

# Parroquia San José Obrero

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Bishop Toal has arrived in the parish and there is joy and rejoicing here. I have to say that I am particularly pleased myself because his presence is a clear recognition that I am here as a missionary priest from the diocese and not merely a lone ranger, out in the cold (or rather the intense heat of the country.) His plane was delayed and he was unable to make the connection in Miami so the Mariachi, the pipe band etc was not able to be there to welcome him when he arrived in Guayaquil. He did not appear unduly upset.

We see him here talking to catechists.



As you see he is a good listener!

## CHURCH DEDICATION

It is quite a busy time here. Well it always seems to be but along with the usual programmes of masses, marriages, baptisms, formation, social work etc. we have the dedication of a church which we have just completed. Various people from various countries have contributed to the costs of building it but I am particularly proud of the contribution from Scotland and will make sure that it be known. The photo which you see on the first page is that of the Church. There is a complete floor beneath which has development rooms both for men and for women; then there is space for a nursery and three catechetical rooms on the very bottom floor. In this way we hope to contribute to the spiritual and material development of the people. Bishop Toal will be there for the dedication of the Church on Sunday. The date was fixed so that he might be present. It is good to keep him active while he is here!

## Happy Birthday they all say



Another year added to my life and another community celebration. I wonder if it is because they see approaching my retirement age mark! It is just round the corner. The people here do believe in celebrating life and so birthdays are of particular significance.

No dancing this year! I am afraid that the leg is taking longer to recuperate than I would have wished. Unfortunately because of the uneven terrain where I live it is difficult to avoid falls and that puts the recovery time back by a week and even by

a month. It is not so easy to follow the song: "Walk tall, walk straight .....

## THANKS TO THE PARISHES:

Bishop Toal arrived with donations from a number of parishes of the diocese. I am very appreciative of your support. With all the building work that has been my lot for the past three years it is just marvelous that funds have been provided to make such an ambitious and necessary programme possible. At times, funds run low but God does provide. During the years I have had quite a number of anxious moments and stress but then an unexpected donation does appear and a crisis is avoided.

As I so often say, we can help the people here to the extent that other people provide and I am rightly proud of the assistance that I have received throughout the years. God bless you all.

I believe that the Catholic papers mentioned the fact that I visited St. Joseph's Academy in Kilmarnock who had raised the noble sum of 2,000 pounds for the mission in Ecuador. It was an impressive school; a friendly atmosphere pervaded and you could detect a healthy relationship between students and teachers. All in all, it was a most enjoyable and remunerative experience! My thanks to head teacher, staff and, of course the pupils who were so generous and enthusiastic in their work for the mission.

Time is at a premium and I must go now. Wishing you every blessing.

Fr Colin

