

PARROQUIA DE SANTA TERESA DE JESÚS

Avenida 2 de Mapasingue,
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Guayaquil

Dear

I understand that few received my last open letter. In fact someone wrote me rather apologetically saying that he had received my letter but that it was written in Spanish and asked me to send him the English versión. It is no exaggeration. Obviously there is some confusión. I am content to send you a photograph which I took while visiting my niece, Jessica, in Glasgow. Louise and Sineag and their children were also there as was my sister Margaret. They are to be seen in the photograph though some of the children escaped.



ASH WEDNESDAY



This is the day when they come out from behind the woodwork to receive the ashes. Churches are packed from morning to nighttime. I also visited

the sick to give them the ashes in their homes.

THE RAINS CONTINUE

It is a very wet summer. Most of the country has been affected but one of the areas most cruelly suffering the deluge of rain is Manabi, the earthquake province. Just now a person told me that it has not stopped raining for three days. Rivers overflow, roads collapse, bridges are carried away in the flood. Some are still in tents or comunal shelters. You can imagine how they are suffering. I hope to visit the area any of these days as a person from New York gave me a generous donation and I can add to that donations which you gave me when I was at home in Scotland. There is a lot of suffering in the world, much of it caused by our own injustice.

SCOTTISH WEATHER:

I notice that the temperatures in Scotland are as high as 25%. May you enjoy the warmth. When I look at the temperatures in my room as I get up at 5.40 am the normal is 26%. Just before I left Uist at the beginning of February the daffodils in front of the house were gently sprouting. I hope that the cold weather that of late February did not burn them. Daffodils are the heralds of spring.

EARTH QUAKE DRILLS

There is a college just over the wall from my bedroom and once a month they have earthquake drills. They have to rush out of their class room with their hands over their heads and lie down in the open courtyard till the alarm passes. I think that there were over a thousand 'minor' tremors (up to 4.1) that followed the major earthquake of

last September. It was their annual sports day but the practice had to be held.

You see that they are fond of colour. Their team's football strip is used as a normal T-shirt for boys and girls. Classes begin very early, at 7 a.m. and

end at 12.30 noon. The rest of the day is free but it often happens that they have to travel for more than an hour to arrive at their school. In some



schools they have a second session at 1.30 pm and then another at 7 p.m. It is a way to make maximum use of school buildings. I don't know if the idea would be very popular in Scotland.

FLOWER POWER – DIFFICULT TO BEAT!



Every day of the week we have the exposition of the blessed sacrament and it is an occasion when people are pleased to bring lovely arrangements of flowers as a sign of respect and devotion to the blessed sacrament. This occasion was somewhat special as we had an exotic display of flowers for the celebration of First Communions of the kids.

I am having difficulty with the computer so I will leave it at that. Enjoy the sun. If it can be exported I will send you some.

God bless,

Fr. Colin