



Fr Louis Sisti SAC

Fr. Louis was a kind and gentle soul. He died peacefully in Thurles on Saturday 13th of February following a long illness. He is sadly missed by his loving Pallottine Community and his sisters Sabina and Elizabeth, his brothers Patrice, Emanuel and Moris, by his extended family and many

very dear friends. Louis had gone down steadily in the weeks previous to his death and he died very peacefully and was accompanied by Frs. Martin Mareja and Emmet O'Hara, and by his friends Eileen Connolly and Francisco Tango. May his good soul rest in eternal peace.

Please remember Fr. Louis in your prayers.

Fr Derry Murphy SAC, Provincial

Because I did a lot of Irish dancing as a kid, I taught Louis to do Irish dancing and we "launched" our career by entering the talent competition of the 60's in Thurles as 'Louis and Gerry'. By that time Louis had mastered the accordion and guitar and wanted to be the African Michael Flatley of the 60's, so we had great fun and met loads of wonderful people performing in the Premier Hall and other halls around Tipp. It just showed his many talents and how he could relate to Irish culture and how people took him to their hearts.

Fr. Gerry Fleming SAC

food was as good as you would get in any high-class restaurant. Fr. Mike is alone in Buoy and in spite of advancing years and failing health he works as hard as any twenty-year-old. He is truly heroic, one of nature's gentlemen, and an outstanding missionary.

After ten days I left Frs. Derry and John and travelled to Nairobi to visit our communities in Kenya. The parishes there are less rural and are very close to the city of Nairobi and also to our student house. While there I had the privilege of participating in a Sunday Mass in a church attached to Dagoretti Corner parish and I couldn't believe the crowds and the great participation in the two-hour liturgy. I must say that visiting our philosophy students in Arusha and our theology students in Nairobi was one of the highlights of my visit. Both communities are very international in their composition, with students not only from the Irish Province but also from other Pallottine jurisdictions in Africa. This mixture of cultures is very beneficial and it was wonderful to see so many young men giving their lives to God. It was wonderful to speak to them and their formatters and share a few days with them.

I must express my very sincere gratitude to all the members of the East African Delegation and I pray to God to bless their work. Hopefully I will be able to return in the not too distant future.

In December 1982 I travelled to Galapo to meet Fr. Louis Sisti, who was then Vocation Director of the Pallottines in Tanzania, to discuss my intention to join the Pallottines. My first experience was of fear, especially when Fr. Louis invited me to join the community for the evening meal. The sight of a flat plate and a knife and a fork was a shock, as all these things were new to me. Fr. Louis must have noticed my unease. He got up, went to a press, brought a spoon and politely said, 'I apologise, I forgot to give you a spoon'. I continued with my priestly training and a friendship between Louis and myself grew from that day on.

He was a generous man who would not spare a penny as long as it helped to make someone happy. He was also a man of many surprises, one of them being that he brought a choir to Nairobi, Kenya, to sing during the ceremony of my perpetual consecration there. I was absolutely thrilled and will never forget the joy and the beauty of the singing of that choir from Nangwa. This was not a cheap trip. However, it meant a lot to me and to the young people in Nangwa.

As a priest, Fr. Louis was loved by all the parish in Nangwa, the wider area of the dioceses of Mbulu, and he was totally dedicated to his people. I recall his love for sports, particularly for Manchester United. A close friend of Louis says he was great Tipperary hurling fan and would amaze you with his knowledge of both and he was thrilled when Tipperary won the All Ireland.

Despite many years of ill health Fr. Louis never complained and lived his life of faith. He had a big heart full of love for his family, friends and fellow priests. He loved a simple life. His possessions were kept in his heart like gold and remained there to the end of his life.

We will all miss him very much.

Fr Martin Mareja SAC

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Dear Fr. Martin Mareja, SAC

I enclose an offering of to help the Pallottines' mission to evangelise, educate and empower people.

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Pallottine Voices

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate

Easter 2016

Pallottine Fathers Missions Thurles Co Tipperary Ireland E41 A271 Tel. (0504) 23678/21202 Web: pallottines.ie Email: palmissions@gmail.com

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When is Easter?

Fr Tom Daly SAC



There has been discussion recently about fixing the date of Easter. In the early church, because John's Gospel places the Passion and Resurrection as happening at the Jewish Passover, the church tended to celebrate Easter at the Passover. The Feast of Passover is calculated using the lunar calendar. The problem was that Passover can fall on any day of the week.

Many Christian communities felt that in accordance with the New Testament account of the Resurrection, happening on the first day of the week, that Easter had to be celebrated on a Sunday. For centuries the dating of the feast varied from place to place. Not until 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicea was it settled. The complicated agreement was that Easter would be celebrated on the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon of the Vernal equinox. It took centuries before this dating system was widely accepted. Only at the Synod of Whitby in 663 did the Celtic Church begin to fall in line.

1582 saw the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar but the Orthodox Church and others stayed with the old Julian Calendar. As a result, the Orthodox and the Catholic and other Christian Churches again celebrated on widely different dates. There is now a strong move, begun by the Coptic Pope and supported by the Anglican Church and Pope Francis, to have not just a common system of dating but a radical move to one fixed date for the celebration.

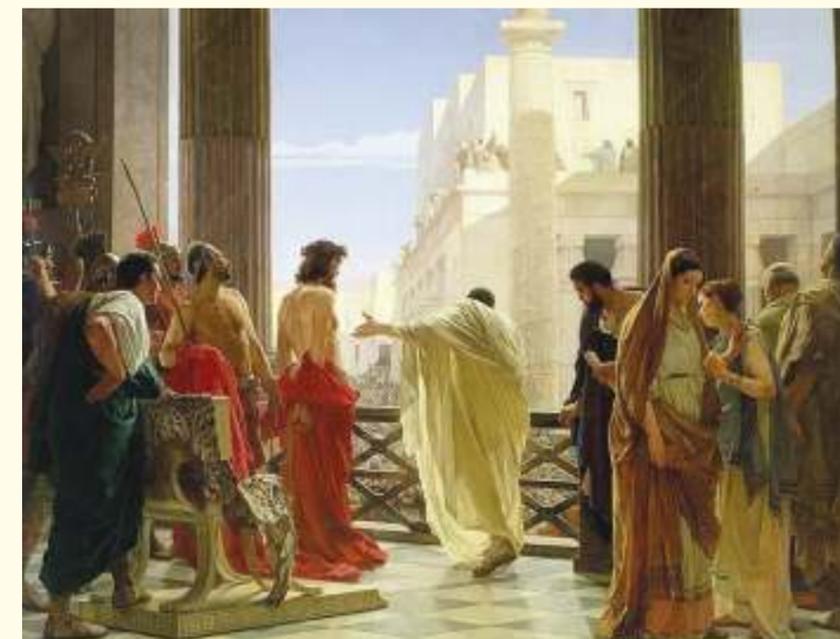
It would surely be a stronger witness to our common faith in the Risen Lord if we could all celebrate together. Schools, businesses and planners the world over would love a fixed timetable for the year and of course this would make life neater and tidier and more predictable for all.

Part of me hopes it never happens. This strange system of calculating the date on a lunar calendar, with wide variations every year has a strong appeal. Maybe it's good

that this great feast does not sync easily with all our plans and programmes.

The truth is that in our lives Good Friday and Easter Sunday can occur at any time. When we experience a bereavement on Christmas Eve or on a birthday, or indeed at any time or in any season, that is our Good Friday. As we try and painfully come to terms with loss and pain, Easter Sunday can be a long time in coming. These critical moments in our lives are never planned, frequently not even remotely expected, and rarely in sync with what is happening around us.

The yearly celebration of Holy Week and Easter, sometimes early, sometimes late, prepares us deep within for whatever comes, whenever it comes. Every year we walk with Christ along the road to Calvary. We stand at the foot of the Cross as he breathes his last. We keep vigil by the



tomb, our hearts moved deeply as we contemplate the utter desolation of this precious life destroyed.

On Holy Saturday we experience that feeling of emptiness and loss. Then on Easter morning we hear the glad cry again, "Why look among the dead for one who is not here. He is risen." The dates and times change and vary in the calendar of the church. They certainly vary in our own experiences of death and resurrection. The message however is always the same: Jesus Christ is Risen from the dead. Alleluia! Alleluia!



In The Year of Mercy

'For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind.'

Frederick William Faber

Pat Maguire

In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year, Pope Francis urges all Christians to seek and receive God's Mercy. Each one of us is called to become instruments of God's Mercy to everyone we encounter in our daily lives. Can we rise to this challenge? Will it make a difference in this world? Much has been written about the Year of Mercy and I wish to concentrate on the relational aspect of it.

In the Old Testament, the concept of Mercy is that of an intrinsic part of God's covenant with His chosen people. The word 'mercy' is often used today as a term of pity or showing compassion to someone in a pitiful state. I have chosen the interpretation of the Hebrew word 'chesed', which means loving kindness as a way of seeing or looking at the human condition.

The Benedictus, which is a beautiful prayer, speaks of 'the loving kindness of the heart of our God, who comes to us from on high'. Mercy is therefore part of the very essence of God. It is both intimate and personal. It is the loving kindness of a mother to her child, beautifully expressed in Isaiah 49:15 'can a woman forget her baby at the breast, feel no pity for the child she has borne? Even if these were to forget, I shall not forget you'. It is a deep and original bond of a particular love.

In using the image of mother and child, the Old Testament author describes the covenantal relationship between God and His people. God was at the very heart of their experience. In time of danger, the psalmist prayed: 'For my hope is in you all day long – such is your generosity, Yahweh. Goodness and faithful love have been yours forever. Yahweh do not forget them'. When seeking protection, the psalmist prayed: 'You Yahweh have not withheld your tenderness from me; your faithful and steadfast love will always guard me'. Ps 40:11.

The Old Testament depicts a catalogue of failure by the chosen people, who refuse to walk in God's way, yet the loving kindness of God means that His mercy is greater even than that. His mercy passes beyond all human compassion. God does not just offer a consoling message about the plight of His people, he offers practical help.

This is more clearly reflected in the New Testament and specifically in the Ministry of Jesus. Mercy is rooted in this ministry; a ministry that revealed the face of the Father as mercy and love. Time and again Jesus revealed this in His teaching.



In the parable of the lost son and the dutiful son, the father sees his lost son through the lens of loving kindness and acts accordingly, while the dutiful son sees his brother as pitiful and resents his father's action because he fails to see what he has and will always have. He also fails to realise the depth of a parent's love for his/her child. In this year of Mercy there is a message in this parable for our church. Action speaks louder than words. Our actions need to be rooted in the Ministry of Jesus but we must not allow ourselves to be held back by our own dutiful sons and daughters.



Another parable of great importance to this Year of Mercy is the parable of the Good Samaritan. Once again Jesus surprises us by revealing who it is that represents the true face of God. We too may be surprised when we find God in places where we might not expect to find Him and then not find Him where we ought to find Him. This parable presents a clear challenge to both our Church and society at the present time. The 'loving kindness of the Heart of our God, who visits us like the dawn from on high' not only demands action but action that will personally cost us like it did the Samaritan. The command of Jesus is 'Go and do the same yourself'. Jesus was never afraid to change the status quo and neither should we.

In 1835 St Vincent Pallotti took a radical step in setting up the UAC. It was radical for the Church authorities at the time. St Vincent had a profound awareness of God's Mercy. He never separated Infinite Mercy from Infinite Love so he was able to see the plight of people through the lens of Loving Kindness and treated all people no matter what their station in life was with the reverence due to children of God. What would his response be today?

The present-day mentality seems to exclude from life and from human heart the very idea of mercy. This is reflected in the fictional character of Frank Underwood in The House of Cards when he says 'for those of us climbing to the top of the food chain there can be no mercy'. This ruthless approach to life permeates popular culture with the myth that this is what it takes to be a successful leader or to be part of a successful team or enterprise. For those, who believe that a narcissistic way of life based on materialism and hedonism offers a better way, just take a look at the state of our world. It has never before been so unevenly divided with such vast pools of human misery.

In this year of Mercy let each of us, as followers of Christ, pray that we will follow the example of St Vincent Pallotti and Pope Francis and offer a different vision of life to our children. Let us offer a vision that is based on acknowledging that we are all God's work of art, a vision that sets out to heal what is hurting, to help those in need, to empower those who are enslaved and to free those imprisoned by economic systems and oppressed by convention. Let our church be truly reflective of the ocean that is God's Mercy.

East Africa Revisited

Fr John O'Connor SAC



I was really delighted to accompany Fr. Derry Murphy, the Provincial, and Fr. John Kelly, the Provincial Bursar, to the Local Assembly of our community in East Africa last November. I hadn't been to Tanzania or Kenya since 1997 and I was really looking forward to meeting the Pallottines there, visiting the different communities and seeing for myself the progress that had been made since. We were based in the Delegation house in the city of Arusha and Fr. Oliver O'Brien, Fr. Innocent and Fr. Paulo welcomed us with open arms and with very timely refreshments.

We got off to a great start with the Priestly Ordination of two young Pallottines and the Diaconate Ordination of two more in the magnificent parish church in Esso just outside Arusha. The Ordination Mass lasted over four hours but time just flew by. The liturgy was fantastic with lots of participation by lay people and some wonderful singing by the different choirs present. We in Ireland could learn a lot from the very joyful way that everybody participated.

After the Mass we were all entertained to a wonderful meal in the huge sports hall just beside the church. The food, the singing and especially the great company of the people

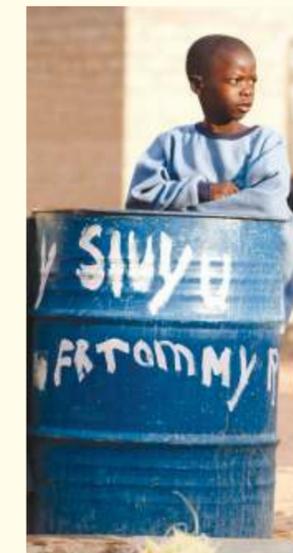


from many different African countries made the whole event unforgettable. On my last visit, Esso was a tiny parish and I found it hard to believe that so much work has been done in the intervening years. Esso must have the best facilities of any of our parishes in any part of the Irish Province. Congratulations to Fr. Mike O'Sullivan, Fr. Reginald Kimathi and to all who helped them turn a dream into a reality.

The following day we took part in the annual retreat for the members and then in the Local Assembly. I was delighted to meet all the priests, many of whom I had never met before and to catch up with those that I knew. It was especially joyful to meet up with Frs. Tommy Ryan and George Damball who were novices with me in Thurles a long time ago. I felt very much at home and I fully understood what "Karibu" means (Welcome), It was very interesting to listen to the opinions of

all those who took part in the assembly and I certainly learned a great deal from them about our reality in East Africa.

After the Assembly, Fr. Boniface brought Fr. Derry and myself to visit all of our communities in Tanzania. It was great to find that the main roads are really good although once we left them, the rest of the roads – where they existed at all – were terrible and made driving difficult and either very exciting or scary. I was also taken aback by the physical beauty of the landscape and the wonderful vegetation. I



could write volumes about the things I saw and the people I met but because of a lack of space I will share with you just a few of the many highlights of my visit.

Most of our parishes are in poor rural zones and cover vast areas. Our priests are very dedicated to their people and in many cases they are involved not only in pastoral work but are also responsible for developing the local community and responding to the spiritual and material needs of all, regardless of their faith.

One visit that I most looked forward to was to Siuyu where

Fr. Tommy Ryan runs a rehabilitation centre for children with severe physical and mental ailments. When one takes into account that Siuyu is an extremely poor area and that Tommy himself is practically confined to a wheelchair, one must admit that the work being done there is nothing short of a miracle. The joy on the little faces of the children and the love and attention shown to them by Tommy, Sr. Rosy and the other workers is something that will remain in my heart and mind forever. The Centre in Siuyu is, without any doubt, the Gospel brought to life.

Visiting Fr. Mike Barry was an unforgettable experience. This time, Fr. John Kelly did the driving and showed that he could easily qualify as a rally driver! The visit with Fr. Mike was great: he treated us royally and the



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