

Polokong Children's Village

Update February 2021

Since the last update in June 2020, the Children's Village, Polokong, have continued to work under very strict Covid 19 restrictions. The staff are isolating as much as possible, and working in shifts to avoid crowding in the office. South Africa have recorded over 47,000 deaths to date, and sadly one of Polokong's Child Care Workers was a recent casualty, which has caused them much sadness.

During the Christmas holidays a lot of the children went to visit their families. They had a holiday program for the ones that stayed at Polokong. Each house was also decorated with Christmas decorations, a Christmas tree and gifts. They had movie nights and on Christmas had a braai and all of them enjoyed it very much.

Most of the children are back at Polokong and staff still keep them entertained with the holiday program. The schools were supposed to open on the 27th of January, but that was delayed. The latest date they have is 15th February.

Since Lockdown, of course, there have been no church collections for Polokong, but many people from both our parishes have kindly sent donations either direct to the SVP bank account, or through Fr Brendan. This has enabled us to send an additional £2704 this month (this includes Gift Aid of £986 collected on donations).

This is a recent quote from their Deputy Director:

"Firstly we here at Polokong want to thank you again for your generous Financial contribution. As you are aware, since October 2020 we were Incorporated with One Way Community Services in Vanderbijlpark. This means we have 2 extra homes and 20 new Children that forms part of Polokong. The last contribution was used for Building Repairs to our 7 houses. We were also fortunate to buy 2 new washing machines for our new homes. We are experience a lot of electricity outages and therefore we bought gas stoves and gas bottles for all 7 houses.

Polokong is also very proud to announce that we bought a new vehicle and we had to pay a deposit on the car, which enables us to save on school transport fees.

We are thankful to say that we do receive Subsidy from the Department of Social Development. This is only enough to cover the basic needs of the children, for this reason we are so dependent on every donation that we receive.

With your next contribution we would like to distribute it towards our 7 homes. The children need new mattresses and linen, their couches needs upholstering and the rest of the money will go towards clothing."

If more parishioners feel able to, contributions can be made by bank transfer, to offset the loss of church collections. Please make your contribution, either one-off or regular, to SVP St Thomas More, Towcester (Sort Code 60-60-04, A/c 46083391). Please reference POLOKONG with your donation. Gift Aid forms can be obtained from SVP (contact through Fr Brendan).