

Parish of St. Joseph the Worker

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At last, at last, at long last!



This gentleman expresses the satisfaction of all the community. The long wait for a container containing the building materials for continuing work on the parish and community clinic is now over. At last, at long last it is now here. Given the lack of environmental hygiene, the lack of potable water; the heat and humidity disease is rife. I am quite sure that there are more pharmacies in my parish than there are in the whole of Glasgow – perhaps double the amount. The clinic is our (as much yours as is mine) contribution for

The container arrived late at the parish but volunteers were still on hand to unload it. I m afraid that the photographer enjoyed only limited success but it was the best that could be done on the occasion.

We can now resume work on the clinic. I had hoped to have it in service before Christmas but delays in receiving the container was the major problem.

The Clinic was be a life saver (literally) as so many presentable diseases cause death here.



The container arrived. A year of negotiations, five months wait and as many thousands dollars were required to free it from customs and to transfer it the parish. The number of man hours here and in Scotland will almost be of equal amount. To add to the pain and injury, the donation from Uist and Skye was not to be found and so the search must now begin. My thanks to Glasgow City Bldgs for their donation of searches, tiles, paint and cement (now gone bad), to the ever energetic Alison Mitchell, Alan Burns and helpers who coordinated the efforts in Glasgow, to Mary, my sister in law, Fr James, the Skye people, Gavin Lawson and others who worked hard and so long to get the job done. Now the work to get the clinic completed begins. A prayer for me please, please! It is a big job and the resources are not so plentiful but we shall get through with it. Thanks to all of you.

WE ARE CELEBRATING THE PARISH FEAST.

They love to celebrate in Ecuador: birthdays, feast days, mothers' day, fathers' day. The graduation to college can result in an all night party. How they sustain it is another question but the music keeps blaring till five or six in the morning.

I am not going through the programme we have here for the feast of St Joseph the Worker but there are baptisms, weddings, a novena of St Joseph and then an open air Mass tomorrow, Sunday. There are also all forms of sport, dances etc. The Ecuadorians know how to celebrate.

GENERAL ELECTIONS IN ECUADOR



That there were general elections in Ecuador should not really be news because we have had **FOUR** general elections in the last **TWO** year. It is however hoped that on this occasion there will be no further elections for four years. The same President who has been the star of the show in all these elections has won comfortable. He started off four years ago as an unknown, without a party, and won the presidency. He then had a national referendum to approve that a new constitution should be drawn up; a general election of members for drawing up the constitution; then another referendum for approving the Constitution (are you getting dizzy) and now, recently for electing local, regional, national and presidential candidates. And you ask me if Ecuador is a

democracy! It is indeed but the division between the rich and the poor is such that it is difficult to get a consensus as how to govern. There is also the question of a market neoliberal economy and a social, public ownership style of economy. The twain shall never meet and so the fight is on the open floor! The President is trying to breach the gap between the poor and the rich. It is a hard battle.

Apart from queues the other ever present element is food:



HOMEWARD BOUND

This Monday morning I leave at 7 a.m. and arrive at Glasgow airport at 9.30 a.m. All through the courtesy of the BBC who want me to do a programme with Agus Peter Campbell, poet, writer, actor, T.V. presenter etc. Then, by courtesy of Fr Donald McKay, I will be in Uist that evening. It a busy time for me and so I will have less than a week on Uist before I return to Ecuador once again. They did a programme of my work in my new parish on T.V. which was quite flattering. The next day they gave a report of a priest who had left to marry and by mistake put my picture on the screen. Not so flattering I would say.

Once again a hacker entered my mail, sent out an appeal for money and then blocked it. It has now unblocked and 05 will be my preferred mail for the future. Hoping to see you during the coming week and may God bless you and be good to you. Fr Colin.