



Ewuaso oo' Nkidongi Parish Newsletter n. 45

Covid19 update June 2020

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

Greetings once again to you all from Ewuaso Kedong. In these times of Covid19 I hope I am not boring you with more regular Newsletters with updates on things in the parish during these difficult days.

First of all, thanks to all who got in touch with me after the last Newsletter with words of praise, encouragement, advice and offers of help.

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In Kenya since last writing the number of cases per day has increased greatly, still nothing like in the USA or Europe, but nonetheless worrying that there is no slowing of spread despite the government making great moves to stem increase. The most recent moves were to extend for another month the lockdown of Nairobi, Mandera and Mombasa counties where the majority of the cases are and to release from lockdown the counties of Kwale and Kilifi where cases have decreased considerably. The hours for the nationwide dawn to dusk curfew have also been reduced from 7pm - 5am to 9pm - 4 am. The border to Tanzania and Somalia remains closed.

The President in outlining these changes acknowledged that they have great challenges which

really are a struggle between saving lives and also trying to save livelihoods. He is hoping to be able to open schools from September 1st and have directions on opening places of worship at the end of next week. We remain hopeful and prepared for any such opening, under whatever conditions they lay down, and in the meantime continue our weekday family masses.



Family Mass in Chapel in Ewuaso

We have finished the masses with families in both Ewuaso Kedong and Saikeri. This week I moved to Empaash and then the other areas before returning to Ewuaso to start again in a week or two. Families have already signed up for the second round... if churches have not opened by that time.

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As so many people of the population of Kenya live from day to day, families are suffering

greatly due to lack of opportunities to earn their daily bread. Despite no cases within the area of the Parish, as far as we are aware (!!) the local mart has been closed down for 14 days as there was no social distancing taking place and many people, from as far as Tanzania were coming to buy and sell animals. This closure has seriously affected many people in the area.

In response to this, and thanks to some donations received, we have been able to increase the number of families we are helping with basic foodstuffs from 46 to 59 and have also been able to answer requests for help to pay rent from people in the village who were close to being evicted.



Some of the special children and their families we are able to help



Getting nice and fat

In Enkorika the house for the catechist is almost complete with the roof being put up as I write. Thank God we were able to get permission to bring the material needed from inside the lockdown area in Ngong.



The Catechist's House Enkorika

we are clearing the compound of the school in order that we will be able to have classes outside as well as inside, to try to follow social distancing rules.

Our new parish church building, which we began in 2015 and has been built so far completely with donations raised by parishioners is stalled at the moment. There was supposed to be a big fundraiser in August of this year in order to roof it but this will not be going ahead because of the current crisis and the struggles people are having.



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Here in our own compound people still come to buy milk, vegetables and fruit every day. Our workers continue to work away in the farm and grounds while our teachers and child care workers remain at home on full pay thanks to the kindest of Cross Catholic Outreach.



Parish Vegetable garden

On the farm we are awaiting the birth of a calf any day now and because of all the rain we've had there is lots of grass and so are able to fatten our bull calves in the hope of slaughtering one of them once Covid19 has passed and be able to have a celebration with all the parishioners together.

In Enkorika also we keep and care for sheep belonging to our Bishop and these are multiplying and he will probably have twice as many when the Covid19 crisis is over.



Some of the Bishop's sheep

In anticipation of the opening of our school in September, if all goes well on the Covid19 front,

And finally, ***you CAN teach an old dog new tricks !!!***

Because of the lockdown I missed getting my bread from the bakers and so took matters into my own hands a few weeks ago and began to bake my own. Surprisingly I seem to be a natural.



That's all for now except to wish God's blessing and protection on you all. Keep safe & keep well. John