

Bamenda & Portsmouth Link News



ANNUAL BAMENDA SUNDAY NEWSLETTER 2013

Chairman's Report

Every year we have a **Special Collection** to support the projects driven by our friends in our twinned Diocese of Bamenda, Cameroon.

This year with your contributions, Bamenda Funds have continued to contribute to projects in 4 categories. You will see some examples in this bulletin.

The Bamenda committee heartily thank you and also encourage you to be generous in your donation for the many parishes, schools, health establishments and social projects we support in our twinned diocese in Cameroon.

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BENEFITS OF THE LINK

Fr Thom Amungwa (now serving in Basingstoke) talks about how the link influenced him: "I am so much indebted to this Bamenda/Portsmouth link for all the assistance that has played a major part in my life to be what I am today.

I was baptised by a Portsmouth Priest serving in Bamenda at the time - Fr Francis Isherwood. I was an altar server with Fr Joseph McElhinney and a member of a junior youth group formed by Fr Anthony Gatt in the Bamenda Cathedral Parish. All these Portsmouth priests and many more played a significant part in shaping my vocation which today I am paying back in the diocese of Portsmouth as a missionary. Thanks for all your support these past 40 years.

I am a living and visible fruit of your sacrifices. Many more visible fruits are on the way to you. Whenever I think of your sacrific-

es, and how the Archdiocese of Bamenda has benefited from



your support, I cannot but lavish my heartfelt thanks. Remain blessed and never be tired of doing good to a needy church".

EDUCATION

We have committed to helping to build a new nursery school at Yemge and we are excited to be improving and extending our school twinning.

New links are beginning between primary



schools in both Southampton and Southsea. Their twins in Bamenda are desperately in need of resources such as books and school fees for the children who cannot attend school if the family cannot afford to pay.

We are also proposing to extend our twinning to more secondary schools.



What could you do?

At St Joseph's church in Tilehurst the ladies have been knitting 38 school jumpers to be sent to the children in the nursery class in Ndop, Bamenda.

Could you raise £10 a year to send a child to primary school?

SOCIAL WELFARE

At Esu, we are helping to build a training centre where women and youths can learn skills which will enable them to

generate their own income. The local community have been contributing sand and stones for the building and making mud bricks. In January we saw the first phase of the building going up.



HEALTH

Clinicare delivered 2 consignments of medical supplies to Bamenda. Sr Sheila (Healthcare coordinator) sent the following message:

“These days I am distributing the contents to the different Health Centres. Oh the joy in going through such a wonderful gift. *The drugs will be used in Health Centres which are struggling to keep afloat and are taking care of people who are HIV+. The equipment will be used for two operating theatres which I am trying to set up following the advice of Dr. Vivien who is working with me.*

I have received equipment from U.S.A. - operating beds, lamps and operating room materials. The equipment and the 8 sets of operat-



ing instruments which you kindly brought out truly complements the other material received.

I am most grateful, it will be of enormous help in improving the quality of care we will be able to offer to patients. It will also mean that they will not have to travel long distances when they need to have surgery.”

FR BONAVENTURE'S IMPRESSIONS OF SERVING IN PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE:

Very different from Bamenda; a new-old place, with new people, new ways, new challenges; having to re-learn a lot; also exciting and fascinating!



new teaching block .

Jersey parish received the gift of a gourd from Fr Cosmos for the assistance that they provided helping to build a church at Ndop.

FAITH

We continue to support the catechist's training in Bamenda by supplying educational 'Echoes' packs for the Maryvale Institute and contributing towards the installation of a sound system in the



2014

“2014 will bring the 40th anniversary of our link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda, Cameroon. As part of the celebrations Bishop Philip will lead a delegation to Bamenda next February. The group will visit the places and people supported by your generous contributions and will join a day of celebration at St. Joseph's Cathedral with representatives of Catholic organisations in the Archdiocese.

From **June 16th - 23rd** a delegation from Bamenda will visit our Diocese. Led by Archbishop Cornelius, we anticipate they will visit parishes, schools and organisations which have support-

ed our Bamenda link over the years. On **21st June** we will have our own Diocesan Celebration Day. A celebrated High Mass at St. John's Cathedral will be followed by displays / workshops - a chance to showcase your links with Bamenda and to meet members of the African delegation.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our brothers and sisters in Bamenda and I urge you to come down to the Cathedral in Portsmouth on 21st June and join us”. (Extract from the Chairman's report).

FINANCIAL

Larger projects we support in

Bamenda often extend over a number of years. We therefore need to have a certainty of income for those years.

Our main source of income is the annual Bamenda Sunday collection but for the last few years this has been supplemented from our dwindling Capital Reserve.

There are always smaller projects which are ideal for a parish to support. Please be as generous as possible on Bamenda Sunday. We always have specific projects available which could be what would suit your parish.

(The treasurer's statement).

For more information please contact Mr. Colm Lennon, Chairman of the Bamenda Committee on the following email: clennon@bamendaandportsmouth.com . You can also find out more about the committee and their work by logging into their website at www.bamendaandportsmouth.com.