

May/June Updates from Aweil

It has been another busy few weeks in Aweil, with construction continuing across a number of buildings. The rains have been late, a blessing for the builders as they race to get in materials and lay the foundations of buildings. The absence of rain also means the roads are still dry and we can move with some ease. But it is the planting season, and the community are praying hard that the rain will come. Temperatures in Aweil last week was, on average, 38 degrees; in Rumbek, it was a little cooler at 36 degrees. Any spare rain in Ireland, please send this way!

Water

As we mentioned in last month's letter, we are in the process of giving water to the local community. These boreholes will provide families with access to clean water and water points closer to their homes. The boreholes, like Rumbek, are offered as a thank you to the community for the land. The water points are aimed at communities near the school, so that female students in the future will not have to walk far to collect water.



One of the boreholes near the school with the local committee

Three water points have now been completed, and it is hoped that the final three will be finished in the coming week. Each borehole has a committee that will monitor and supervise the

use into the future; they are also responsible for long-term maintenance and repair work. Loreto offers the borehole, but the community must take responsibility for maintaining them. Everyone in the local community is very excited, and, as usual, they are requesting more!!

Kindergarten

Loreto Aweil Kindergarten School has started! A class of forty pupils have been registered for pre-kindergarten, and they are now studying under the trees. The class includes three sets of twins. Other parents are now coming to request admission for their children, but for now the class is enough to start. Sr. Baiada is assisted by the interns, who help with the teaching; two of these interns want to study to become teachers in Primary School! Construction on the kindergarten classrooms is moving ahead, and we hope the building will be ready in November.



The first class in Aweil. Pre-Kindergarten students with their teachers.

New Car for Aweil

The long-awaited new car has finally arrived from Aweil. Supported by German donors, the car arrived in Mombasa, Kenya, three months ago. It has taken time to obtain the necessary documents and tax exemptions, but the car finally arrived in Aweil last week. As the car passed through Rumbek on the way to Aweil, the students from Aweil were very excited to see Loreto Aweil written on their car!



Loreto Sisters with the Car – Srs. Baiada, Delphinah and Orla

Ongoing Discernment

Over the past week, Sr Veronica has written to the Eastern African Province, inviting Sisters interested in volunteering for the mission in South Sudan. The Sisters have been invited to discern over these weeks and to write to Rome by the 31st of July. Let us pray that Sisters are open and free to discern a missionary vocation to South Sudan.

In the meantime, we have welcomed Sr Delphinah, a temporary professed Sister from Kenya who will spend two months with us. Sr Delphinah is a student at Catholic University in Nairobi, and a classmate of one of our own graduates! She is a student of finance and commerce at the university. Sr Delphinah is enjoying the new environment. Last week, she was in Aweil, and this week she will assist with patient registration at the Clinic. She is also meeting students and sharing about her vocation to Religious Life; there is a lot of interest!



Sr Dephinah CJ, from Kenya, outside the Loreto Aweil Compound

Weeks Ahead

In the coming weeks, we have a few goals that we hope to achieve:

1. To finish the additional boreholes for the community
2. To dig for water for the Secondary School and Primary School
3. We are waiting for the arrival of the solar system for the convent and dormitory. The cargo arrived at Mombasa port on Friday, and we pray it will arrive safely in Aweil in the coming weeks.
4. Continuing construction on three classroom blocks, the dormitory and the security wall.

Prayers

We continue to give thanks for the gift of this new mission. And we ask you to continue praying with us for our donors, supporters, those discerning and for peace and security in South Sudan.

Love from all of us in South Sudan