



Our Life and Mission in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

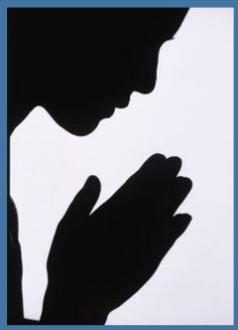
Mater Dei Community



Our life within the lockdown has evolved as each day brought its uncertainties and the sure hopes sustained by prayer. The COVID 19 pandemic lockdown started in March here in Zimbabwe and it has brought together a community of six.

With sisters Clara Beards, Teclar Mukuli, Salome Igawe, Constance Mhini, Yeyani Nyoni who is supposed to be in the United States but cannot travel and Balbina who has not reached her mission appointment in Zambia because of the lockdown. WE have been living each day as it comes with frequent reviews of how we can live together more creatively.

We had conversations around our life in these times also we had the privilege to have Theological reflection with Sr Elvine on Zoom, thanks to technology and the available resources.



Deepening our Prayer

We are learning what it means to **embrace the new with an inner freedom** by exploring various ways of deepening our prayer life.

Seeking to live with the emotions of these troubled times and yet still find joy in contemplation and living from contemplative stance. Coming up with creative liturgies and allocating various prayer activities as individuals and as a community. We often joined various live streamed Masses and our favourite is the Pope's Mass during weekdays.

On Sundays we livestreamed at St Joseph's Parish in Guilford. Our Parish Priest Fr. Similo Ncube replenishes the blessed sacrament for us, thus enabling us to have communion either during online Masses or our own service. We felt privileged to attend Easter celebrations at the parish with the priests. On Fridays we had Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament all day and united ourselves with the universal church for healing.

We appreciate the various liturgies on Solemnities from the Easter Octave to Sacred Heart and the different resources available for us especially the Good Friday reflections by Sr Monica.

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One other aspect that has been tried and strengthened is our living together as a community. The demand to translate our communal and personal prayer into daily living without much of outside ministries and outside liturgical gatherings but full-time community living. We are still learning a lot about each other and to live in right relationships and be Sister to one another.

Being aware that this time has different impact on each person and it brings a wave of emotions and thoughts to each one and therefore the need to be conscious and hold each other in a sacred way practicing empathy and compassion. This has not easy but we continue to learn by the help of the Holy Spirit.

For almost two months we had no staff members and we had to do everything ourselves. This was an opportunity to put our energies to good use and to make the house our home. We have come appreciate each other's giftedness in various areas and to get to know each other better.



Sr Salome renews her vows



Convent Chapel - Palm Sunday

Renewal of Religious Vows

Photo: Sister Constance renews her Religious Vows in the presence of Sr Clara Beards and the Community on **Palm Sunday**.



Sr Clara Beards

We continue to wait patiently for the new norm to take shape and we have begun to attend Mass in groups of 50's. Businesses have open with some restrictions in place and schools will possibly resume end of July.

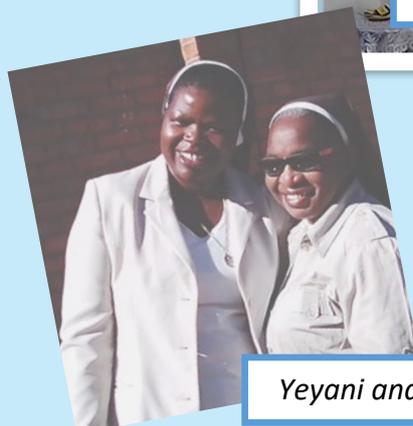
Birthday celebrations



Salome @ 34



Yeyani @ 50



Yeyani and Teclar