



This will be my last communication with you from Kenya for the time being and will be slightly longer than the others as I include more photos than usual.

As I communicated in the last edition of the Newsletter soon there will be changes in Ewuaso Kedong. These changes have happened.

There have been many changes over the years, in Kenya, in the parish, on my waistline and the number of grey hairs I have 😊 and to be honest I am feeling sad to be leaving a place that has been my home for so many years, where I was welcomed, accepted and protected by the people and made to feel so much at home. But as scripture says there is a 'time for everything' and I think that in the last 16 years, I have brought the mission to a level where it is time to leave it in the hands of the Lord and others who can bring it to the next level.

Children who were born since I came here and whom I baptized are already in High School and some in University. Others who are still in kindergarten and too small to go to school shout their greetings and wave enthusiastically every time I pass in the car or on foot.

I have seen so many changes in the area, we now have a supermarket, built and opened by one of our Catholics, where you can stroll down the aisles.... A big change from the wooden shop I used to go to.

One of the nuns working in the parish IS FROM THE PARISH. What a blessing and God willing there will be more vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the future.

I could go to the relevant books and count how many baptisms I have done, from newborns to a few who were close to 100 years old, but I leave those numbers in the hands of God, as too I leave all the people, Catholic and non-Catholic, I have ministered to in His hands, in His care. He has proved time and time again in the last 16 years that it was He who was working and am sure He will continue to bless and increase His graces on this special part of His creation.

To those of you are reading this, you are many and varied, you have all played a part in God's work here over the years. You have done this through your prayers for me and for the people, through the amazing sacrifices you have made to help uplift the people, and through your support of me in friendship and words of encouragement. I could never thank you enough, or even begin to make a list, but God has seen all that you have done and He will not be outdone in rewarding each and every one of you.

It is my hope that you will continue to support those whom God has chosen to replace me here and the people of Ewuaso Kedong, in all the ways you have me.

A short Biography of both the Rosminians who from the 21st November are those working here in Ewuaso Kedong:



Fr. Victor Mwamunyi was born in 1968 in Dodoma, Tanzania and joined the Rosminian Institute of Charity in 1996 having finished his High School education and training and work as an electrical technician.

After studies in Nairobi and Rome he was ordained in 2008. Since then he has worked as a parish priest in different parishes in Tanzania, in charge of formation of students in Ngong and then chaplain in Rosmini Secondary School in Tanga, Tanzania before doing his Masters in the Catholic University of East Africa in Nairobi.

Br. Vincent Mwinami was born in Iringa, Tanzania I 1961 and worked as an accountant at a construction company in Dar Es Salaam before joining the Rosminians in 1991.

He has studied Agriculture at Baraka College in Molo, and Social Ministry and community development in Tangaza College in Kenya and also at the Institute of St. Anselm in the UK.



He has worked as administrator and project coordinator for the Congregation and also been the director of Msiufuni Leprosy Care Centre and a children's home in Muheza Tanzania.

With his experience he really is the perfect choice to take over the management of the projects in the parish. And Fr. Victor with his gentle soul the ideal choice to continue the spiritual care of the people.

We had the official handover on the 21st November and because of Covid19 it was a very subdued affair with 80 people present representing all those who wished to come from different parts of the parish. The Bishop was present, as was the Provincial of the Rosminians, Fr. Enhart.

Some photos of the day follow:



The ceremony began with Mass celebrated outdoors and as we say these days "all protocols were observed".



At the end of the Mass there was a ceremony of handing over the keys of the Tabernacle and Parish House to Fr. Victor.



This was followed by speeches which lasted 2 hours!! I never dreamed so much could be said about me, my heart was touched and my head increased in size 😊
The Bishop had the people in stitches of laughter when he told a story of how last week he was returning in the evening from the

funeral of the father of one of the priests of the Diocese and had tried for the first time to pass through the new road to Ngong through the parish and ended up in a secure government facility and was about to be arrested. They didn't believe he was the Bishop of Ngong. The security official asked him if he knew the Bishop of Ewuaso and they rang me to confirm the Bishop's identity and only then was he released with a severe warning.



Hannah, Chairperson of the Board of Management of our school



Grace, Directress of our Home for Girls The Member of the County Assembly, who was chairman of the Parish Council before entering politics spoke with many words of thanks and told the parishioners that the greatest gift they could make would be to complete the parish church and invite me to its opening when Covid19 had passed and they could make a real celebration with all those who wanted but could not attend on the this day.



Ewuaso oo' Nkidongi Parish Newsletter n. 50

Handover & Farewell

November 2020

Ewuaso Kedong - Saikeri – Najile - Enkorika & Empaash Mass Centres

At the end of the speeches was the time for me to be laden down with gifts so instead of leaving the parish with my one suitcase as planned, another suitcase had to be added



Br. Vincent and Fr. Victor (below) welcomed with gifts.



Old and young enjoyed the meal together...



And some even got a photo taken with the Bishop



The Bishop gave me a gift of the above painting to remind me that I am a shepherd to the Maasai and my home is here.

After all that we all celebrated with a meal together and many photos were taken with the different groups and families present.



Retired Chief Simon and his wife Agnes who were, and still are, the force behind rescuing young girls from FGM and early marriage



Even the Bishop was given gifts





Justus and his wife Elizabeth, our MCA and former Chairman of the Parish



Ruth the Head Teacher of Baraka Ewuaso and Irene who is the deputy in Saikeri

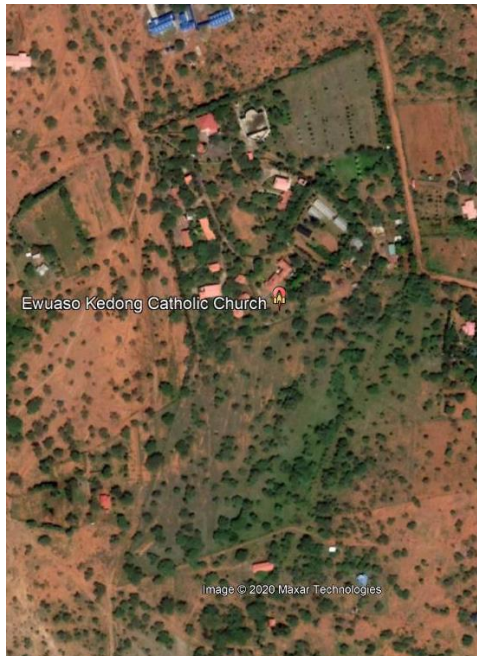


Brigid Kisera and her husband Gideon. Brigid was the foundress of Baraka KG and left a few years ago to fulfill her dream to have a school of her own. She is doing very well.



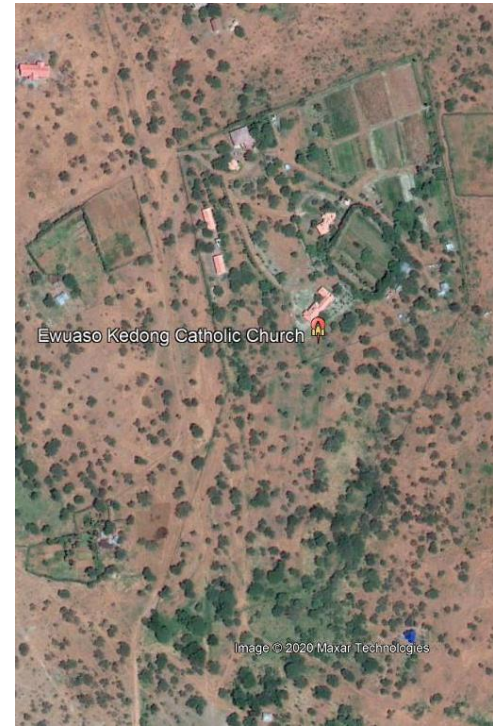
Catechist James and Vice Chairman of the parish Peter Kiambi. Not sure if this was deliberate but a photo of the 3 smokers in the parish !

Ewuaso Kedong Nov 2019



A Google Satellite photo taken almost 9 years apart of the mission at Ewuaso.....

Ewuaso Kedong Jan 2010



.....
As I leave Kenya for Ireland at the end of this month I will have to be in self-isolation for 14 days and will use the time to rest and to pray for you all. After quarantine I look forward to celebrating Christmas with my family for the first time since 1979 !!

The next edition of the Newsletter will be coming from Br. Vincent who has expressed the wish to continue keeping everyone informed of happenings in the parish.

The parish email remains the same: ewuaso@gmail.com for Fr. Victor
The email Br. Vincent will use is: ewuasochurchprojects@hotmail.com

Please Note that:

My email address is now johnfortune3@gmail.com

Love & Blessings galore to you all. John