

# Easter Celebrations 2018

in Holy Trinity Peace Village, Kuron,  
Kauto County, East Kapoeta State, South Sudan  
by Per Nordmark, assisted by Fr Modi Darius

## PASCHAL TRIDUUM

### Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday, the day Jesus had his last supper with his disciples, was celebrated in Kuron at St Thomas School. This mass is a memorial of the institution of the Eucharist, the priesthood and a memorial of the love by which Christ loved us to the point of dying for us. The school children with their teachers, the Holy Trinity Peace Village Staff and families from all programs, and some people from the surrounding villages attended. In total estimated to some 300 people. The mass was held in the afternoon in the school's double-classroom.



*Holy Thursday mass at St. Thomas School. Some of the children who were gathered in the classrooms*

*Bishop Paride Taban is washing the feet of the 12 "disciples"*

The mass was served by Bishop Paride Taban, assisted by Fr. Modi Darius.



*Bishop Paride Taban is preaching the Gospel in English, and HTPVK employee Partick Odinga is translating into Toposa language*



The bishop focused particularly on how Jesus told us to serve and assist each other. By his example of washing his disciples' feet, he made the meaning very clear to us we should be servants! The bishop then, on his knees, washed the feet of twelve pupils.

## Way of the Cross

In the morning of Good Friday, it was announced to start The Way of the Cross. Christians are to imitate Jesus who carries his cross on the way to his death and glorification, guided by one single thought: to fulfil his Father's will and to make us understand his great love for us.

Pupils and staff started gathering near Kuron Bridge. However, it had been heavy rain and thunderstorm in the night. The weather was threatening. After a "quiet" period from 6 am, it again started with heavy rain at 9 am. It was then concluded to postpone the Way of the Cross till 2 pm, hoping then the weather was better. All hurried back for shelter.



*With the heavy rain and muddy ground, the way of the Cross was postponed*

At 2 pm, the sun was again shining, and the celebration of Way of the Cross started. The cross was carried to the first station by Bishop Paride Taban while Fr Modi Darius is moderating the way of the cross. All the 14 stations were marked with a cross made of sticks, laid on the road. For each station a group were responsible for reading the corresponding text, and to carry the cross to the next station. The prayer for the station was said and all kneeled. In between the stations psalms were sung.



*The cross is carried by Bishop Paride Taban to the first station*





### Good Friday – service continue in the afternoon

At 4 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 Gospel passion narrative of was read.



*At the service it was not room for everyone inside*

At the Altar the main celebration prostrates a sign of total surrender. Fr Modi Darius laid down in front of the alter, when the congregation knelt; a symbol of the day Jesus abandoned, and totally 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. The bishop started, then the congregation followed. Practically this was done as two and two knelt in front of the cross.

*Fr. Modi Darius bringing the cross with the crucifix.*

*Two altar boys kneeling, touching the cross*





The celebration also included the Holy Communion. During the time of the service clouds again built up, winds swept over the school, and it started raining. As the service ended, the procession back to the Chapel was then done in a hurry, bishop first. And just as the cross was brought inside, the rain again poured down heavily. Lasting for about an hour.

### Holy Saturday - Mass continued in the evening

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



*The candle and the incense were lit by the new light/fire and moved to the compound where the mass continued.*

In this part of the mass there were 7 readings from the Old Testament and 2 from the new Testament.

The choirs had practiced all afternoon, and the singing was nice and strong in the night under a full moon.

It was planned for baptism in the service, however due to delay of the oil from Juba, the baptism was postponed. The service started





around 8.30 pm and lasted till after 11 pm. Even if some children became sleepy on the way, the service ended in an atmosphere of joy and happiness, expressed by song and clapping.

### Easter Day – conclusion on The Paschal triduum

It was raining in the night till morning, however gradually activities came to life. Just after 10 am the Easter Day service started at St Thomas school. The children were there, the choir, the dancing girls, the altar boys, Fr Modi Darius and Bishop Paride Taban, and all the rest; staff and staff's families, and village people.



*The children are seated in the classrooms, awaiting the starting of the service.*



*The choir, the dancing girls, the altar boys, Fr Modi Darius and Bishop Paride Taban*

Bishop Paride Taban made it clear that Easter Day represent a new beginning. He urged all and everyone to make a new beginning in their lives, living as Jesus had told us, and following his example.

On the background of the situation in South Sudan he referred to his 14 words, among others: | “Never think hard about the past - it brings tears” | “And don’t think more about the future – it brings fear” | Beautiful things are not always good, but good things are always beautiful” |

After the final prayer Bishop Paide Taban informed about the support coming to Peace Village from EU over a 3 years periode, with the objective to make a greater impact on, and involvement with the local communities. And to strengthen the capacity of the organisation. And as he put it; making the activites less dependant on donors and capacity support from outside.



*Bishop Paride Taban on Easter Sunday 2018 in Kuron*

### Evening mass in Nachodokpele

Father Modi Darius and Patrick Lodinga travelled in the afternoon to celebrate mass in the evening in the village of Nachodokpele. As the mass would be late they planned to spend the night there, before returning next morning. And it really became late! The people from the surrounding villages were well prepared. A fire was burning to give light, and some 500 people were gathered, however, it was difficult to estimate the number in the dark. Still almost 300 children were baptized this night! The large crowd including the children with parents and vitnesses was organised according to villages, making 6 long lines. From 9 pm children from infants up to approximately 8 years were baptised. The sacrament lasted till 2 am, and was a great event!





## Easter Monday Mass

Also this mass was at St Thomas primary school in the morning. The school choir was singing and drumming nicely. Bishop Paride was serving at the mass. He focused in particular on the women who had been brave, standing by the cross, and also coming to the grave in the early morning of the first day of the week. The women were the ones who told the disciples, - he said.

But also Peter, who had denied he knew Jesus, now after Jesus has risen, became brave. He stood forth and told the truth to the people. Our faith should also make us brave, - the Bishop said.



Bishop Paride Taban thanked everyone for their participation and contributions in the very fine celebration of Easter in Peace Village, Kuron 2018.

