Readings/Zvidzidzo/Izifundo
2nd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading Gen 22: 1 - 2, 9a - 10, 13, 15 - 18
2nd Reading Rom 8:31b -34
Gospel Mk 9: 2 -10

Pope’s Intention for March

General: That the whole world may recognise the contribution of women to the development of society
Missionary: That the Holy Spirit may grant perseverance to those who suffer discrimination, persecution or death for the name of Christ, particularly in Asia

Welcome Fr Jabulani Magugu

Fr Magugu, the Assistant Chaplain arrived on 16 March with his first official engagement scheduled for 31 March at a Mass in Huntingdon where he will meet various community and leaders and NEC reps. See p3, NEC Chair’s welcome on page

Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales oppose same sex marriage

The Pastoral Letter by the Bishops of England and Wales opposing the government’s plans to redefine marriage [contrary to Catholic teaching and Bible (Genesis 2:24, Mark 10:7)] was read and/or handed out on across the 2,500 parishes of England and Wales on 11 March, the third Sunday of Lent, and the web link posted on the same day on our electronic notice board The summary of the Pastoral Letter can be found at http://foryourmarriage.org/pastoral-letter-summary/

For Archbishop Vincent Nichols’ video clip on the same, visit :http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEMeVSlbF9M

For their part, the Bishops of Zimbabwe in their subsequent Pastoral Letter Proclaiming A Gospel of Life released on 13 March independently echoed the Bishops of England & Wales on the issue of same sex marriage, albeit, as one among other life issues.

Thoughts on Lent:

- “Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts, not your clothes. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.” ~ Joel 2:12-18
- “Take heed that you do not make fasting to consist only in abstinence from meats. True fasting is to refrain from vice. Shred to pieces all your unjust contracts. Pardon your neighbours. Forgive them their trespasses.” ~ St. Basil the Great
- “Being conscious of our weakness, frailty, and vulnerability allows us to reach out to God in prayer, to express our love for him through sacrifice, and to spend ourselves for others in love”
- “Fasting symbolizes our ever deepening hunger for God and ensures that our sights stay fixed on eternal life and makes us appreciate more fully all the goods of the earth and the goodness in one another.” ~ from The Little Way of Lent
- ‘Good Lord, give us thy grace not to read or hear this gospel of thy bitter passion with our eyes and our ears in manner of a pastime, but that it may with compassion so sink into our hearts that it may stretch to the everlasting profit of our souls’ ~ St Thomas More

Major Feast Days of the Month

1 St David, Patron of Wales
7 SS Perpetua and Felicity
8 St John of God
17 St Patrick, Patron Ireland & Nigeria
19 St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church
26 Annunciation of the Lord -
**Highlights for March**

**Stations of the Cross**

This year the whole of March falls within the Holy season of Lent. Apart from repentance fasting and abstinence, one of the major features in Lent is stations of the cross, which, although an all-season devotion is particularly encouraged in Lent, and is done in almost all parishes at least once every week throughout the season of Lent by the whole parish community. As the barest minimum, one must attend or perform the stations of the cross at least once during Lent.

If I may share the reflection on the stations of the cross by Joseph F. Nassal in his book *Faith Walkers*:

"The Way of the Cross is a sojourn of the soul that makes us faith walkers, not sightseers: we walk by faith, not by sight. This journey invites us to engage our imaginations in a process of holy recovery; recovering the last steps Jesus took on His walk on earth.

As such, this journey takes us to places we'd rather not go. But by walking this way with Jesus, we learn how not to become frustrated when fear and failure creeps and seeps into our souls. The Way of the Cross teaches us that we are faith walkers and not sightseers: we walk by faith and not by sight. We are pilgrims not tourists. The only postcards we purchase are from the edge of time and space that place where heaven meets earth and hope is born again and again.

The Way of the Cross has long been a popular devotion for Christians, especially during Lent. Catholic churches have placed these Stations on their walls for centuries. More than a pious devotion, the Way of the Cross is a spiritual journey that takes us across the treacherous terrain of the heart land; beyond the grave to an eternal space where dreams are conceived. As we walk this way this Lenten season be prepared to stop often. Not to rest but to sense how this cross is crushing our shoulders; how the pebbles feel like boulders upon our bare feet; how the splinters from the wood slice through our skin and sink deep beneath the surface to leave scars on our souls.

There are no exit ramps or rest stops along this harrowing yet holy way. Winter’s cold winds, ice, and snow have wounded the pavement beneath our feet. We will fall into potholes so large we will think we will lose our lives if we are not careful. But then that's the point: be careful! Be full of care for those who walk this way with us. And when we are full of such compassion and empathy for those we meet along the way-the weary ones, the weeping ones, the angry ones, the violent ones, the jeering ones, the curious ones—we will lose our lives. And maybe, just maybe, find our souls" (Faith Walkers: Passages of Suffering and Hope).

**Prayer & Awareness for Dementia**

The week of prayer and awareness for dementia. Falls within March (12 - 19).

Anyone who has lived with dementia as a relative and/or carer in the family or work will know what a debilitating state it is. In this week in particular we pray for a cure or remedy for dementia and pray especially for those affected and their carers or relatives. Those caring for a relative with dementia can be affected more than the person concerned.

We can also add the following prayer: provided by the Pastoral Care Project, St. Gerard’s, Coventry Road, Coleshill B46 3ED, tel 01675 434035, website: www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk

**Prayer for Dementia**

**Lord, thank you for your presence this moment holding us in your love**

Help us to share your love with those who live among us with dementias That we may see your beauty in them

Amen

Visit www.dayofprayerfordementia.org.uk

**Thought for Mothers**

Mother’s Day falls with March (18th)
The Pope’s Intention this month calls for the recognition of women across the board. For Mothers in particular, one among many prayers:

**A Mother’s Prayer**

O Lord, help me to be open to your holy will in my life. Please grant me the graces, courage, and generosity needed as a mother responsible for welcoming life and nurturing it within my domestic church. — from Embracing Motherhood

**A Mother’s Role**

We are helped to grow in virtue and holiness as we raise our children. As we practice spiritual and corporal works of virtue in the household, we learn patience, perseverance, humility, and charity. — from Embracing Motherhood

B Takavarasha, Editor
Fr Jabulani Magugu arrived on 16 March to take up his post as Assistant Chaplain. It probably marks a historic moment in Ethnic Chaplaincies in England Wales to officially have more than one priest for one Chaplaincy but we stand corrected as the case might be. But Fr Magugu is no stranger to many in our UK community, not only those who knew him from home, but also from his previous private visits to the UK where he concelebrated in our community Masses at least in London. His first official engagement is on 31 March in Huntingdon where he will meet with the NEC Executive and various community leaders from all centres. And guilds. One of our subscribers while still in Zimbabwe, the Newsletter wants to give its warm welcome and best wishes to Fr Magugu.

On the day of his arrival, the NEC Chair Peter Soko gave the following welcome addressed to all ZCCEW parishioners:

“It gives me great pleasure to inform that our Assistant Chaplin, Baba Jabulani C. Magugu, has arrived safely in the UK this morning (16th of March 2012).

Monsignor Munyongani and I were at the airport to meet him, together with Mai Nyathi who kindly took him meet members of his immediate family who are based here in England, and whom he will spend a few days with. He will then spend the next number days going through all the necessary formalities and meetings that are required by The Church here in and England and Wales as well as by British law. He will be based in the Archdiocese of Westminster, as Monsignor Munyongani, though, as expected, his duties will cover the width and breadth of England and Wales.

Baba Magugu will then commence official duty on March 31st, at the NEC AGM (hosted by Huntingdon) where he will have a chance to meet with all our community's leaders and he shall be formally introduced that day to them. Please note that he is NOT available for duty before March 31st, ndapota musavaise pamuyedzo!

May The Almighty continue to bless, guide and protect you and your families.

Warm regards,”

Baba Soko
NEC CHAIRMAN

Medjugorje Miracle and Zim Bishops Pastoral Letter of March 2012

A woman who spent over 40 years doing abortions went to Medjugorje

When she came to Medjugorje she climbed Apparition Hill, as she did, she saw the rocks turn into skulls and bones of babies. She was an atheist, but then knew that there was a God, that He could forgive her, and wanted to help her stop!

The miracle reinforces what our Bishops say in their latest Pastoral Letter Proclaiming A Gospel of Life. Echoing Catholic teaching, the Pastoral Letter condemns the practice of abortion. They say in part:

“Each new life is the life not of a potential human being, but of a human being with potential. It is impossible to point to the actual week of pregnancy and say that this is the time when the foetus suddenly becomes a human being”
Jacob Mawoza RIP

It is with deep sadness to record the death of Jacob Mawoza, who died on 24 March 2012 at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital. He was to be buried at the North Sheen Cemetery in West London on Thursday 05 April. May perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace

"May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem."

(Rite for Christian Burial)

Notices & Forthcoming Events

Divine Mercy Novena: Good Friday 06 April hardly needs any elaboration: fasting (except for those exempt) and prayer and celebration of the Lord’s Passion, except perhaps a reminder that it is also the start of the Divine Mercy Novena. Prayer leaflets are readily available through our local parishes’ repositories and Catholic bookshops or follow the link: http://radiofamilyrosaryphoenix.homestead.com/divinemercynovena.html

If one had to make just one novena in the year, this would most probably be it.

Open Air Passion Play performed freely for the public in TRAFALGAR SQ, London, Good Friday 6 April. Performances at 12 noon and 3.15pm For more info visit; http://www.passionofjesustrafalgar.uk/index.html

Passion of Jesus on BBC: The BBC will be showing a modernised version of the Passion of Jesus entitled Preston Passion on Good Friday. Friday 6 April on BBC 1 at 12 noon

Easter Vigil in London

This will be the third year running that the event is being held at a Church exclusive to the ZCCEW away from the usual London community host parish. As attendees over the years would testify, it’s an Easter experience like at home - away from home. The venue: St Edmund Campion Catholic Church, cnr Cedar Avenue/Marys Mead Close, Hazlemere, High Wycombe HP15 7DW For dicitons, follow the link: http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&source=hp&q=HP15+7DW&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=High+Wycombe,+Buckinghamshire+HP15+7DW,+United+Kingdom&g=uk&ei=4GehS_aeMZL_y0gSJ7LWiDA&ved=0CAkQ8gEwAA&z=16

Leeds Community Easter Vigil

The Leeds Community would like to invite parishioners who are up north to attend the Easter Vigil in Leeds, 7pm on Saturday till 0500hrs on Sunday which will be celebrated by Fr Magugu our Assistant Chaplain. We aim to start at 7pm till 0500hrs on Sunday. The theme is "make me a channel of your peace". Venue: Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church Neville Road Leeds LS9 0TT

Mrs D Buzubge, Leedes Community Secretary (07901777708)

Memorial Mass for Chiduzas: There will be a memorial Mass for Baba Chiduza along with Mai Longina Chiduza on 13 April at St Augustine Catholic Church, Harehills Road, L85 5HR. For more info, call Mai Chizengeni on 07947276860

Marriage Encounter 2012 will be on Saturday 14 April at St Augustine Catholic Church, Harehills Road, Leeds LS8 5HR. Details nearer the time will be posted on our electronic notice board

All guilds retreat & congress (women only) will be held 20-22 April, from 5pm on Friday 20 April through to Sunday 22 April at 3pm, venue: Cefn Lea Park, Dolfot, Newport, Powys, SY16 4AJ, Wales. Website: www.cefnlea.co.uk tel: 01686625275. Cost ?76 per head (adults). For more info, call Mai Soko, Zvita Council Secretary on 07935849430

Thanksgiving Mass for Sacrament of Matrimony: will be on 26 May 2012 @3.00pm led by Archbishop Vincent Nichols. The invitation is for couples within the Westminster archdiocese celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th or 60th wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2012. If you qualify please contact Catherine MacGillivray on 020 77986064 or at cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk

Music Course 2012

This popular community-wide event will be held across 3 days: June 1, 2 & 3 at the same as last year’s event: St Edmunds Catholic School, Compton Park, Wolverhampton WV3 9DU. Early booking for hotels/bed & breakfast highly recommended
Wedding Anniversaries

[Sekuru naMbuya Maunganidze on either side of Archbishop Vincent Nichols. Far left their eldest daughter and main carer, Maria Chikosi]

Sekuru na Mbuya Maunganidze joined other couples celebrating landmark Catholic wedding anniversaries at Westminster Cathedral in May last year. Theirs was the diamond (60th) wedding anniversary year.

On Sunday January 8, they celebrated the event again, now doubled with Mbuya Maunganidze’s 80th birthday, this time to share their joy and thanksgiving with the Zimbabwean Catholic community and others. The Mass was led by Fr Dzadagu who has strong links with the family and paid a moving tribute to the couple in his homily and drawn largely from his recollections. The first reading Sira/Ecclesiasticus 3: 6-16 on duties of children to their parents could not have been more appropriate in so far as it applies to their eldest child and main carer Maria Chikosi. The bit that we see at the London community Mass is moving enough, but that is only a glimpse of what happens behind the scenes. God bless her. There was a reception in the hall after Mass. The celebration and thanksgiving went beyond the landmark birthday and marriage anniversary: the couple were blessed with 10 children, 44 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

As if Mbuya na Sekuru Maunganidze had set the trend, there were at least two other landmark wedding anniversaries celebrated so far this year.

[Mr and Mrs Campion receiving blessing from Fr Simon Mabhena on their silver wedding anniversary]

Mr and Mrs Campion, bottom pic first col, received wedding blessing at the London Community Mass on 7 January, with Mrs and Mrs Mudimu (below) [Mr & Mrs Mudimu celebrating the same at the London community Mass on 3 February.]

[Mr & Mrs Mudimu receiving blessing on their silver wedding anniversary: Photographer: Mercy Mushangwa]

As the late Fr Alan Fudge used to say at nuptial Masses, for a marriage to last it must not be just a marriage of the two but a marriage of three along with Christ. It is a theme beautifully encapsulated by the following quote:

’When God is not number one in the marriage, we tend to make each other a god, and when the other fails you—and they will—where do you turn?’ (Marriage 911)

No doubt the three sets of couples highlighted here along with many others that have survived the crucible of Time must have, knowingly or unknowingly, embraced that golden rule.

We invite other couples celebrating their landmark wedding anniversaries to allow us to share their joy with the rest of the community and beyond on this space. The same invitation goes to would-be married couples for their weddings. ~ Editor
Baba Mhondoro gave a convincing presentation on how we sometimes need to take charge, we need to be positive about life, we need to defy the prophets of doom in our lives.
And much more.

In the afternoon, Baba Gwagwa, distinguished gentleman who knows where to come from, and he comes from Chivhu where truly yours comes from, and moderated the "graveyard" post-lunch shift, delivered that Immigration started in the Old Testament era, that the God of love has a purpose for everyone of us, that what we experience is re-determined by God the Almighty. And much else.

Baba Chapwanya, our Chair from Birmingham picked up the threads from the questions on Immigration, explained the Law as it is and gave interpretation to the many questions the audience had such as on "Removals", "Deportations", Asylum seeking, but all the time emphasising that there were no skills or magical solutions that we could pull if we did not have God at the centre of everything we did. A request was made for the legal experts in the Zimbabwe Christian Men's Fellowship, ZCMF to identify themselves to the Mubatanidzwa, to produce a generalist bullet point summary of the major issues our people need to be aware of regarding Immigration and legal matters. Baba Chapwanya, without being paternalistic, really raised the flag for us today on the matters that he addressed.

A quick summary, if such is to be allowed: First session, the keynote presentation illustrated that God is the God of Deliverance, he is merciful, he gives us second chances, but he really needs us to repent, and know Him.

Second presentation about how we need to listen to the Word of God, to be aware of false prophets, how we need to live full lives, not forgetting those at home but how we need to become who challenge the conventional barriers of what we believe to be our barriers.

Third presentation in the afternoon wove together environmental aspects of our beings, the fact of our living in the Diaspora, the many challenges we face, the law that exists on the country of our habitation. Animated discussions thereafter. Mr Jeff Sango of Citizens-UK made a powerful presentation at the end of the need to involve Church leaders from start to end of initiatives that help the people we claim to be our “followers”

(Joseph Foroma)
We have received news of the death of two priests since our last issue.

Fr Peter Chapwanya of the Diocese of Gweru, died on 4 March in Gweru. He was currently based at Lalapanzi. Prior to that, he had held many other posts in the old and new Gweru Diocese including a lengthy stint at Chikwingwizha Minor Seminary, and as such, many priests of Masvingo and Gweru dioceses would have passed through him.

FR JAMES BERRY SJ

Fr James Berry SJ, 1932-2012 (pictured above), the much loved former Principal of St Ignatius College nr. Harare, passed away on Sunday 4 March 2012 at around 1525 hours at the House of Adoration, where he was Chaplain.

He had said Mass for the Sister only the previous day with no indication whatsoever that he had only some 24 hours to live. While Principal of St Ignatius, a post he held for 12 years from 1971 to 1983, he is probably mostly remembered for marching alongside his students in a protest march during the colonial era. After his stint at St Ignatius, he spent 6 years as Rector of St Georges College in Mt Pleasant Harare, and there from another 6 as Parish Priest at Brascorp before he was appointed Administrator of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in 1996, a post he held for 14 years. Fr Berry had celebrated his 80th birthday on 26 January. All the more sadly and untimely, his death means he will miss St Ignatius College’s golden jubilee celebrations next July, and to many of the alumni and staff, it will take some gloss from that otherwise anticipated grand event at the famous school.

Catholic Tragedy in Kadoma

Two Catholic Church members were crushed to death while 10 others were injured after a church building succumbed to a heavy storm and collapsed on them. There is a fuller coverage in a secular newspaper at http://www.newday.co.zw/article/2012-02-29-church-collapse-kills-two/

Pastoral Letter: Proclaiming A Gospel of Life

A Pastoral Letter by the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference on upholding the dignity of life was released on Tuesday, 13 March 2012. It was posted on our electronic notice board on the day. It can be found at http://www.indycatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20039. We have made incidental references to it in this issue: at p.1 col 1, p. 3 col 2 and p.8 col 2. We might have occasion to give a more in-depth analysis in the next issue.

TINOKUTENDAI MAMBO HYMN BOOK

“Life-Lines”, the well known group for the productions of Videos DVDs and CDs, especially of Zimbabwean liturgical music, has published a hymn in Shona with the above title, giving the texts of Shona hymns. Sister Tendai Makonese OP, director of “Life-Lines”, tells us that the new hymn book contains 1222 composed hymns and about 86 of the Dzimbo Sande. The book also has over 80 texts of the old Chishawasha hymns which are still popular. To get most of these songs Sr Makonese says they worked closely with the composers across the six Shona speaking dioceses. The Hymn Book is a ZCBC property. Thicker than a standard bible, it surely was a miracle to produce such a mammoth project in so short a time.

Editor’s note: There is another dimension to this Hymn Book over and above the noble work by “Life Lines” it is the richness of creativity within the Zim Catholic Church. It is almost unbelievable that these hymns were composed in under 50 years since the pioneering work of the late Stephen Ponde. To appreciate the achievement, one needs to go no further than the English Hymn books we use here in the Diaspora and back home which are much smaller than this Hymn book. Besides, the compositions in the English Hymn book span over 200 years and drawn from several countries across several Christian denominations whilst this book is exclusively from Zim Catholic composers. To add to that, this book does not include Ndebele hymns of which there are many from composers like the late W. Hlabano among others. The Holy Spirit is very much at work, something that we must never cease to give prayers of Thanksgiving.

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Pilgrimages to the Holy Land

Two of the pilgrimages to the Holy Land we publi-
cised on our electronic notice board, viz. 10 – 17 De-
cember this year and Easter 2013. would have closed
by the time we went to press. But watch this space in
case we are advised otherwise. But the one 12 –
19 November 2012 is still available with deadline for
deposit of £250 set for the end of April, full price
£760 per person based on 2 people sharing inclusive
of flights and half board. For more information con-
tact Mai Mutemachani on 07834909418 or Gina on
07961260198

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje (see page 3 col 2)

A few place remain on the pilgrimage to Medjugorje
05 – 12 June inclusive (coinciding with half term),
prive ~£530 inclusive of flights, transit coach from
Croatia into Bosnia-Hercegovana and half board. If
interested please act without delay and contact
B Takavarasha on 07884240742 or email
zvesvondo@aol.com giving your name and postal
address in the first instance.

PhD Studentships at SOAS (University of London)
in the field of Transdisciplinary Diaspora Studies.
Please follow this link to the admissions application
http://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/pg/research/
howtoapply/ Submit job applications via the SOAS HR current
vacancies webpage www.soas.ac.uk/jobs
Deadline for applications is 15th May 2012
All applicants must also comply with Marie Curie
eligibility criteria. For further details the CoHab web-
site can be found at www.itn-cohab.eu
For more information, please contact Parvathi Raman
at pr1@soas.ac.uk

Pastoral Letter by the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops’
Conference appeal for funds

The ZCBC published a pastoral letter on 13 March on
Proclaiming the Gospel of Life. The Conference is
asking for $5,000.00 to translate and print copies in
English, Shona and Ndebele. For details of the account
where to deposit contributions for the translation and
printing please contact Sr. Veronica Dingi on email
directorsoccom@zcbc.co.zw or dingiv@yahoo.com.

Kanyuchi Marathon Appeal for Tree Life

Kenny Kanuchi of our Birmingham Community is
going to run on the London Marathon to raise funds for
Tree of Life, an apolitical group that helps victims
of violence in Zimbabwe. Read the story at
http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/news/
zimbabwe/57214/kanyuchi-to-run-for-healing.html
Please donate generously at: http://
uk.virginmoneygiving.com/kennykanyuchi, or send
your contribution directs to Jesuit Missions, 11 Edge
Hill, and London SW19 4LR: phone:020 8946 0466: e
-mail: director@jmgb.org, stating that it is sponsor-
ship money for Kenny Kanyuchi, running for Aqua-
Tree of Life in the London Marathon

Betty Makoni’s First Book

Betty Makoni, a fellow Zim Catholic and here in
England & Wales, founder and director of Girl Child
Network (GCN) Zimbabwe and Chief Executive
Officer of Girl Child Network Worldwide has writ-
ten her first book. It is entitled A Woman, Once a
Girl—Breaking the Silence published by Trafford. The
book was officially launched in London on 8 March
2012 – see the brief report at
http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/entertainment/art-
and-literature/57032/makonis-book-launched.html?
utm_source=thezim&utm_medium=homepage&utm
_campaign=latestarticles.

Part of the proceeds go to Girl Child Network. You
can get it on http://bookstore.traford.com/Products/
SKU-000526911/A-Woman-Once-a-Girl.aspx

. The book will soon be available in Zimbabwe,
details to be provided on this space in due course