

Easter Celebrations 2017

**at St Thomas Primary School in Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron,
Kapoeta State, South Sudan**



Holy Thursday mass at St. Thomas School. From left; Fr Modi Darius, Bishop Paride Taban, “12 disciples”, Ambayo Martin text reader, right front; choir

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday, the day Jesus had his last supper with the disciples was celebrated at St Thomas School, attended by the approximately 200 pupils with their teachers, and Holy Trinity Peace Village Staff and families. The mass was held in the afternoon in the school compound.



The mass was led by Fr. Gabriel Ayiik. He focused particularly on how Jesus made an example to us when he washed the feet of his disciples. Jesus by this told us to be servants for one another.



Fr. Gabriel Ajiik is washing the feet of the disciples, here illustrated with 12 pupils. Bishop Paride Taban and Fr. Modi Darius in the background

Way of the Cross

In the morning of Good Friday, at 9 am the pupils of St Thomas primary school, and HTPV staff and families met at Kuron Bridge. This is where the locally arranged way of the cross started. All the 14 stations were marked with numbers on the road. For each station a group were pre-appointed and responsible for reading the corresponding text, and to carry the cross to the next station.



The cross is carried towards Kuron Bridge. The marking of station 4



At each station a prayer was said and everyone kneeled. When walking; psalms were sung.

Good Friday – service continue in the evening

At 3 pm the service of the veneration of the cross is conducted. This part of the service started in the classrooms at St Thomas Primary School. The celebration focused on the death of Jesus. Fr Modi Darius was reading the Gospel, and preaching over Jesus' sacrifice which took away our sins, and opened for us a way to Heaven.



Fr. Modi Darius preach over the gospel (above). Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban kneeling in front of the cross (right)

At the Altar the main celebration prostrate a sign of total surrender. Fr. Modi Darius laid down in front of the altar, when the congregation kneeled; a symbol of the day Jesus abandoned and surrender himself to the will of His Father by accepting to die on the cross for our sins.

Then the congregation touched or kissed the crucifix. Practically this was done two by two where they knelt down in front of the cross. Bishop Paride Taban was the first to kneel, then the congregation followed.



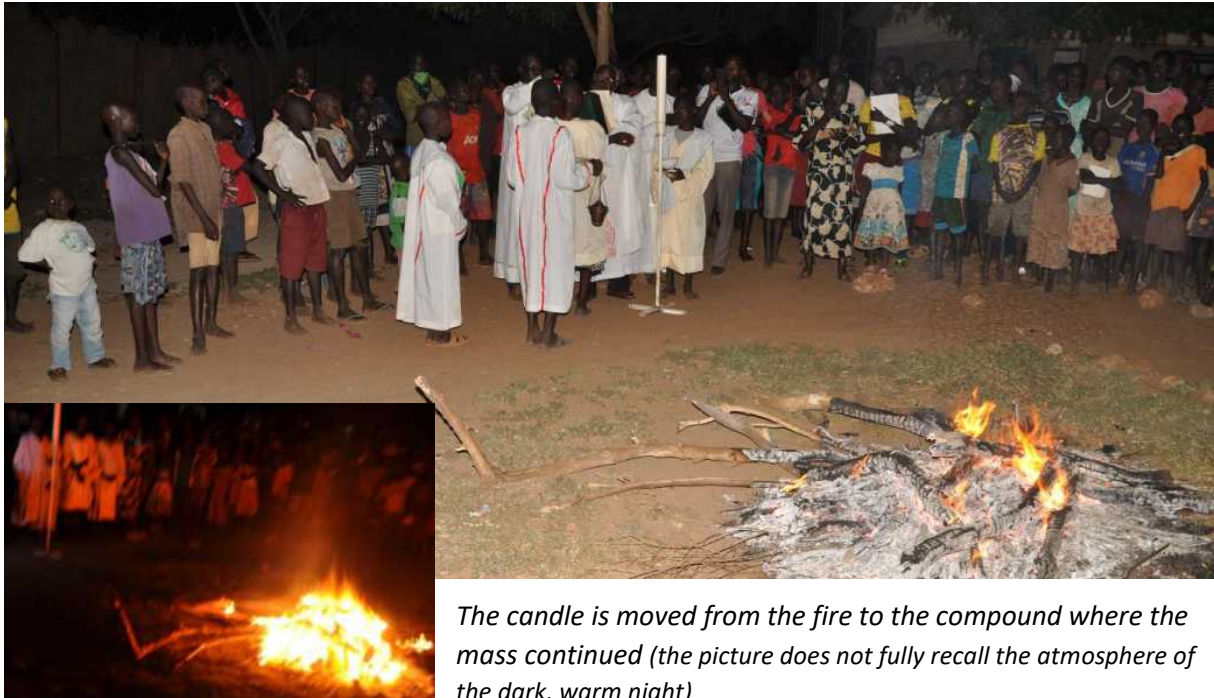
The celebration also included the Holy Communion.



As this service ended, a procession brought the cross back from the school to Kuron chapel

Holy Saturday - Mass continued in the evening

A fire was lighted in the school compound, as the symbol of the destruction of all darkness and of death, and of the new light which occurred with the rise of Jesus from death.



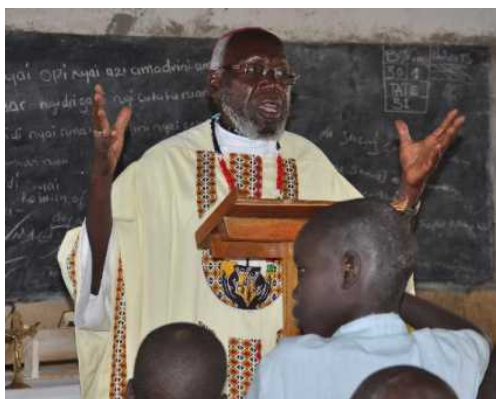
The candle is moved from the fire to the compound where the mass continued (the picture does not fully recall the atmosphere of the dark, warm night)

In this part of the mass there were 9 readings from the old testament, and two readings from the new testament. 43 children were baptized this evening by Bishop Paride Taban. A great occasion for all where new members are added to the catholic faith showing growth of the church.

Easter Day – conclusion on The Paschal triduum



The choir had practiced ahead of Easter, and made an added value to the mass.



Bishop Paride Taban started his preaching by describing all the bad and sad things that happens in South Sudan these days; killings, raping, steeling, looting, abduction of children and other things that is sins against God. All these is what Jesus died for, he said. Therefor there is a great reason for joy on Easter day! He also instructed that these sins are against the will of God. Therefor all and everyone should live their lives to avoid doing these sins.

He also said; let us pray for peace in our country, and trust in God. Jesus is risen, He is here, He is with us always.

Evening mass in Nakubuze

Father Gabriel Ayiik travelled with Margaret, Esta and a schoolboy who is able to translate to the village Nakubuze. Okello was driving, and visiting Per Nordmark, former director, also followed. The team arrived in the village at around 0830 pm. Then a fire was burning, and a large group of people of all ages were gathered around the fire, singing. The song was led by the catechist. The number of people was difficult to estimate in the darkness.

As preparations for mass was completed, two more groups were found to be on the way, identified by their singing, which was heard from far. Therefore the mass was delayed a bit.

*Gathered for
Easter Day mass*

*Under: Some of the
attendants on the
women side*



The mass lasted from around 21:30 to 23:00. Father Gabriel Ayiik preached over the death and rise of Jesus. However, he also pointed out clearly as a message from the Bishop, the seriousness of the looting of the sorghum. And the consequences this might have on the starving people for whom the food was sent. But also consequences for the Toposa themselves, as WFP will have a very negative attitude to provide more food in the area.

Former director of Peace Village Per Nordmark, addressed the gathered people at the end of the mass, and pointed at the importance of education to avoid starvation in the future.

Easter Monday - Final Easter mass 2017

On second Easter day a final mass for Easter celebration was held at the St Thomas School.

Fr Gabriel Ayiik served at this mass, assisted by Bishop Paride Taban and Fr Modi Darius. The Gospel was from The Acts; when Jesus made himself known to his disciples.



The girls are performing liturgical dance as the choir and the congregation are singing



Fr Gabriel Ayiik is preaching, and Angelina is translating into toposa language.

By this the celebration of Easter in Peace Village Kuorn came to an end. Prayers for peace in general, and for peace in South Sudan in particular have been said throughout the celebrations.