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*Bearing Gifts they traversed afar...*

## **Malawi - Christmas Appeal - 2004**

Dear Friend & Parishioner

Another Christmas is rapidly approaching and what has changed from Christmas 2003?

Nothing really, our friends and priests in Malawi are as poor as they were last Christmas and remain amongst the top ten of the poorest countries in the world. On the other hand we have as much as last Christmas or even more.

Just to emphasise the above statement, how many times do we hear people say and indeed, how many times have we ourselves said. "What can I get Mum & Dad, or brother & sister or Son & daughter, for Christmas as they have everything already?"

When we compare this to our friends in Malawi, the problem is much the same, only in reverse: what can we buy them as their list will be endless as they have so little? Even the smallest gift or present will be so welcomed and is always appreciated.

We do have the opportunity of going a little way of addressing this very large imbalance of wealth, that is, we can give generously to this Malawi Christmas Appeal 2004.

### **The Appeal - *Who is to benefit?***

This year we wish to split the proceeds into two equal amounts.

Half of the appeal to be shared amongst our linked priests from Malawi; some have of course served us well over the past few years looking after our parish here at Corpus Christi and St Peter's during Fr Michael's holidays. This would be in the form of a personal Christmas Gift. The priests do have so little money for themselves, but still they so generously help and support others, especially the orphans that they sponsor through secondary education.

The other half of the appeal is to be shared equally between Nsanje Catholic Primary School and the Playgroup in Chiringa to whom we donated £1000 pounds from the twinning funds during the summer to assist them with the start cost.

### **Nsanje School.**

We made a start during the summer, with sports equipment, television & video & laptop computer. The latter two items to be shared between the School & Parish. The laptop computer is being made Internet ready, so they can send & receive e-mails (Our letters get lost or take so long to arrive). We have made a small start, but there is much more to do. This Christmas appeal will help us achieve some of our aims.

### **Chiringa Playgroup.**

During the summer we assisted in the "start-up cost". The playgroup is now up and running to the benefit of many children, a high number of whom are orphans. We made a commitment to Fr Boniface and the Playgroup that we would assist them annually with some of the running cost. Again this Christmas appeal will help us achieve this.

If you wish to make a gift, please put your donation into an envelope clearly marked 'Malawi Christmas Appeal' and send it to Fr Michael, or any of the Malawi Twinning Team. Cheques should be made payable to 'Corpus Christi Church' and will be worth 27% extra if you have signed a Gift Aid form.

Your generosity has made our twinning scheme a very great success and many very poor people have already received the benefit.

On behalf of the people from Malawi, *zikomo kwambiri kia Mulungu akudalitseni.*

Thank you very much and God Bless you all.

Thank you all for your Support & Generosity.

From your Malawi Twinning Team.