

Medjugorje International Relief

Our Lady's Message from Medjugorje (June 25th 2003)

"Dear children!
Also today, I
call you with
great joy to live
my messages. I
am with you
and I thank you
for putting into
life what I am
saying to you. I
call you to
renew my
messages even
more, with new
enthusiasm and
joy. May prayer
be your daily
practice. Thank
you for having
responded to
my call."

Manchester/Salford – Mountains of clothes deliveries, and so we spread the blessing between Cornerstone, SVP shop/store and St Anne's hospice shop. Total approx 250 bags of clothes and some bric-a-brac items were sent.

Crown of Thorns– Only a small amount of church supplies received during this period. But I know there's plenty 'out there'. Any further donations of goods for this, please contact **Bernard Grigaitis on 0161-442-9570** (6-6.30pm is best) who is their contact person in the North West and he will arrange for collection. Still required:- statues, altars, fonts, organs, candle sticks, vestments, and football kits (especially boots) for school football teams.

Current Needs : *Church collections of:*

- Old Spectacles
- Blankets
- Church supplies/devotional items
- Money to Redeem people from slavery in the Sudan
It costs **£50 per person**
- Football kits/boots
- Medical equipment/consumables
- **Recycling** Aluminium cans & foil, printer cartridges, mobile phones, foreign currency.

Icon : Queen of Peace



10th Anniversary Celebrations

The day of prayer at the Schoenstatt shrine in February went well, it was great to see so many turn out and pray together in thanksgiving. It turned out (unknown to us beforehand) that it was also the feast day of the first Sudanese saint, St Josephine Bakhita, a slave, which was a great encouragement and confirmation as the slave redemption programme in the Sudan is our main focus of fundraising at present. The Icon has subsequently been travelling over the Diocese and beyond since and will be back home at St Alphonsus's for the whole of July. *Come & See while there is an opportunity.* Our Thanks to **Fr Andrew** and all the helpers at the Schoenstatt shrine for making it a great day ! An annual event ??



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Collection Point: 'The Cellar' of Parish Centre, Behind St Alphonsus Church, Ayres Rd, Old Trafford, Manchester—open by arrangement only

Patrons : Our Lady Queen Of Peace & Blessed Frederick Ozanam

Sudan – Christian Solidarity International -Slave Redemption Program

Ayak Thiep Dau - 22-year-old mother from Wakabil: Her testimony

“I was enslaved four years ago. The raiders came to Wakabil when the train came through the area. I was still asleep when they arrived. As soon as I awoke and heard what was going on, I started to run. I saw a lot of soldiers all around me. Some wore khaki uniforms, while others wore white jellabeyas. I could see that those who ran were shot dead. I stopped and stood still. Some of the soldiers came and beat me with bamboo sticks and other things. The whole time I screamed and cried. They tied my hands to a long rope. There were about 20 people tied with me. We were pulled along by one of the soldiers. There were other people whose hands were not tied to a rope. They had to carry looted goods. We had to walk like this until we reached a place to spend the night. That night one of the soldiers raped me. His name is Ishmael Abakir. He was one of those who caught me. It was the first time I had ever had sexual relations. The same man did this to me every night on the way to the North. It took us five days to walk to the River Kiir (Bahr El Arab River). On the way many children died of starvation, and the soldiers killed many other people, especially

those who tried to escape or who created some disturbance. They executed people by shooting them or beating them to death. From the River Kiir, we had to walk to Abu Karenga. Ishmael Abakir took me to his home. He was a shop-keeper. I was his only slave. I stayed in his home. I did housework for his wives, Alima and Zara. They called me Howah, and sent me to Koranic school to learn to be a Muslim. Ishmael's father was the fekki (teacher). The school was called Fekki Ahmeed's Khalwa (Koranic school). It was next to the big mosque in the village. They told me that I would be circumcised so that I would be a complete Muslim woman, but I was taken away from there before it happened. I was never baptized, but I am a Christian. Before I was captured, I went to the Protestant Church in Wakabil. The people in Ishmael's home were not kind. I had to work, but they never gave me money. They also called me names, like "heartless one" (sub-human). Sometimes, Ishmael's brother, Suleiman, would come by the house when no one was there and rape me. He was very rough with me. That is how I got pregnant and gave birth to Hussein. I didn't complain to Ishmael. There was nothing that I could do to stop this. *All I could do was pray that I would be able to get away from there and go back home”*”.

You have given a further £600 towards this so another 12 people will be rescued from the abomination of slavery. It was good to see so much coming from prayer groups. The Lord has answered Ayak's prayer, through you. **Thank you for putting your love into action.** This is on-going as there are so many left in bondage.

Could You rescue one person from slavery ???

Cheques payable to “Manchester Medjugorje Appeal

Afghanistan –Mission accomplished....the container load with your blankets , toiletries and medical supplies arrived safely and has been distributed to refugees near the border with Pakistan.

India –About 20 bags of blankets were given to the missionaries of charity (brothers) for the homes in Calcutta.

We received details on the other four students sponsored last Christmas via the SVP twinnage scheme, they are :

- Mary Seená studying Nursing
- Dhanaya Joseph doing teacher training
- A. Soundara Pandý learning to be a machinist
- J. Leo Rex studying motor mechanics

One more student has been sponsored during this period., bringing the total to 7. The Aluminium recycling is going well, thanks to “**Charlie's Angels**” (you know who you are), so we should be on course to sponsor another student by the end of the year.

Romania - Shoebox Appeal update

The REACH group in Skegness who took the shoeboxes over to Romania earlier this year reported that they had arrived and will be given out to the 1000+ street children they work with. They went to 2 areas, Fagares and Tulcea near the Black Sea coast.



Also for Romania, a consignment of medical supplies, spectacles, surgical gloves, walking frames, syringes and lots of items that I can't spell have been given to a group of Christian Businessmen who are going out on a convoy in September. Supplies will be delivered to a hospital.

Bosnia A further £5 was sent to Sr Muriel towards the construction of the old people's home, it'll buy a sack of cement ! Hope to have some feedback soon on the progress.

Foreign CURRENCY collections A small amount was given, mostly dollars and assorted Euro's, and it came in very handy, for a Czech family of 8, who, having been refused asylum in the UK, were to be deported and delivered to Prague airport with nothing— It provided breakfast for them ! Nothing you give is wasted