

Kenya GP Update 20 Nov 2020

Advent news from the Diocese of Kajiado and All Saints Cathedral/ UDP, Nairobi



Dear Friends

Advent greetings from CMSI! As we pass through another period of church closures and Covid-19 restrictions both in Northern Ireland and in the Republic, it is important to reflect that our brothers and sisters in Kenya are also struggling with the global health crisis. Please take time to read the news below, and if you are able to, plan to attend our CMSI Prayer Room zoom event on Wed 2 December from 1 – 1.45pm (see <https://bit.ly/36zBhe4>)

Diocese of Kajiado: 2020 has been a very challenging year in Kajiado, with the recurrent problems caused by drought being made far worse this year by flooding in some areas, locust swarm invasion and now the Covid-19 pandemic.



As a means of encouraging the pastors and lay evangelists, however, the Diocese organised a capacity building training for 60 clergy & evangelists at the Maasai Rural Training Centre (MRTC), Isinya from 27-30 October. The training

(supported by CMSI link parish giving) aimed to enhance the quality of service delivered by the church leaders to the Christians in their parishes by

- Increasing the evangelism mission within the parishes.
- Teaching about family life in relation to Christianity
- Teaching about Anglicanism and the orders of service

Teaching was provided by Bishop Gaddiel, Ven Naftaly Lemooke and others from the Diocese, and the conference finished with a socially distanced communion service in the Cathedral. David Osoi (Diocesan Treasurer) wrote, "There was a good turn-out of 96% and we thank God for a very encouraging event".



Oloosuyian GSS Update: We give thanks for the service of Mrs Joyce Moinkett (Principal) who moved on to a new role at the beginning of this year. Unfortunately the school was then closed on 16 March when strict Covid-19 lockdown measures were introduced throughout Kenya by the Government. The teachers made plans to provide online classes, but then Kenya's Education Minister announced that the entire academic year (Jan to Nov 2020) – including final year exams - would be scrapped for all public and private schools. It is hoped that schools will re-open in January 2021, when students will repeat the lost year.



Before the closure, however, the Diocese was able to make management changes, appointing Ms. Rachel Kusero as Principal (previously the deputy principal). A new board of directors was also appointed (under the chairmanship of Prof. Solomon Mpoke) for a four year term, with clear roles and responsibilities. We hope and pray that with the new management and with the lockdown being eased, things at the school will pick up.



All Saints Cathedral Urban Development Programme (UDP)

Kenyan schools (including the Tujisaidie Community Centre School) re-opened on 12 October after many months of Covid-19 lockdown. For the initial phase, only classes 4 and 8 of the Primary School system have returned, as these are national examination classes. Instead of losing an entire year, as was originally planned, class 8 of the Primary School (age 14 approx.) will now be able to take the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination towards the end of the first quarter of 2021, enabling them to progress to Secondary Schools.

It was remarkable to witness this reopening. Many of the pupils had left Nairobi (where the incidence of Covid-19 was high) to spend their furlough months with grandparents or other relatives in the rural areas. Many of the teachers had taken on small businesses or accepted menial jobs, as they were not being paid. To our relief, all of them returned in time for the re-opening of the school. Government guidelines have to be complied with, in terms of temperature checks, hand washing stations, facemask wearing and social distancing. Thanks to the generosity of a donor working through CMSIreland, the school was able to purchase these materials.



It is unclear at this stage whether the other classes will resume at the beginning of January, as the Ministry of Education proposes. Due to the constraints on the schools, the Ministry of Health may require them to limit pupil numbers for a longer period, until the risk of Covid-19 has significantly declined.

Meanwhile, the funds which would normally have served for the school lunches are being used to issue foodstuffs to the students' families. In addition, Tujisaidie is regularly providing foodstuffs to all community members, with special attention being paid to the elderly and those with fragile health. With funding from one of our link churches, Tujisaidie has continued its medical assistance to community members, who are treated free of charge at a local Christian dispensary and referred to hospital care where necessary. We thank God that we have not had a single case of Covid-19 within the community.

Tumaini African Foundation (TAF) led by Antony Njoroge reached a wonderful milestone at the end of October, when they opened their new Centre of Excellence building. The first programme to be rolled out was their after school library (every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 5pm to 8pm) complete with temperature checks for the students and a fumigated space with hand washing and sanitizing. Their goal is to have a fully digitalized library by February 2021 with plans to train teenagers in online based learning, using two recently acquired laptops.



TAF has also been distributing weekly cooked lunch packets provided by a group of Kenyan donors to the street children of the wider area, as well as homeless persons and alcoholics. This activity has been accompanied with spiritual guidance and some mentoring. The Tujiiinue Young Mothers, another offshoot of Tujisaidie, has been sewing face masks for the Tumaini youth, as well as sanitary kits for girls and women, with the help of donor funds.

With best wishes for the coming season of Advent

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