



Parish of Saint Columbanus, Loughlinstown



Extracts From Fr. James Ovet Latansio's Letter - South Sudan

South Sudan, where I call home and where the two families on your Lent Boxes this year are struggling to survive, is going through deep pain. The dangers of the spread of Covid-19 are still very high, because of the security risks. Our health facilities are what they are. We are still in the situation of conflict. In the situation of violence. Our children cannot go to school, and they pay the highest price. Their parents don't know a way out of this situation - but when I go into the streets to eat my meals with the children, someone will always run to buy me tea. They say, "You deserve it Father", and they give me hope.

These are my people in South Sudan today. These precious children, women and men. In their poverty, in their fears of the consequences of war, in their traumatised spirits, they are still trying their best to come out of it.

My experiences in South Sudan inspired me to write this Lenten Prayer for peace:

*As we move through the Lenten time,
the time when we contemplate Jesus in the desert,
pray for us the people of South Sudan and pray for peace here.*

*Accompany us, hold our hands,
hold the hands of the Church in South Sudan.
Hold the hands of our brothers and sisters in South Sudan,
walk with us during this Lent time.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.*



My appeal to you is, "Please don't leave South Sudan alone"



Ways to support Trócaire

- Trócaire Boxes available on the tables at the back of the church
- Prepaid Trócaire Envelopes, also available on the tables at the back of the Church
- Contact Trócaire direct to make a donation at trocaire.org and use the Donate button or donate by phone: **01-629 3333**

The Hope Half Hour

The Parish Pastoral Council has prepared a series of talks for Lent to help us to 'GROW in the love and knowledge of God' as we say in our Parish Prayer.

These will be made available either by a link to YouTube or by broadcasting over the webcam on five of the Tuesdays of Lent.

(We hope to have a Penitential Service in the sixth week).

The first of these talks will be available on Tuesday 23rd February at 7.30pm.

It's entitled 'The Privileges of being Sons and Daughters of God.'

This can be viewed by entering the link below.

<https://youtu.be/iuhO4xBnu5Q>