



# FRIENDS IN FAITH

## CATHOLIC MISSION'S WORK WITH COMMUNITIES

### FRIENDS IN FAITH – NOW TWICE AS NICE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF FRIENDS IN FAITH, A REGULAR GIVING PROGRAM PROMOTING CATHOLIC MISSION'S WORK WITH COMMUNITIES.

Since its inception in June 2005, you have been receiving a Friends in Faith newsletter twice a year, in June and December, informing you about the wonderful work you support throughout 160 countries around the world.

From now on, you will receive Friends in Faith four times a year instead of two, in March, June, September and December. This way you are able to keep up to date with more of the many projects you help support in the developing world.

We hope you enjoy the new format of Friends in Faith and look forward to working together with you to help churches and communities around the world.

If you have any feedback please log onto our website and send us an email.

## SUMMER IS A DAY AT THE BEACH FOR SUDANESE COMMUNITY.

Do you remember the first time you went to the beach? With 80 per cent of the Australian population living on or near the coast, most of us don't.

We would have been too young to remember as Australian beaches are so much part of our lives.

For 40 Sudanese children a look at the ocean is a day they'll never forget.

Wednesday January 21 was a special day for Coogee Parish and Catholic Mission. They hosted a Gala Day for the Sudanese community at Coogee Beach in Sydney.

For these children and other members of the Sudanese community it was a day that they will cherish forever. Sydney weather naturally obliged politely providing a glorious summer's day.

"The Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club gave the kids their time to show them different aspects of the beach, and the day received a rousing thumbs up from all involved," said Catholic Mission's Dorothy Makasa.

This is the second beach Gala Day that the Coogee Parish and Catholic Mission have hosted for the Sudanese community.

Dorothy Makasa has helped facilitate the Coogee Parishes relationship with the Sudanese community. After recognising that the Sudanese community is one of the most disadvantaged communities in Australia, Catholic Mission has implemented activities to help the Sudanese foster relationships with Parish and School communities. This follows a hugely successful day the previous week, where 14 Sudanese children were hosted by Taronga Park Zoo Friends program.

The Sudanese have no established communities in Australia and Parish groups like Coogee, along with Catholic Mission are doing everything possible to make their adjustment to life in Australia as loving as possible.



*A fun day at the beach*



# CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

We have heard much about the war in Iraq, but how much about the Christian community in Iraq? Where once there was a large Catholic community now there isn't. Since the outbreak of war more than 70 per cent of the Christian community has left, fleeing for their lives.

Not too many years ago there was a thriving Christian population of over one million people, now there is merely an estimated 300,000 who remain.

These are the people who are too old, too sick or too poor to leave. These are the people who need our support the most.

Then there are those lucky enough to have fled to neighbouring Syria, or Jordan. Most of the people left with what they could carry. These people are too frightened to return home due to the war, but they are unable to get official work visas so must get by on meagre incomes doing anything they can. This usually means barely making enough money to eat.

Internationally, Catholic Mission supports the congregation of the Eastern Churches through the dioceses. This is an incredible support for the people of Iraq living in and around Iraq, but sadly many have lost their homes, their livelihood and loved ones.

# ST THERESE'S CHURCH IN OMILI.

THE DIOCESE OF LAE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS SUPPORTED BY CATHOLIC MISSION AUSTRALIA. ONE OF THE PROJECTS THAT WE ARE SUPPORTING IS THE NEW CHURCH DEDICATED TO ST THERESE IN OMILI WHICH IS NEARLY COMPLETED.

For many months the community has had their church services in a school classroom.

The people have been gladly celebrating mass in the school classroom in order to get the community together.

Now they are able to congregated in a much larger group in the church.

In order to get funding, the communities must provide some sort of local contribution. In situations like St Therese's church, the communities are usually poor, and cannot contribute much financially, but are more than willing to provide labour, or food for labourers who are building the church.



St Therese's church in Lae



Sunday School children

## AN EXTRA DONATION OR FOR PASSING ON TO A FRIEND

### My donation is:

- \$50    \$75    \$25    \$100  
 My choice \_\_\_\_\_

### I'd like to make this gift:

- Monthly Gift    Quarterly Gift  
 Yearly Gift    Single Gift

### Please send to:

Catholic Mission  
 GPO Box 9948  
 In Your Capital City

Phone 1800 257 296

For receiving purposes, please tick one of these:

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\*Enables funding of projects outside Government's criteria for tax deductible gifts.

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- I/We:  Enclose a Cheque/Money order **OR**  
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 (An authorisation form will be sent to you – For regular donations only.)  
 Please debit my/our    Visa    Mastercard    AMEX

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