

Jesus said, I was hungry, thirsty, homeless, unhappy, sick, in prison, and YOU cared about me.

Dear Friends, do you know about Sister Orla? She's a Loreto Sister from Bray in County Wicklow, in Ireland.

Fifteen years ago, while she was working in India with Mother Teresa's Sisters, she read about the plight of many young girls who were living in poverty in South Sudan. For 12 years a civil war has raged between the different tribes and clans in that part of the world where it is still the custom for very young girls, to be forced into early marriage and denied the right to any education.

Sister Orla was very concerned about the girls and she felt the Lord was calling her to work in South Sudan. She knew that if the girls were treated with love and respect and if they were able to go to school every day, they would grow up to be kind, caring, peace-loving people. So she packed her bags, and with two other Sisters, went to Rumbek, a very poor rural town in South Sudan, often caught up in the waves of civil war.

One day, an Italian bishop heard her story and sent her enough money to buy a field- and so it began! Today, on that field there is a primary school for 500 local girls and boys, a Health Clinic AND a secondary boarding school for 200 girls! The only requirement is that parents sign a contract with the school allowing their girls to remain in school for four years of secondary education. These girls come from a wide area and from different tribes, so they are all boarders together learning to live, love and respect one another, growing up to become Sudan's future ambassadors for peace.

Just a few weeks ago Sister Orla and 12 of the older girls walked 93 miles from Rumbek to the capital, Juba, where they met up with the Pope's Pilgrimage for Peace. She remains filled with hope and the Loreto schools stand as a beacon of light for the future of South Sudan.

Let's keep Sister Orla and all the children of South Sudan in our prayers and do what we can to help.

Well that's the story and to see pictures and find out more about the great work that's happening in South Sudan, see www.loreto.ie

So how can our parish help Sister Orla?

How about a *Free Raffle*, with all proceeds going to Sister Orla?

How does a FREE Raffle work?

We would raffle whatever you give us. For the next few weeks, there will be a container at each church door for donations. You could also leave stuff in the porch at 28, Bushbys Lane. Or ring 876038 (Leave a message) and we will collect.

What sort of stuff?

Anything that's suitable for a raffle. If you would be happy to win it, we'll raffle it! Definitely we would need bottles, chocolate, fancy toiletries etc.

We would also be grateful for baskets, hampers, gift bags, bottle bags etc to put the prizes in.

Can we buy tickets?

No. This is a free raffle. Just fill in and return the little brown envelope attached to your yellow letter. Remember to add your name and phone number so we can call you if you have won a prize. If you are able to put a cash donation for Sister Orla's work, inside the envelope, that would be very welcome. If you are reading this online and want to take part in the Raffle, you could put your name and phone number in your own envelope, with a small donation if you feel able, and post it to OLOC, School Lane. Alternatively, ring Bruni (876038 Leave a message) and she will collect.

Thank you.

Could anyone have a brown envelope? Friends and family?

Of course. Help yourself to envelopes from the table by the church entrance. Just remember to fill in the details and return them (asap) to the labelled basket in church.

When would the Raffle be drawn?

Hopefully on Easter Monday in the back garden of the Rectory at the Easter Egg Hunt. Good luck everyone! It's a bit of fun and hopefully it will do a lot of good.

Thank you from the Justice and Peace Group