



# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

## E-NEWS MARCH 2024

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**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 34 YEARS**

*Welcome* to the month of March as time travels speedily towards the Resurrection and Easter. The pace of life is unnerving and sometimes we are not even aware of whether we have said our prayers during the day or not. Our workloads are increasing and the world news that is being beamed to us is not pleasant. From whatsapps, to YouTube, to television and word of mouth, we are being bombarded with mostly bad news. Quietly the evil one is showing his hand. Priests are being attacked and murdered. Churches and the Blessed Sacrament are being desecrated. Children are being kidnapped. Families are being torn apart and confusion reigns. Most of us don't know what is fact and what is fake. Our security has been threatened and people are frightened. Did we ever think that parents would be afraid to have time out with their children?

There is one vital thing that we have to remember – God is in control. We must have faith and hope and prayer in our lives. We must pray the Rosary as families, so that whatever comes our way, we will be protected and blessed. We cannot expect God and His Blessed Mother to help us if we don't respect them and give them an important place in our lives. We are facing Calvary at the moment, but the Resurrection is around the corner. During this thought-provoking time before Easter let us meditate on the great suffering that Our Blessed Lady endured and ask her to help us as we carry our own cross. A simple few words can be said at any time during the day or night – “Jesus I trust in You.” Be assured of my prayers and as always, my grateful thanks for your kindness, your prayers and your donations for the children in our care. God bless and reward you all. Pray for me. Much love. Denise.



Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort me and restore  
me, Christ beneath me, Christ  
above me, Christ in the hearts of all  
that love me, Christ in the mouth of  
friend and stranger



“I see His Blood upon the rose and in the stars the glory of his eyes. His Body gleams amid eternal snows, His tears fall from the skies.

I see His Face in every flower. Thunder and the singing of the birds are but His Voice, and carven by His power, Rocks are His written words.

All pathways by His Feet are worn. His strong Heart stirs the ever-beating sea. His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn. His Cross is every tree.”

*Joseph Plunkett*

Dear St Joseph, we beg of you, by your love for Jesus and Mary, not to abandon us during life and to assist us at the hour of our death.

### *Special Days in March*

15<sup>th</sup> March Akash Bashir    17<sup>th</sup> March St Patrick  
19<sup>th</sup> March St Joseph      24<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday  
28<sup>th</sup> March Holy Thursday    29<sup>th</sup> March Good Friday  
30<sup>th</sup> March Holy Saturday    31<sup>st</sup> March Resurrection

### *Prayers Please*

For all Readers, Donors and Friends of Salesians.  
For Priests, that Our Lady will place her mantle round them and protect them. For families and for those in doubt.  
For all those suffering with cancer, depression and other illnesses.  
For all those who have gone before us. May they rest in peace.  
For world peace and an end to corruption.  
“Almighty ever-living God, whose Only begotten Son descended to the realm of the dead, and rose from there to glory, grant that your faithful people, may, by His Resurrection obtain eternal life.”

**CENTENARY  
CELEBRATIONS 1924-2024  
LANSDOWNNE - continued  
OPENING OF THE SALESIAN  
SCHOOL AND CHAPEL**



The photo above is the Salesian Agricultural School when it was opened in June 1924. The picture shows the rear of the building. The front of the building, with the stoep and the balcony, faced the farm, the sports fields and eventually the classrooms. At first, the school was registered as an extension of the Salesian Institute in Cape Town, which had opened in 1886. The open door on the right-hand side of the picture was the entrance into the first chapel, which, at the request of Bishop Rooney, also catered to the needs of the Catholic community of the area. The cross placed over the door is still evident today! *“A very impressive ceremony took place at the new school in Claremont. The Chapel was dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians and was blessed and formally opened by Very Rev Father Tozzi, the Superior of the new house, who then celebrated Holy Mass in it for the first time. About seventy people could be seated in it.*

*The altar, benches etc. were the work of the Institute boys’ cabinet-making department. In the afternoon at 4 o’clock there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament through a portion of the grounds. A large number of people had gathered, and this in spite of doubtful weather! Benediction followed and the sermon was preached by the Very Rev Father de Bary, the Rector of the Institute, who stood at the door of the Chapel and in this way was heard by all present, whether inside or outside. Fr James Kelly, an Irish diocesan priest who had previously*

*served the Catholics of the area was then invited to give the final benediction. The many hundreds of the faithful present, led by the Institute band, then sang heartily, “Faith of our Fathers”.* Thus began the Salesian presence in Lansdownne, with the school and chapel dedicated to Mary Help of Christians, a pastoral ministry to the people of God



which has continued unbroken for 100 years. The picture above is the only one of the small Chapel that served the needs of the Salesian community, the boys and the Catholics of the area. During the early 1950’s a new double-storey building was added with a larger Chapel downstairs and rooms for the Salesian school staff upstairs.

**SALESIAN PROJECTS THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA**



**HANOVER PARK,  
LANSDOWNNE,  
ESWATINI  
AND  
LESOTHO**





**BOOYSENS, ESWATINI AND SALESIAN INSTITUTE**



The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) group went to the Provincial House of the Salesian Sisters in Benoni for their Retreat. This was part of a more intense preparation for the Easter Vigil. The previous Sunday they had gathered at Christ the King Cathedral in Johannesburg together with Archbishop Buti Tlhagale and Catechumens and Candidates from all the other parishes in the Archdiocese, for the Rite of Election and Recognition.

It is always a moving ceremony when the names of the Catechumens and their godparents are written into the Book of the Elect and signed by the Archbishop as an outward sign that these Catechumens are now ready for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. They have been on a journey of Faith and Conversion for 2 years. The season of Lent is for them a period of Purification and Enlightenment which is accompanied by three scrutinies and special liturgical rites on Easter Saturday. *Sr Patricia Finn FMA*

## **SALESIAN MISSIONS SUPPORTS ALL OF THESE PROJECTS ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF EVANGELISATION.**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

**IN ORDER TO EVANGELISE CHILDREN, THEY NEED TO BE FED, CLOTHED, LOVED AND DISCIPLINED. BY GIVING HOPE, WE REBUILD LIVES.**

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