

APPEAL FOR FAMINE IN MADAGASCAR

Madagascar is the world's fourth largest island and boasts a unique ecosystem, with many species of plants and animals found nowhere else. However, the country has faced many challenges in recent decades and is now facing, what is being considered as the first famine caused by climate change.

The country is facing the worst drought in 40 years. The GRAND SUD region has been struck by back to back droughts during 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 rainy seasons. This has had a disastrous impact on agriculture and forced people to resort to desperate survival measures; such as eating locusts, raw red cactus fruits and wild leaves. The food security analysis conducted in April 2021 revealed that 1.14 million people in the region need urgent assistance and 14,000 of these are critically food insecure in Catastrophe phase 5; meaning that they are facing severe malnutrition and mortality levels. (United Nations World Food Programme)

The Sisters of Providence, who have been living and teaching in Seaford, at Annecy, for over a hundred years, also have a convent and school in Madagascar. We currently have one Madagascan Sister living in Seaford; Sister Marcelline, whom many of you know. In Madagascar, the Sisters look after and feed the many children who attend their school. They also try to care for the children's families. Many children are orphans, having lost both parents and they are cared for by other families who take them in. These children receive meals at school, while those with parents receive a big bag of rice to take home, so that the whole family can be fed.

Lack of water is a severe problem. Even when there is a facility to dig down for water, when it is found it is dirty and muddy; so not of great use.

Each year, St Thomas More Parishioners support the work of the Sisters out in Madagascar. This year we are asking for your help too. The situation in Madagascar is extremely dire and they **URGENTLY NEED OUR HELP**.

Sister Marcelline is hosting an Autumn Fair in the Hall at St Thomas More on Saturday 20th November 2021 from 10:30 - 3:30 to raise money for the Health and Well-being of the children and families in their care, in the local area.

The Mayor, Rodney Reid, will open the Fair and there are many stalls to browse. Tea, coffee, cakes, scones and a soup and ploughman's lunch will be available. Make a date in your diary and come and enjoy the day knowing that you are contributing to this vital humanitarian relief work. May God Bless you and I know the Sisters will Thank You from the bottom of their hearts.

"God is never outdone in generosity"