

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)

OUR LADY AND THE APOSTLES WITH ST AMBROSE

News and update on our support to SVP groups in India and South Sudan



Our SVP conference is linked or 'twinned' with four other SVP groups in India and Africa. These links are made in a spirit of solidarity and friendship. They reflect the reality that there are no borders to poverty and injustice, and we want to support our friends in areas of greater poverty, conflict, famine and war.

We are delighted that for the first time it is possible to have direct contact between our group and our four 'twins'. They are: -

South Sudan

- Luongo, Juba, the capital city of the world's youngest country situated on the White Nile, South Sudan – St Francis church.
- Juba, originally serving a displaced person's camp and now in the St Kizito's area -St Matthias.
- Torit, Juba, Our Lady of the Rosary.



Photographs of Our Lady of the Rosary Church

India

- Chowannur, a neighbourhood of Kunnampulam in Eastern Kerala, South India - St Thomas church. St Ambrose conference sponsored a studentship in engineering.



Photograph of St Thomas's Church

Our conference gives direct financial support to all our 'twins' so that they can decide how best to help the poorest of the poor.

In South Sudan this involves reaching out to people most in need, buying and distributing basic food such as maize, beans and charcoal for cooking food. They also provide cleaning items and clothing and pay for transport. During the pandemic churches in South Sudan have been closed since February 2021. Members are spreading accurate information about Covid 19.

The future is looking uncertain for Sudan and South Sudan, where the fragile peace is at great risk. Inflation has risen above 300%, unemployment has rocketed and Covid has brought an unprecedented need for medical help.

In India, St Ambrose conference has sponsored and Indian student who studied engineering.

How can you help?

Through your prayers - we pray for our four twins at all our meetings, and we invite you, as members of our parish families to pray also for them. One of our churches sent us this prayer, please pray it with them.

'We thank God Almighty Father for His protection. May He continue to keep and guide us safely under His mighty protection. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Fundraising - the parish has been very generous in the past when we've appealed for financial help to fund the many SVP projects in South Sudan. We will be organising fundraising activities in the future and will update our parish communities about this later in the year.

If you would like to make a donation, this can be done by posting an envelope clearly marked through Our Lady's Presbytery or sent direct to our SVP bank account. F180701 SVP. Sort code 60 60 04, Account number 46078134. For more information, please contact Kevin Mc Kenna on 07504 130749.