

My email address in Zimbabwe; - frtimpeacock@gmail.com
Email address for newsletters; frtimnewsletter@gmail.com

Dear Family and Friends

It has also been a very eventful six months since I wrote my last newsletter. On 14th January two young men were ordained deacons at St. Ignatius Cathedral. On 28th January, also at the cathedral, one of our parishioners, Jingani Shoko married Shebeth Matheat St. Ignatius Cathedral [Picture (1)]. They had an elaborate celebration afterwards. Thanks to doing well at university Jingani won a scholarship to study in Norway from January 2023 onwards. He hopes to bring his wife out there soon. The Norwegian government kindly sponsored Jingani to fly back to Zimbabwe in order to attend the marriage.



Picture No. 1



Picture No. 2



Picture No. 3

Work goes on at the Makwa irrigation project. Picture No. (2) shows the first crop, No. (3) shows progress with building the storeroom and No. (4) shows progress with the new dam that is adjacent to the irrigation project. It will supply the water needed for irrigation.

On a sadder note one of our parishioners, Vemani Moffat Ngwenya, died of malaria at one of our outstations, Chakupaleza. He was the father of one of our sisters, Sr. Filisiwe. The bishop, and several priests, attended to funeral on 13th February. I feel this says a lot for our new bishop, when he was prepared to travel a long journey on off road conditions to attend the funeral of the father of one of our young sisters. I mentioned in the last newsletter that on the 19th December 2022 she made her final profession.

This last rainy season, which lasted from October 2022 until March 2023, was reasonably good compared to other years. No. (5) shows our biggest dam at Katete spilling. Generally speaking we had reasonable crops in our area.



Picture No. 4



Picture No. 5



Picture No. 6

The work of building the new hospital at Tshonkowe goes on, but it takes time since it is such a big project, both for us and for the donors. Remember that we have no mechanisation to assist the builders. Picture No. 6 shows us building the laundry in March and by June (No. 7) it was finished.

On 10th March Bishop Raphael joined me at the regular monthly Mass at St. Luke's outstation, Dambwamukulu (No. 8). Picture (No. 9) shows the church itself. He was anxious to visit the centre since he had the idea of possibly declaring it a new mission. After Mass we showed him both the existing primary school and new secondary school. The secondary school will be registered as a Catholic school and it is hoped to re-register the primary school as Catholic in the near future. Later the Bishop declared that Dambwamukulu would indeed become a new mission, and the ceremony to officially start to the new mission will be on 11th November 2023, so more about that in the next newsletter.



Picture No. 7



Picture No. 8



Picture No. 9

Meanwhile work goes on at the secondary school at Dambwamukulu, and picture No. 10 shows the new teachers' cottage with the roof now on.

On 30th April another one of the churches at the outstations, named St. Timothy, at Zwabo, was blessed. Our new bishop was very occupied that day, but his predecessor, Bishop Albert Serrano Emeritus, volunteered to do the blessing (No. 11).

Ever since the year 2000 there has been an annual procession from St. Ignatius Cathedral to the diocesan shrine to Mary at St. Mary's Mission, 16 Kilometres away. It is held on the last Saturday of May and the walk takes over 4 hours. When our new bishop was installed about two years ago he pledged to develop the shrine. Since then he has built a series of large shelters to accommodate the crowd of about 2,000 that come each year. He has also built sleeping accommodation for future pilgrims. There is also a complex being built that will house a grocery store and bookshop. The new shrine was blessed on 27th May (No. 12).



Picture No. 10



Picture No. 11



Picture No. 12

Several building companies were contracted to do the construction work, and we also were asked to construct an entrance bridge and concrete way for cars (No. 13). I don't claim to be a civil engineer, and I was afraid the bridge might collapse. We were offered some old

railway lines, which I put as reinforcing, and for sure it must now be one of the strongest bridges in the whole district!

This year has been a milestone in my life, both as regards my age and my time as a priest. On 28th January I was 75 years old, and on 18 June I was 40 years a priest. As I mentioned earlier, on 28th January we had a wedding, so that took the place of the celebration! Meanwhile, a few thousand Kilometres away, in Anglesey, Wales, my twin sister Susan was happily celebrating her birthday with her husband Dave. My 40th Anniversary as a priest was on 18th June 2023, which happened to be on a Sunday. I am the spiritual director of the Catholic organisation called the Legion of Mary, and they came in numbers (No. 14) and presented me with an anniversary cake (No. 15).



Picture No. 13



Picture No. 14



Picture No. 15

On 25th June we got a big surprise when we were told that one of our diocesan priests, Fr Eusebius Nyathi, had been chosen to become a new bishop (No. 16). He originally comes from our mission, at one of our outstations, Mashala. He will become the bishop of an adjacent diocese, Gokwe, at a ceremony at Gokwe Cathedral, on 23rd September.



Picture No. 16



Picture No. 17



Picture No. 18

Since last year we have been building a priest's house for the new mission of St. Francis of Assisi, Cross Dete, which is about 55 Km from Hwange, going towards Bulawayo. The house (No. 17) was blessed on 30th June 2023. The newly appointed parish priest is Fr Lashiwe Muzamba, who is also originally from our mission.

Coming to the subject of mission vehicles, earlier in July the bishop managed to get a second hand Land Rover for my assistant priest, Fr Stanislaus Lumano. Picture No. 18 shows the two of us with his twin brother Fr Vincent Lumano. They are identical twins and after many years I still have to look carefully at them to be sure who is who!



Picture No. 19

On 14th July we gathered at Lubanda, which belongs to an adjacent mission, to bless a new dam that we have been building since last year (No. 19). Until now Lubanda had serious water problems. We finished building that dam early this year, before switching to the dam we are building for the irrigation at our mission.

In my last newsletter I mentioned the problem that Kariba Dam is no longer able to produce hydro-electricity since the water levels got too low. The turbines are still switched off, even though the water level in Lake Kariba is rising. The problem now is to repair the dam wall. The dam was built over 70 years ago and since then the base of the dam wall has been undermined due to water erosion. Now the engineers are repairing it, so even though the lake is filling they cannot run the turbines until the repairs are done. Our mission boundary reaches part of the shore of the lake.

In that newsletter I also mentioned the building of the one metre diameter water pipeline for the expansion of the power station in Hwange, 40 Km from our mission. It takes water from the nearby Zambezi River. It is now complete and in use, so hopefully soon the entrance to our mission can be repaired since the new pipeline passed directly under it.

On 15th August I am due to go on leave for two months. Please God I hope to reach the UK, Ireland and Spain. We are having a family reunion in the middle of August in Anglesey, where my twin sister Susan and her husband Dave stay. Hopefully in Spain I will meet up with Fr Alexander Alapont, who I worked with for many years. He is 90 years old now and in a care home in Valencia. More news in the next newsletter.

May God bless you and be with you always.

Let us pray for each other.

Fr Tim Peacock

A message from Tim's sister Sue-

Thank you for your generous support of Tim over many years, both in prayers and giving financially, it is much appreciated.

As this is Tim's 40th anniversary as a priest, it seems timely to ask if you would like to make a one-off donation for the Secondary school in Katate he is trying to complete. It will also need desks, chairs and books etc. for the pupils.

The CFNZ (Children and Families in Need in Zimbabwe) bank account details are: 00024308 sort code 405240. Or you can post a cheque made payable to CFNZ to: Sue Jennings, Pencae, Llanfaethlu, Holyhead, LL65 4HH.

Many thanks,

Sue (Lead Trustee for CFNZ)