



## FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK ...

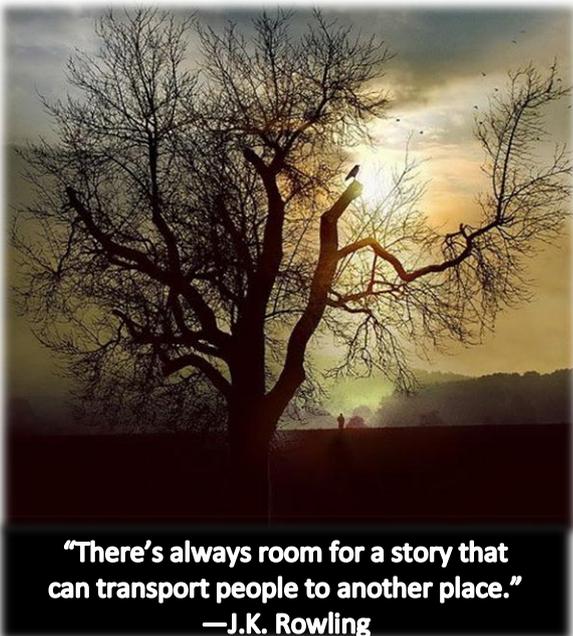
1 April 2016

**D**ear Brothers and Friends,  
We have a Provincial Chapter coming up in August - just short of six months away.

There is much for all of us to pray, talk and think about. By way of preparation we need to focus our thoughts in the same direction as the Institute as a whole, guided by the Superior General and his Council and the various international meetings and colloquiums during their term of office. Over the past few years we have received documents, letters and reports inspiring us to prepare for the bicentenary. Now is our time as a Province to do something more about these calls.

These many calls remind me of the story about the "Pregnant Deer", a tale that helps one to reflect on one's focus in life. Our Province, both laypersons and brothers, would do well to "refocus" as we prepare for the bicentenary of the Institute.

Allow me tell you the story and elaborate on it.



**"There's always room for a story that can transport people to another place."  
—J.K. Rowling**

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In a forest, a pregnant deer is about to give birth. She finds a remote grass field near a strong-flowing river. This seems a safe place. Suddenly labour pains begin.

At the same moment, dark clouds gather around above and lightning starts a forest fire. She looks to her left and sees a hunter with his bow extended pointing at her. To her right, she spots a hungry lion approaching her.

What can the pregnant deer do?

She is in labour!

What will happen?

Will the deer survive?

Will she give birth to a fawn?

Will the fawn survive?

Or will everything be destroyed by the forest fire?

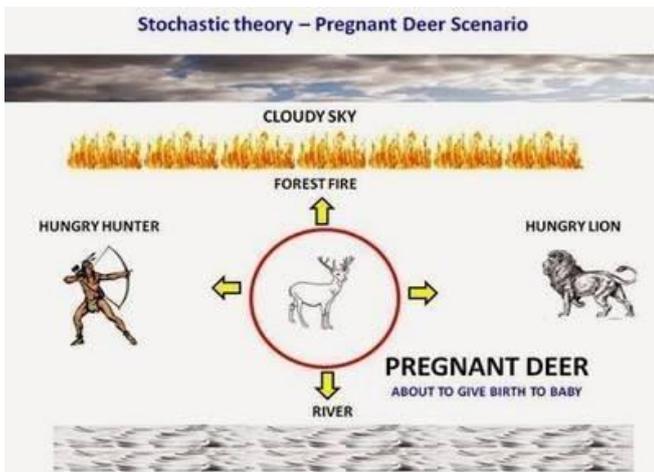
Will she perish to the hunters' arrow?

Will she die a horrible death at the hands of the hungry lion approaching her?

She is constrained by the fire on the one side and the flowing river on the other and boxed in by her natural predators.

What does she do?

She focuses on giving birth to a new life.



- The sequence of events that follows are:
- Lightning strikes & temporarily blinds the hunter.
  - He releases the arrow which zips past the deer and strikes the hungry lion.
  - It starts to rain heavily, and the forest fire is slowly doused by the rain.
  - The deer gives birth to a healthy fawn.

In our life too, there are moments of choice when we are confronted on all sides with negative thoughts and possibilities.

Some thoughts are so powerful that they overcome us and overwhelm us.

Maybe we can learn from the deer.

The priority of the deer, in that given moment, was simply to give birth to a baby.

The rest was not in her hands and any action or reaction that changed her focus would have likely resulted in death or disaster.

We need to ask ourselves:

**Where is our focus?**

**Where is our faith and hope?**

As the deer's focus was in giving birth to her fawn and giving new life we too must have our focus on new life for ourselves and our province.

I have asked all the provincial councillors to organise an assembly in their countries to look to the future of our Province so that at the Chapter we can focus wisely and give new life to the Province.



Here are some elements to contemplate – to reflect on - to explore – to inspire and enrich yourselves for the sake of **NEW LIFE** in the Province:

## New Models of Animation , Governance and Management

At the Provincial Chapter what are we going to do about this element? Are we going to travel the same path as before or are we going to have the courage to follow the road that the institute is challenging us to take? We are approaching the bicentenary of our Institute. Contexts have changed over the years and it is a moment to look at new solutions for new times. We need to think of a new ways of animating, governing and managing the province. Is the current of way we go about animating, governing and managing the Province the best way?

### Community and prayer life

Animation of our communities so important for our life as brothers. Are we seen mystics and prophets to the people around us and those we work with and for?

### To make Jesus known and loved

Do we have passion for Marist Mission? Is there evangelization and a presence among children and young people, particularly the poor? Have we become experts in child rights and protection in our countries and Province?

### Self-sustainability.

This is to do with the finances of the province. Some difficult questions need to be asked and answers need to be forthcoming. Have we too many communities in the province? What apostolic works should continue? What apostolic works should discontinue? Do we make best use of our resources?

### Lay Marists



Since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) the church has repeatedly spoken about the laity and

their position in the church. For many years our Institute has seen the importance of our relationship with layperson. The last General Chapter has called for brothers and lay to work together. What is our understanding about the Brothers' vocation vis-à-vis the lay-Marist Vocation? Is there a shared responsibility and complementary presence of lay people and Brothers?

## Initial Formation for New Beginnings (Brothers and Lay)

We need to look at the way we are recruiting and forming the men joining us today. Should we give greater attention to each person’s personal journey in formation? Should we be forming our recruits for international and intercultural communities? We should be forming recruits to go to the peripheries to educate and evangelise young people especially those in vulnerable situations, and to be evangelised by them.

### International Communities for a New Beginning



This is a challenge that we need to act as a Province. No one in the Province volunteered in response to the letter asking for volunteers to be part of this initiative. I will give more information on this

as we must have some brothers open to this. This asks for:

*A significant evangelizing presence among children and young people in situations of vulnerability, where few people go, giving them prominence and defending their rights.*

*Global availability:* by creating a new mentality and a new attitude; looking beyond the usual horizons of our administrative units and regions and opening up to the possibilities of international collaboration for mission.

*Interculturality:* Marist international communities, which promote within themselves a communion of cultures and an appreciation of their diversity, as well as their integration in the context in which they are located.

*A significant life:* through its gospel quality and the fraternal witness of the communities, which can take different forms according to the membership (brothers, laity, members of other congregations...)

*An emphasis on spirituality:* a clear commitment to enter more deeply into our spiritual experience, giving particular attention to the mystical and prophetic dimensions of Marist Life.

***If you feel called to be a member of an international community please contact me and we can discuss the possibilities.***



My brothers and friends, as I said, “Here are some thoughts to contemplate – to reflect on - discover - explore - inspire and enrich yourselves.” As you can see there is a lot of work to do at the Chapter - it is good for us to prepare now!

**Like the mother deer, let us focus on NEW LIFE.**

*Joe*



02-04-82	Witman Phiri
04-04-72	Evans Musakanya
04-04-89	Ângelo Cassinda
04-04-92	Martin Jere (nov. adm. 2016)
05-04-68	Patrick Bushilya
09-04-35	António Pisco
12.04-69	Patrick Bwalya
21-04-66	Auxensio Dickson <b>50</b>
23-04-77	Reuben Banda
24-04-69	Norbert Mwila

## Something to Think About ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

Every Sunday morning I take a light jog around a park near my home. There's a lake located in one corner of the park. Each time I jog by this lake, I see the same elderly woman sitting at the water's edge with a small metal cage sitting beside her.

This past Sunday my curiosity got the best of me, so I stopped jogging and walked over to her. As I got closer, I realized that the metal cage was in fact a small trap. There were three turtles, unharmed, slowly walking around the base of the trap. She had a fourth turtle in her lap that she was carefully scrubbing with a spongy brush.

"Hello," I said. "I see you here every Sunday morning. If you don't mind my nosiness, I'd love to know what you're doing with these turtles."

She smiled. "I'm cleaning off their shells," she replied. "Anything on a turtle's shell, like algae or scum, reduces the turtle's ability to absorb heat and impedes its ability to swim. It can also corrode and weaken the shell over time."

"Wow! That's really nice of you!" I exclaimed.

She went on: "I spend a couple of hours each Sunday morning, relaxing by this lake and helping these little guys out. It's my own strange way of making a difference."

"But don't most freshwater turtles live their whole lives with algae and scum hanging from their shells?" I asked.

"Yep, sadly, they do," she replied.

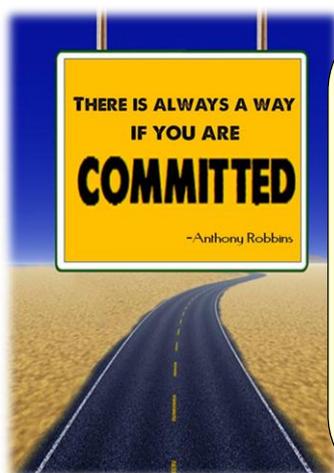
I scratched my head. "Well then, don't you think your time could be better spent? I mean, I think your efforts are kind and all, but there are fresh water turtles living in lakes all around the world. And 99% of these turtles don't have kind people like you to help them clean off their shells. So, no offence... but how exactly are your localized efforts here truly making a difference?"

The woman giggled aloud. She then looked down at the turtle in her lap, scrubbed off the last piece of algae from its shell, and said, "Sweetie, if this little guy could talk, he'd tell you I just made all the difference in the world."

**The moral:** *You can change the world* – maybe not all at once, but one person, one animal, and one good deed at a time. Wake up every morning and pretend like what you do



makes a difference. It does.



**"What is a commitment? What does it mean to be committed?"** asked Pope Francis.

"When I am committed, it means that I assume a responsibility — a task towards someone, and it also means the style, the attitude of fidelity and dedication, of the particular care with which I carry out this task. Every day we are asked to put commitment in the things we do: in prayer, in work, in study, but also in sport, in free time. In sum, to be committed means to put our good will and our strengths to improve life."

*(Pope Francis at Jubilee Audience in Rome, 22 February 2016)*

## Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC) WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SUPERIORS MEET IN NAIROBI?

The yearly Conference of Superiors of the African Continent, known as the CSAC, took place in the Marist International Centre of Nairobi, Kenya, from Feb. 8 – 11.

Its members are Brothers Francis Lukong (Superior of the West Africa District and current CSAC president), Joachim Ezetulugo (Provincial of Nigeria), Joe Walton (Provincial of Southern Africa), Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa (Provincial of Madagascar), Théoneste Kalisa (Provincial of East Central Africa) and Lawrence Ndawala (Superior of MIC).

Vicar general Brother Joe McKee, who is the link between MIC and MIUC (the university) and the General Administration, was present (as always), and also Br Antonio Ramalho, one of the two General Councillors serving as a link with Africa. Econome General, Brother Libardo Garzón, also took part in this encounter.



CSAC is the regional organisation of animation and decision making for Marist Africa. During its annual meeting, it evaluates the path it has taken in the different areas of Marist life, it reflects on and makes decisions on guidelines, it approves plans and budgets and it appoints people holding posts at the regional level.

In this year's meeting, as usual, it spent a lot of time on the MIC and the MIUC since they are important for the initial formation of young brothers and for the big amount of brothers in its community. (It currently has 78 Brothers from five administrative units.)

It dedicated a full day to the encounter with the team of the New Models project and with the Commission of the Mission in Africa (to analyse and value its strategic plan, which covers the capacity of directors, youth ministry,



solidarity, children's rights...). The encounter included several members of the general administration.

It covered other topics such as: the economy of the provinces and a sustainability plan; vocations, formation and perseverance; lay presence in the Marist life and mission and a better understanding of the lay vocation on behalf of the Brothers...

The provincial brothers and District superiors participated in a workshop animated by former superior general Brother Seán Sammon on Feb. 12 – 13, alongside other guest Brothers.

He spoke of community life, particularly on some concrete difficulties that can come up in the relationship between Brothers.

Once again, the group had a lot of support from the MIC community and enjoyed the beauty of the place, always well taken care of.

They also participated in daily Mass with the whole community, and they began Lent together on Feb. 10, Ash Wednesday.



# AFRICAN MISSION COMMISSION ...

## First Combined Meeting with the Conference of Superiors



The encounter with the provincial superiors was in the context of the African Mission Commission meeting from 8 – 11 February.

Three members of the Institute’s Secretariat of Mission participated – Brother João Carlos do Prado, the new project coordinator, Patrizia Coppola, and the advisor of the New Models Project, Luca Olivari.

The African Mission Commission met in Nairobi to discuss the strategic plan for 2017 – 2022 with the aim of encouraging greater collaboration between the administrative units.

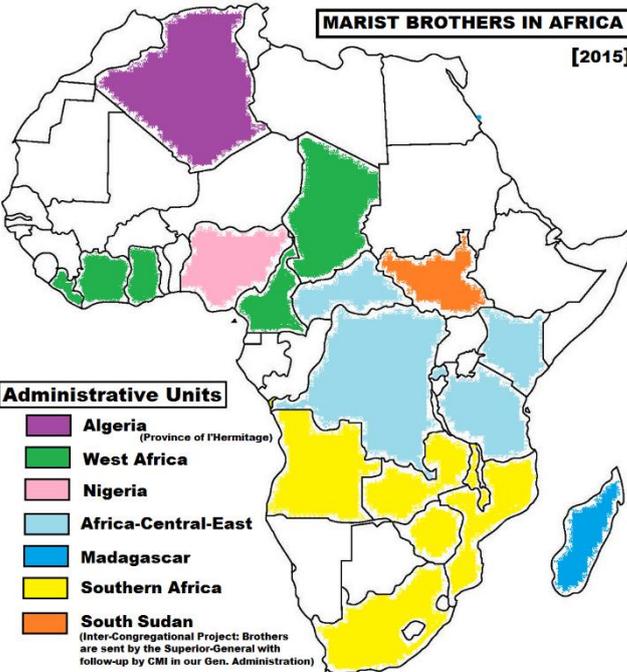
The aims of the Commission are formation of leaders, children’s rights and protection, sustainability and vitality, and Marist youth ministry.

“The challenge is that the projects are growing in complexity which requires more structuring and also the project’s financial sustainability,” Br João told the general house press office on Feb. 15. “The challenges of Africa are not only of Africa but of the whole Institute because we are a global body.”

The meeting with the provincials took place at the Marist International Centre, or the MIC, and included two sessions, one on the strategic plan and another one on the formation programme of educators titled ‘New Horizons.’

Angela Petenzi participated on behalf of FMSI from the general administration to monitor the progress of the first phase of the New Horizons programme and to identify possible funding agencies for its second phase.

The goal of the New Horizons programme is “to develop school leaders who will contribute to the realisation of authentic, transformative leadership in a new Africa.”



# POSTULANCY 2016



## CHAMPAGNAT HOUSE POSTULANTS 2016

*Back:*

**Paschal Tchakulnada (AN), Martin Malere (MW), Emiliano Venodino (AN), Alexious Innocent Moreno (MW), Gabriel Pacheko (AN), Joseph Dundu Ngongue (AN), Christopher Macaia (AN), Innocent Kadyandawa (MW), Saldreck V. Tutayi (ZW), Daniel Sakala (ZA), Felestino Kanema Kauya (AN), Filipe Palanga (AN)**

*Front:* **Lucas Mpando (MW), Horacio Mitengo (MZ), Inocencio A. Filismino (MZ), Richard Chitembo (ZA), Innocent Chisenga (MW), Charles Herbert (MW), Benson Jackson (MW), Costenes Joao Matias (MZ)**



# PEOPLE AND PLACES



**On Fridays during Lent, the MIC Community prays the Way of the Cross outdoors. Religious from nearby communities join the Brothers in reliving the final hours of Jesus' life.**



**Br Joe with the Postulants during the celebration of their official welcome into the Marist Family**

**COMMUNITY ANIMATORS PROGRAM**  
**Manziana February – April 2016**



Br Tony Leon (bottom right) writes: “Hipólito and I have just spent the last two weeks meeting and presenting to the Community Animators at Manziana and at El Escorial. *What a wonderful experience to meet such good men.*” Spot the four Brothers from our Province: Andrew Sikelo, Boniface Chirambo, Reuben Banda and Vincent George



**MORE PICTURES**



**Sacred Heart College – Academic Mass**  
**Br Paul Mbuyi assisting during Holy Communion**  
**(Non-communicants come up for a blessing)**



**MARIST IN NIGERIA:** Every four years, their Primary Schools meet for a sport and cultural festival. These pics are from the recent event.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA'S NEW PROVINCIAL: BR. NORBERT MWILA



*'I hope to share my knowledge, understanding, and experience of life as a formator'*

**T**he Institute's general council has appointed Brother Norbert Mwila of Zambia as provincial of Southern Africa for a first three-year term.

**"I hope and wish to share my acquired knowledge, understanding and experience of life as a Marist formator into my new ministry and leadership role, trusting in the Lord as the Master builder, our good Mother Mary and St Marcellin for their inspirational guidance and wisdom of experience," he told the general house press office on March 3.**

**Superior general Brother Emili Turú made the announcement in a letter to the Brothers of the province of Southern Africa dated Feb. 19 after "a moment of fraternal dialogue" with Br Norbert.**

**In the letter, he thanked the previous provincial, Brother Joseph Walton, for his "generosity and commitment to the animation and government of the Province over the past six years."**

**Br Norbert will begin his term on Aug. 23 during the beginning of the provincial chapter.**

**He first came across the Marist Brothers as a teenager, when he met Brother José Grande.**

**After graduating from high school, Br Norbert became a postulant at St Paul's community in Kabwe in 1991.**

**He became a novice later that year at Kutama, Zimbabwe, and made his first profession in 1993. He then continued his formation at the Marist International Centre, or the MIC, in Nairobi until 1996.**

**Br Norbert went on to teach primary and secondary school at St Paul's and was appointed as head teacher of a new primary school in the same community in 1998, where he served for seven years.**

**He recalls his mother, who passed away a year before his final profession in 2000, as being "among the most significant and encouraging figures" in his Marist vocation.**

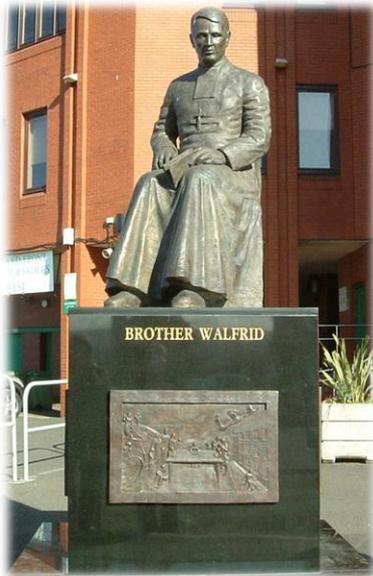
**In 2001, Br Norbert was appointed community superior of St Paul's, did an 11 month course for formators in Nairobi in 2005 and in 2006 he served as Master of postulants at Mtendere, a large village in Malawi, for 3 months.**

**In 2007, he was appointed novice master at Matola Novitiate in Mozambique and in 2013, he was appointed member of the International Commission for Brothers Today.**

<http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=3892#sthash.LUXLwRKz.dpuf> )

## FILM TO BE MADE ABOUT IRISH MARIST BROTHER Founder of *Glasgow Celtic Football Club* will hit the screens

The story of the Irish Marist brother who founded the Glasgow Celtic Football Club is going to go public on the screens.



Online news outlet [www.catholicireland.net](http://www.catholicireland.net) revealed in an article that the British Film Institute is backing a major feature movie about Andrew Kerins, known by his religious name as Brother Walfrid, and the Irish community in Scotland of his time.



“Brother Walfrid and the east end of Glasgow are very much central to the story,” stated award-winning Scottish novelist Andrew O’Hagan, who is working on the script after the film’s director – Peter Mullan – selected him.

“Without going into detail, it’s the story of an Irish family around the Saltmarket area during the years running up to the establishment of the club,” he added. “It’s the story of church members, the local clergy and the Irish immigrant community beginning to organise themselves socially and politically, it’s a story that has never been told.”

The film will cover the 40 years from when the first Irish famine survivors arrived to Glasgow in 1846 until Br

Walfrid created the Celtic FC in 1887. Its focus will also be on how they formed a community around Irish Catholic parishes in the city.

“This team formed by Marist Brothers would go on to European glory, but that 40 year period has never been documented in a way that would satisfy me,” stated Andrew.



Br Walfrid was from Ballymote in County Sligo and joined the Marists in 1864. He studied teaching and became headmaster at the Sacred Heart School in Glasgow.

In 1888 he founded the Football Club to help raise money for the poor in the east end of Glasgow.

He was sent to London’s East End in 1893 where he organised football matches for fundraising and established a charity called “The Poor Children’s Dinner Table.”

Br Walfrid died on 17 April 1915, aged 74, back in Dumfries, Scotland.

“This is a story about self-respect, it’s an austerity movie about how to triumph over hard times so it couldn’t be more timely in a way,” said Andrew.



# JOE'S CALENDAR

APRIL	
1	Johannesburg
2	Travel to Maputo
3 - 5	Matola
6 - 7	Manhiça
8 - 10	Bilene
11	Travel to Johannesburg
12 – 17	Johannesburg
18 - 30	New Horizons Programme at Good Shepherd Centre, Hartebeespoort

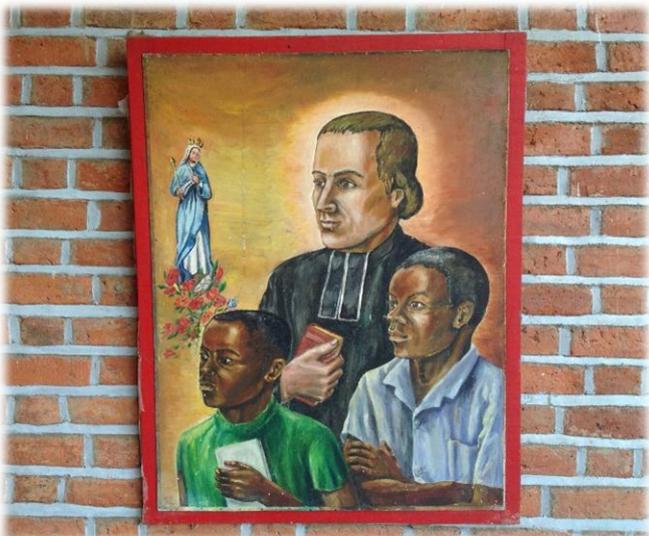
MAY	
1 - 2	Johannesburg
3	Travel to Dete
4 - 6	Dete
7	Travel to Johannesburg
8 - 16	Johannesburg
17	Travel to Kalulushi, Zambia
18 - 20	St Marcellin's Kalulushi
21 - 23	St Paul's Kabwe
24 - 25	Lusaka Community
26 - 27	Provincial Council, Lusaka
28	Travel to Johannesburg
29 - 31	Johannesburg



## GOOD SHEPHERD CENTRE, HARTEBEESSPOORT Site of "New Horizons" Program



**PHOTO FINISH**



**Painting of our Founder - Community Residence  
Marist Secondary School, Malawi**



**“WILD LIFE IN THE CITY OF GOLD”  
Guinea fowl in the community garden**



**Marist SS. New meeting room  
for non-teaching staff**



**Aerial view of the Basilica at Fourvière  
Spot the golden statue of Mary  
on the original shrine (under the logo)**



**Marist SS. Boarders’ washing day**





**MARIST SS: New Dining Room nearing completion**



**BALAKA – A freak hailstorm wreaks havoc on the roof of the school hall**



**The Provincial Council and the Provincial Bursar met at “The Hermitage” in Lilongwe 17 – 18 March 2016. *L to R:* Brothers Frank Mwambucha, Nicholas Banda, Patrick Bushilya, Joe Walton, Euclides Nangolo, Felizardo Maceia, Jude Pieterse.**

For the sheep  
the Lamb has bled,  
Sinless in the sinner's stead.  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high;  
Now He lives, no more to die.

∞  
Alleluia!



- For our recently deceased: the last surviving sister of Brother **Brendan O'Shea**; the aunt of Brother **Kasongo Mwape**; a Grade 10 student at **Sacred Heart College, Lerato Phuti**, who died in a motor accident
- For our sick: Brother **Joseph Murakho**, who suffered a mild stroke on Easter Sunday; and the father of **Peter Zulu**.
- For our **Provincial Chapter**
- For Brother **Norbert Mwila** as he prepares for his new ministry.



UGANDA The Rwenzori Mountains include Mt Stanley 5109 metres



***I lift up my eyes to the  
mountains and ask: From  
where shall come my help?***

***Psalms 121: 1***