



PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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YEAR C – EASTER – 21ST APRIL 2019 – Psalter Week I

Sat 20 th	EASTER	7.30pm	Easter Vigil	St. Mary's
Sun 21 st	SUNDAY	9.00am	Parishioners	St. Paul's
		11.00am	Parishioners Children's lit. none	St. Mary's
Mon 22 nd		10.00am	Anne Marie Topping	St. Mary's
Tues 23 rd		10.00am	Hirst Intention	St. Mary's
Wed 24 th		12.00pm	Kath and Brendan Hartnett	St. Paul's
		7- 8pm	Confirmation Class-Lower Room	
Thur 25 th		10.00am	Kath Fullerton	St. Mary's
Fri 26 th		10.00am	Sherry Edginton	St. Mary's
Sat 27 th		10.00am	First Communion Class	St. Mary's
Sat 27 th	SECOND SUNDAY	5.00pm	Curran Family (dec'd)	St. Mary's
Sun 28 th	OF EASTER	9.00am	Alice Oliver	St. Paul's
		11.00am	Bill Hall Children's lit. none	St. Mary's
		12.30pm	Baptism: Gabrielle Nunes	St. Mary's

Confessions: Saturday 4.00- 4.30pm at St. Mary's



Newsletter Contributions to St Mary's Presbytery by noon on Wednesday.
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HAPPY EASTER

The Road to Nabwalya (continued)

To get to Mpika, many of the villagers walk. It takes about three days to make the journey, passing through the Munyamadzi game management area, carrying food to eat along the way.

In the rainy season, the villagers have to cross a number of streams, usually wading in high waters, plus crossing the Munyamadzi River at four points by canoe. Many, especially women, have never travelled outside Nabwalya.

Fr. Potrapeluk thinks two-thirds of the women here have never been to Mpika. Yet, sadly, two-thirds may even be an underestimation. When I ask a group of 10 young nursing mothers if any of them has been to Mpika, not a single hand goes up.

Since she was born here in 1982, Chiluba Chibesa of Chilima village has never seen any better civilisation or modernity than what she sees around the small Catholic mission at “the chief’s palace”, the small secondary school, a clinic and some houses belonging to wildlife officers.

“I’ve never been to the Boma” [Mpika town]. “What am I going to do there?” she asks.

When she has a bit of money to buy her basic groceries, she gives it to her husband whenever he makes the three-day journey. But even for the men, the journey is a hard undertaking.

“When our husbands arrive back, they are thinner from the walking”, says Chiluba.

The mother of three says when this place finally has a road, she can go and sell mangoes, fish and chickens in town and earn some money to buy her groceries.

“Things at Jairos’s shop are expensive”, she complains. Jairos Zimba is one of the most prominent grocers in Chilima village. When Mr Zimba started his grocery business in 2003, he used to walk to Mpika to buy goods for sale, which he would carry on his head. But now that his business has grown, he gets supplies from Lundazi. He cycles down to the Luangwa River, crosses by canoe if the river is in flow, then gets on a vehicle to the small town in Eastern Province.

There are only two vehicles the villagers rely on in this area; one belongs to the National Parks and Wildlife Department and the other to the Catholic mission.

Vehicles are a rare sight here. In fact, you can drive the whole 110 kilometre stretch without meeting any vehicle. And wherever we drive in the villages and wildlife camps, our vehicle is soon surrounded by a horde of children in tatty clothes, their darting eyes full of curiosity.

Yet in the rainy season, even a four-wheel drive vehicle is useless here.

Fr. Potrapeluk, who drives a Toyota Land Cruiser equipped with a winch, has had to walk to Mpika a number of times in the rainy season. He has a permanent reminder of the hardships on the rugged road - a missing right thumb. When I ask him how he lost his thumb, he responds rather humorously: “I did not lose it; I still have it in a jar in the house”. Once when his vehicle got stuck in a river, the priest decided to winch it out, but he pushed the wrong button, severing his thumb.

“Many times I’ve been stuck on that road”, he says with a Polish accent.

Some here believe Nabwalya is the most backward place in Zambia, cut off from the rest of the country. Yet with all these hardships, Mfuwe Constituency, where Nabwalya lies, gave President Lungu one of the highest votes, by percentage, in the August 11 polls. He got 11,640, while his main rival, Hakainde Hichilema of the United Party for National Development, got 929 votes.

Many here voted for the PF with the hope it will bring the road, which it has already started constructing. In March, President Lungu visited Nabwalya. Many locals, including the chief, say it was the first time in history that a President had visited the area, and they still talk about it as if it happened yesterday. It is hard to think that successive governments have for decades not done much to connect Nabwalya to the rest of the district.

Perhaps now there is hope as government plans to divide Mpika, which is the largest district in the country, into three in order to increase development.