

The Pilgrimage continues . . . as we meet friends old and new on our journey around Legho and the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro

Day 4: Friday 17 January 2020

We drive two hours to Lombeta (now St John Paul 2) Secondary School, twinned now for many years with Holy Rood HS, where we meet the new Head Teacher Fr Cleophas Kimaro. He shows us around the school which is preparing to allocate some of the land they have to growing tree seedlings as part of their Environmental Project. Fr Cleophas will be coming to visit Edinburgh in September as part of the British Council School Exchange programme.



The Pilgrims, Mike Knox and some of his community from the Sacred Heart Centre in Mweka, pose in front of the mural painted by a former group of pupils from Holy Rood in 2016, including Tracy's daughter, Bethany Burgess.

Day 5: Saturday 18th January

In the morning we meet Fr Louis Shayo at the Sacred Heart Priest's Centre. He was ordained in 1950 and is the 16th priest of the Diocese of Moshi and now a sprightly 100 years old. He was visited by Fr Jock's uncle, Fr Jock Dalrymple, in 1974.



In the afternoon, looking and feeling like true Pilgrims, we personally experience the effects of climate change - with the rough muddy road up to Legho now virtually unnavigable quagmire after the unseasonal rains - as some of us walk up to the village from the valley ...



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. . . to arrive at the *shamba* (homestead) of Seraphin Mbuya (pictured centre) just as a torrential downpour begins. Formerly Headteacher at Legho Primary Seraphin had previously visited Portobello with his wife Triphonia who sadly died last year (and is buried directly behind his house, as is customary). We are welcomed with homegrown coffee and shown the planting and harvesting process, as well as his most recent project - to farm catfish.



Day 6: Sunday 19th January

There are four Sunday morning Masses in Legho. During the Masses, we are introduced to the parish community, and parish priest, Fr Sangawe, is presented with a gift from the parishioners of St John's and St Mary Magdalene's: a stole made from the Scottish World Peace Tartan (made by pilgrim Tracy Burgess) - with a Celtic cross echoing the processional cross gifted by St John's when Legho officially became a parish in 2017. (The following day we give a similar one to the Community at the Sacred Heart Centre - Pope Francis and the Dalai Lama also have one!)



In the 1980s Legho was the first place in Tanzania to be divided into Small Christian Communities (of 10 families each) – which subsequently influenced St John's division for many years into 10 areas. Now, Legho is leading the way again – with about 60 young people divided into Small Youth Christian Communities. The intention is that these communities focus on sharing life together, faith formation, education, and self-reliance. They are learning business skills and using them locally. The hope is that young people will be able to remain and thrive in their own community instead of moving away to the towns to find employment – as happens in so many places. Our Legho Christmas Gift collection has enabled this project to move forward.

During the Sunday Youth Mass, the newly formed Youth Choir dazzle us; and after the Mass the Small Youth Communities give us a presentation on Climate Change before we share a delicious meal together. Finally, Fr Sangawe and Fr Jock reflect on their hopes for the renewal of the partnership between our parishes.

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Bruno, a member of the Youth Christian community in Legho, gives a presentation at the community gathering after Mass on ways to address climate change in the local area - before a celebration meal



and dancing, with Cretus and Phyllis McLeay leading the way.

Meanwhile Pilgrim Michael tries out the legendary tractor, first donated to the village of Legho by St John's parishioners 30 years ago, and still going strong after recent renovation.



Bernadette and Daria: an unexpected friendship as two women from across continents discover common life experiences (both one of eight children, both widowed young and left to bring up small children) and form an instant bond. The Holy Spirit always helps brings people together..

Before we leave, we extend an

invitation to parish priest, Fr Fulgence Sangawe to visit our parishes soon – one he accepts. And as we set off on the long journey back to Mweka in our ever-resilient minibus, we receive a fond farewell from Fr Sangawe - and from his former-seminary-professor-turned-assistant-priest, the redoubtable and holy Fr Salvator Machowera.



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Day 7: Monday 20th January



Six of the group head south to Tarangire National Park in the Maasai Steppes for a few hours and experience one or two memorable encounters - both close and distant...



That evening, the night before we leave, we gather in the chapel (nb Mike Kinane's painting of the Sacred Heart) for our final Mass at Twende Pamoja's remarkable Retreat Centre beneath Mt Kilimanjaro. Jeremy helps Peter (from Legho but now one of several impressive young team members of the community there) play guitar for the first time at Mass. Throughout the week, the sisters and team have shared their vibrant music with us. This mutual musical exchange is appreciated on both sides – although the pilgrims remain in awe of Tanzanian rhythm, whether it be singing, dancing – or (frequently) both together!

Haste ye back – in KiSwahili ***Tuta onana baadae*** – a message conveyed with great warmth to us by the Team at the Sacred Heart Centre and the Ursuline Sisters, including their Superior, Sr Lilian.

