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Bearing Gifts they traversed afar...

Newsletter no: 28

Date: December 2006

♪ We wish them a merry Christmas... ♪

Dear Parishioner

Christmas is a time of giving and this year we have remembered especially, our friends in Malawi.

This month we sent a total of £11,085 to four parishes, seven priests and our sponsored students. This is thanks to your continued generosity and we are delighted to advise you on how your gifts are being used.

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When Anne Mahoney visited our linked parishes this year, she saw for herself the desperate poverty and told us about the very many people who have an ongoing need for food: especially the sick, the elderly and orphans.

Their priests strive hard to give pastoral care and whatever financial help they can, from their extremely limited resources: but they are unable to cope with such a large scale basic human need.

Let us pray that our Christmas gift will help the priests to afford extra care to our extended parish families in Malawi at this special time.

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The Parishes

We are sending £600 each to the three parishes of Nsanje, Kachebere and Chiringa, with whom we are twinned.

We are also sending £600 to Ntcheu, which is Father Emmanuel's new parish. We do not have any ongoing projects here at present, however from January we will be sponsoring twelve of his youngsters through secondary school.

The priests have been asked to distribute this money, or buy whatever is necessary to help ease the desperate situation faced by their parishioners.

We have asked them to tell us how they have used these gifts.

♪ ... We wish them a merry Christmas... ♪

♪ ... *We wish them a merry Christmas...* ♪

Kachebere Primary School

This is the parish which is situated just five miles from the seminary where Fr Denis is Rector. Your co-ordinator for this project is Anne Gavin.

We are sending £1,000 to Fr Peter, the Parish Priest, to continue funding the establishment of a new primary school. They do not have a school at present and they are converting an old church into four classrooms. This will be the second amount we have sent for this project, making it £2,000 in total so far.

Fr Peter is sending photographs and reports of the work as it progresses and there will be much to tell you about this project in the future.

We are now involved in the ongoing development of two Roman Catholic primary schools. We are already helping in the education of over 900 pupils at *Nsanje* Primary School and when the *Kachebere* school opens, this number will increase significantly.

The Priests

We are sending £150 each to Fathers Nazario, Denis, Boniface, Emmanuel, Francis, Peter and Alfred. These are personal gifts.

Sponsorships

This project continues to flourish and our sponsors have sent £6,635 for the continued education of their secondary students for the year 2007.

♪ ...and a happy New Year ♪

During a recent homily, Deacon Jim recited to us a beautiful verse relating to the second commandment, which epitomises our Malawi twinning project.

*I sought my soul but my soul I could not see
I sought my God but my God eluded me
I sought my neighbour and I found all three*

Malawi-Twin is now five years old! Watch out for next month's newsletter which will include details of our giving so far. Be prepared for a big surprise!!

*A happy Christmas and a happy New Year, to all our parishioners,
from the members of your Malawi Team*