



Drought is a perennial problem here in Ewuaso Kedong. I have mentioned it many times in the past. This year has again brought a drought to this area. With the water project that we were able to help the community with over the last couple of years ago we have been able to ensure that people have enough water for their own usage, however animals need grazing as well as water and failure of rains means that the long trek in search of grazing begins. Animals that remain in the area starve and die...



Cows just outside our fence the other day



Carcasses I saw on my way to Empaash last week

As times passes the nomadic pastoral way of life of the Maasai becomes more difficult. With climate change, increased population and more and more people fencing their property it becomes more hazardous for the traditional way of life to continue. A few people in the area have begun to follow the example that we have shown by keeping a few dairy cattle and feeding them hay. We try to encourage them not only by our example but also by selling the calves we get from our cows at a very cheap price.

Change is always difficult and it will take a few generations to happen but my hope is that the skills and knowledge of the Maasai as pastoralists can help them to become very successful dairy farmers in the future. .

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10th ANNIVERSARY

On the 25th July this year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the founding of the parish of Ewuaso Kedong.

The celebration was led by our Bishop and attended by priests from different parts of the Diocese and beyond, as well as many dignitaries and people from far and wide.



Mass under the African sun



Fr. Tarimo, Bishop Obala and yours truly



Children dance to accompany the offertory procession



Gifts in front of the altar including a map of Africa with photos of the disabled children who have been helped by St. Rose of Lima parish in Patterson, New Jersey.

After the celebration of the Mass the Bishop blessed and opened the new buildings of our Girls Rescue Centre and the extension to the parish house.

Following that there was much entertainment and we all shared a wonderful meal prepared by the parishioners.



Some of the kindergarten children receive cake

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CONFIRMATIONS

Immediately on my return from holidays in Ireland we celebrated with over sixty people receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish. As the Bishop was otherwise engaged we had the joy of receiving the Vicar General, Fr. John Ntiseiya, in the parish.



Some of those who received the sacrament

Education

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

Nelson Mandela

Of the 41 children that we have supported this year with High School fees, 13 are graduating. The rest will be meeting on the 12th of December at the Mission in order to get encouragement and give reports on their studies during the year.

Because of shortage of funds no new students were taken on for the year 2014 and the same will apply for this coming year as we struggle to continue supporting those who remain in school.

With the help of Cross Catholic Outreach we will begin expanding our kindergarten school in 2015 to accommodate more children brought about by an increase in population in the area. We hope by 2017 to have doubled the number of children we cater for.

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Fr. Jean Marie Charles-Roux I.C.



On the 19th of September, while I was on holidays at home, I was invited to be the main celebrant at a memorial mass for Fr. Jean Marie Charles-Roux in Ely Place, London.

Fr. Jean and myself had first met in the same place in 1998 before he retired to the Rosminian house in Rome where I was to be his superior !! Despite our differences, not only in age but in so many other ways,

we became good friends and he came to visit me in Kenya on a number of occasions after my transfer despite being in his nineties. He is remembered by the parishioners here in Ewuaso Kedong with great love.

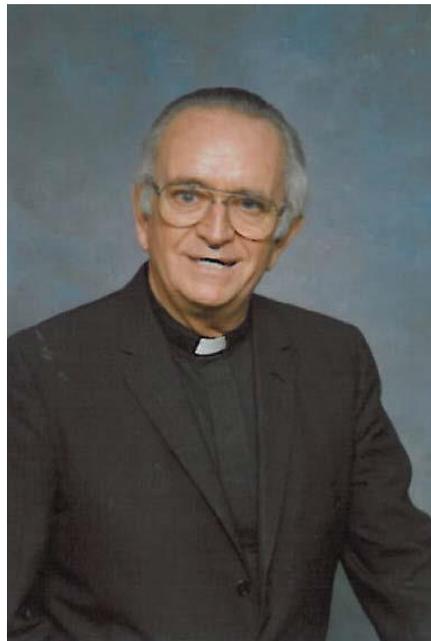
He died on the 7th of August just 4 months shy of his 100th birthday.

From him I learned not only the joy but the possibility of being active and involved in life in all its fullness, even through age and infirmity. He gave such an example to all of charm, eccentricity, knowledge, wisdom and yet a simplicity of life that was enviable.

May he rest in peace.

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Fr. Chris Fitzgerald I.C.



On Friday September 26th of this year in Florida we lost a great friend and benefactor of the parish when Fr. Chris Fitzgerald went to his heavenly reward at the age of 82.

Fr. Chris and the people of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Seffner, Florida had been of invaluable help to me personally and to the parish since its founding in 2004. Even before that, when I was in the formation house in Kibiko, Fr. Chris and his band of helpers mobilized to help us set up an excellent library for our students.

Chris was a kindly priest and a true gentleman. His priestly concern extended far beyond the boundaries of his parish. It would be impossible to enumerate all the things that Fr. Chris did for others in different parts of the world and in his parish in

Florida, suffice to say we are forever grateful and he will be remembered in our prayers and we are sure he is interceding for us now with the Heavenly Father.

May he rest in peace.

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(In the last edition I had promised to tell you how the parishioners of St Rose of Lima parish in New Jersey, USA have helped disadvantaged and handicapped children in Ewuaso Kedong but because of lack of space I will hold this over for the next Newsletter.)

Now I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Advent in preparation for the coming of Saviour, a very happy Christmas to you all.

You continue to be remembered in our weekly mass here in Ewuaso Kedong each Saturday for our benefactors.

May God bless and protect you all

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As always donations are needed and can be sent in the usual way. If you have any queries at all please do not to hesitate to contact me at the address at the bottom of page 1.

Donations marked for Ewuaso can be sent to:

**Fr. Patrick Pierce i.c.,
Rosminian House of Prayer,
Glencomeragh, Kilsheelan,
Co. Tipperary,
Ireland.**

Tel: +353 52 33181

Fr. Paddy also operates a bank account for the parish and Euro donations can be made directly to that...

**AIB Bank, 65/67 O'Connell St.,
Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.**

A/c. Name IPIC Ewuaso Account

A/c No. 40016297

Sorting Code: 93 53 79

For the USA/US\$

If anyone wishes to make a US\$ donation they can still do so directly to the parish dollar account. If I have not given the details already you can email me for them.