

## FR. VINCENT'S NEWSLETTER 2018

Dear parishioners, I am very happy to be visiting your parish again this year. I always look forward to coming over. It gives me an opportunity to thank you for all the support that you give me which enables me to do my work. I am very grateful to Fr. Michael for helping me sort out my visa this year.

Since I last saw you, I have moved to another Parish. My transfer was unexpected and caused a lot of stress, but that is the nature of our work and life. My former parishioners were in Itanda were very disappointed and very sad to see me go. But, I have been in Busowa Parish for six months now. and I am getting to like it. My new Parish Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Busowa send their greetings to you.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs parish Busowa is one of the twenty- two parishes that make up the Diocese of Jinja. It is found in Bugiri district in the eastern part of the diocese along the road to Kenya border. It is 65km from Jinja along Jinja-Tororo/Busia highway. Busowa has fifty-nine out station churches which we visit on regular basis to say mass and administer other sacraments. *(Inset right, Mass in my new Parish).*

Each of these out station churches has a catechist who conducts Sunday service in the absence of a priest. We are two priests and we have seventy catechists who help us in our work.



The parish has over twenty-five thousand Catholics spread on an area of about 3,600 sq. km. About fifty percent of our parishioners are native Basoga and the rest are migrants from Kenya and other tribes of eastern Uganda.

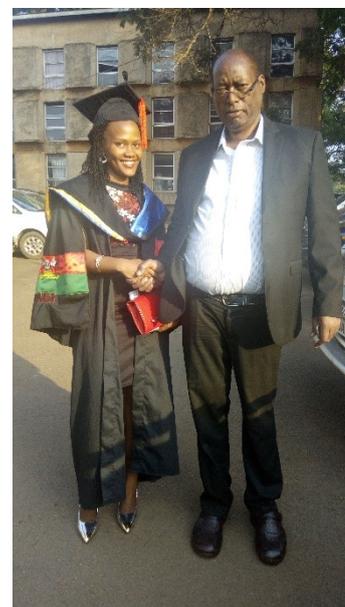
Economically, trade and agriculture are the income earning activities in the parish. A small number of parishioners have shops along the highway but the majority depend on subsistence agriculture on small plots of land. They grow coffee, cotton and sugar cane as cash crops and maize, sweet potatoes and rice and beans as food crops.

However, the people are so poor that they can hardly sustain their church. They always look for handouts from the Fathers and other civic leaders. The situation gets worse when they experience severe drought.

In the parish we have seventy catechists who help us in the Outstation churches. Every last Friday of the month, we meet with twenty trained catechists and plan the work for the following month. On the first Friday of the month we meet with all the seventy catechists and lay out the work plan that will be done in their outstations the following month. The parish has nineteen catholic founded primary schools and one vocational secondary school. We visit these schools on regular basis. Busowa parish has two convents with eight nuns. One convent is a spiritual centre for the formation of young sisters and this year we have twenty nine young sisters under formation. I am the Chaplain to this convent.

Thanks very much once again for your generosity towards the education of the children I look after. Altogether you are helping twenty- six children with education. They send their love and gratitude. Doreen graduated from university this January. It was a very happy occasion which I am sure will encourage others to work equally hard. She has got a job in the capital and she is now able to look after herself. This was possible because of your help and we are very grateful.

*(Inset photo right, Doreen's Graduation)*



Amon and Claudio will also graduate this November. Fiona joined university last year and has finished her first year. These and the young ones are very grateful in for your kindness.

Thanks to you your support for these young people's education, young men are also entering the priesthood. Deacon Emmanuel Baganzi who has helped in the parish has finished his priestly studies and should be ordained a priest this summer.

Since my last visit, I have received funding from you for two boreholes, and I am very happy to report that these have been drilled and installed and are providing clean and safe water for the people. One borehole was funded by parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Parish. This was drilled in Itanda parish at St. Jude primary school Namusisi. Over seven hundred pupils and the neighbouring local people are very grateful to you for providing them with clean and safe drinking water. *(Inset right, Borehole in Namusi).*



The second borehole has been drilled at Kiwongolo primary school which has eight hundred pupils. This borehole was funded by the Holy Spirit Parish. These water wells will greatly improve the life and health of Namusisi and Kiwongolo primary schools. May the good lord reward your generosity abundantly (when I was thirsty you gave me to drink. Matthew 25:35) *(Inset below, Borehole in Kiwongo).*



Clean and safe water remains a big challenge in Busowa Parish. The boreholes drilled are just a drop in the ocean. Any funding towards this noble cause is always welcome.

I am ever so grateful for your help and generosity, if you are able and would like to help, here are examples of costs.

To educate an orphan

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|---|-----------------|
| (1) Primary school                                | £ 50 per month  |
| (2) Secondary school                              | £ 60 per month  |
| (3) University                                    | £ 100 per month |
| (4) To educate a church student with cost sharing | £ 300 per       |
| (5) To visit an outstation                        | £20 per visit   |
| (6) To visit a school                             | £ 20 per visit  |
| (7) To drill, cast and install a borehole is      | £ 6000 per well |
| (8) Altar wine and hosts                          | £ 40 per month  |

Once again, thanks very much for your continued support.

**Fr. Vincent.**