if you are unhappy about anything.

I would be grateful for your criticism.

Masks are the “in thing” at the moment.

Everywhere you go there are Signs - “No entry without a Mask.” I wonder what would



happen if there were signs, saying “No entry without a Rosary.” We need to say the Rosary daily.

There are times in every person’s life when they encounter Christ for a fleeting moment – at a death, a wedding, an illness, a reunion, whatever. I am sure that we can all agree to that. We need to cherish those moments, nurture them, and pray to make them happen more often. Thus, can we build a wonderful relationship with the Good Lord and His Blessed Mother.

I haven’t given myself much space, so I must end by expressing my sincere gratitude to all our wonderful donors, our monthly donors, our Anonymous donors and all those who pray for us. Also, my humble thanks to all my “Reporters.” I can’t thank you all enough for supporting me/us so generously. Keep safe under Our Lady’s mantle and pray for me, as I do for you. Much love Denise Hards



**CHUCKLE:** An elderly lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found 4 males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, “I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!” The 4 men got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then loaded her shopping bags into the back of the car. She was so shaken that she couldn’t get her key into the ignition. And then she realized why. It was for the same reason that she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat. A few minutes later she found her own car parked 4 or 5 spaces down. She loaded her bags and went to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant pointed to where 4 pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than 5 feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed. The moral of the story? If you are going to have a senior moment... make it memorable.



**2 August 2020.**

"The Lord has given, and the Lord has taken. Praise be the name of the Lord. It is with deep sorrow that I announce the passing of my beloved mother, Maggie. She is with Jesus now." Father Jonathan Daniels – Rector in Lansdowne and Parish Priest of Hanover Park. Our prayers and sympathy are with the family.



**MAGGIE DANIELS R.I.P.**

**12 July 2020**

Together with the FMA Sisters, we mourn too, the passing of Sister Malgorzata Jaglarska. This Polish Sister was a gentle, kindly soul, who spent time in Booyens, Daleside, Malamulele, Zambia and Belhar. She could relate well with the children who loved her. May she rest in peace



**SR MALGORZATA JAGLARSKA RIP**



**THE LEAGUE OF MARGHERITA** was formed in the Robertsham Parish in Gauteng, by Father Pat Ahern and a few parish members, approximately 33 years ago. The name 'MARGHERITA' comes from the mother of St John Bosco, the Patron of the Parish.

The purpose of the League is to help the poor and needy. All the financial and material assistance we receive comes from the generous donations of the Robertsham and Booyens parishioners. We have a membership of 14 men and women, with a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Bookkeeper. All our decisions are taken in consultation with the whole group. Our activities involve the following:

Assisting 16 families with financial support.

Financial support to Elize Baker's Creche.

Financial support to Mother Teresa's Home in Yeoville.

We supply 150 food parcels at the parish every Tuesday morning. Clothing, food and financial support is given to the Lerato Educational Centre, which caters for over 500 underprivileged children.

We help with sponsorship for basic education and needs for 2 school children at the Lerato Educational Centre.

Monthly financial assistance to Mary Help of Christians school. We also assist The Rainbow Creche, Nazareth House and many others in need. **Daniela Lozano**

#### **FEAST DAYS**

08 Sept The Birth of the Virgin Mary  
12 Sept Most Holy Name of Our Lady  
14 Sept Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
15 Sep Our Lady of Sorrows  
21 Sep St Matthew  
29 Sep Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael  
01 Sep St Therese of the Child Jesus  
02 Oct Guardian Angels  
04 Oct Francis of Assisi  
07 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary  
29 Oct Blessed Michael Rua SDB  
01 Nov All Saints  
02 Nov All Souls  
21 Nov Presentation of the Virgin Mary  
22 Nov Christ the King

**QUEEN ASSUMED  
INTO HEAVEN,  
PATRONESS OF  
SOUTH AFRICA,  
PRAY FOR US**



#### **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!**

#### **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 CRESTA 007254**

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**A/C HOLDER – SALESIAN MISSIONS**

#### **LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT**

Perhaps you would like to leave something to Salesian Missions in your Will. An enquiry can be made and the necessary form can be sent to you.

Tel: 27 (0) 11 476 8315

We would be extremely grateful.

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

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

Immense blessings are received from praying the Rosary daily.