



The 1<sup>st</sup> of July was the Feast of Antonio Rosmini, the Founder of the Institute of Charity which I joined 40 years ago. July 1<sup>st</sup> was also the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. Needless to say, because of Covid19, it was a very quiet and private celebration of both feasts. Thanks to all those who sent me wishes and remembered me in their prayers on that day. Really appreciated. Life is always challenging but even more so in this time, so prayers are so needed.

Next month, August 24<sup>th</sup>, the parish will celebrate it's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and, the way cases of Corona are increasing in the country, it will also be a very low key celebration.

*The President gave his 6<sup>th</sup> address to the Nation, since the first case of Corona Virus was diagnosed on 13<sup>th</sup> of March, on July 6<sup>th</sup>.*

*He explained to all the dilemmas he was facing and the opposing advice he was getting. As so many of people live from day to day, on what they can earn each day, life has become extremely difficult for the majority of the population with many people suffering and so he decided to allow the opening up of the 3 counties, Nairobi, Mombasa and Mandera, where the hot spots of Covid19 are, hoping that people will take personal responsibility and*

*continue to try to observe the advice of the Health Officials. The night time curfew remains in place and bars remain closed but places of worship will be allowed to open after proper preparations for stringent guidelines to be put in place.*

*Our Family Masses have continued for the whole month of June and early July. Almost every family in the parish, who wished, have had two masses since we started.*

*Unlike in other parts of the world our Blessed Sacrament Chapel has been open all through the shutdown for people to come and pray whenever they want.*

*With churches allowed to open again we will be reverting to Sunday Masses again on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July but with lots of changes. Masses in all areas of the parish will be held outdoor with appropriate social distancing, face masks and the other safety measures announced by the Bishops.*

*This is a time that the people have been longing for and I will be doing my best to ensure that they can have Sunday mass every week.*

Rescue Centre: with 11 girls permanently living in the Centre cared for only by Sr. Nelly, because the staff are at home due to the Covid19 restrictions, life is challenging. I imagine it's like

having 11 children at home during the lockdown. Sr. Nelly is well up to the challenge and as well as ensuring they study each day, have outdoor and indoor activities, one of the latter being to sew face masks for the local people, they are also going hiking once a week.



*climb they did*



*Looks more like a fashion show 😊*

However, as with all the children in the area, they long to get back to school and their old routine.

School: In the President's address to the Nation he also told the Ministries of Education and Health to basically 'get their act together' as there had been too much mixed messaging over when the return to school would happen and pupils,



especially those with National Exams this year, where facing a lot of stress.

As in other parts of the world there was much discussion about when education will be able to return. Some were in favour of a September restart while others were speaking of 2021. The Ministries announced, a day after the President's Speech, that school would not restart until 2021, counting 2020 as a written off year, with all students starting the same year over again.

However, our teachers had already decided to return to work, 3 days a week, early in June even though children are not allowed return to school.

They decided that their classrooms need to be cleaned regularly, even if they're not being used, and also that the children can learn even if they don't come to the school.

They have started filling homework into each pupils' copybook and then the parents come and collect and eventually return the copybooks for correction. The massive take up of this shows how the parents value education.

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Our **Food relief** for the 59 families continued during the month of June and thanks to donations we received we will be able to continue this for at least another two months.

We are hoping, God willing, now that we know that schools will not be opening until next year, to begin a distribution of fortified porridge to more families of our school children who are suffering since the school closed and we had to discontinue our nutrition program.

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In **Saikeri** where we have installed and finally

commissioned a new Water Purification Plant, thanks to a donation received from a group of Irish Dentists, we spent the last month painting and tiling the building in order to bring it to a higher standard required by the County Health Department.



The outside too gets a make over

The primary idea is to have clean drinking water for the locals, but in order to help in the running and financing of the plant a couple of parishioners came up with the idea of bottling the water and selling it to shops. They are in the process of gathering information on how to go about this, so more on this at a later date.



People come to collect water and even do their laundry on the spot.

From this.....>>>>>



..... to this.....>>>>>



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With the rain over and the dry weather on us again we have been able to begin cutting and saving hay from our fields.



This is not something new for us but the newness is in the fact that so many people in the area have begun to do the same that our tractor and cutting machine are in constant demand.



Our greenhouses continue to give us and the surrounding community an abundance of tomatoes. God is truly good. *That's all for now except to wish God's blessing and protection on you all. Keep us in you prayers as we do you all. Keep safe & keep well. John*