

Fr. Gordon Atsolekeh, Cameroon, South West Region

Whilst on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, one of the participants asked whether we would be willing to support a priest friend in the Cameroon. We contacted him to see what was needed and how we could help. After a little while he replied –

‘I wish you a new year of peace and Divine Hope Halina.

Ref. Appeal of Liturgical Vestments and Sacramentals

I am Fr. Gordon Ngiefack Atsolekeh, a priest of Mamfe Diocese and the parish priest of the Maria Mater Dei Quasi Parish Besali as letterhead shows. I was posted to this parish in July 2024. Our parish was opened by the missionaries far back in the early 80s but it was just a mission station then. It was erected to a Quasi parish in 2012 by the emeritus Bishop of Mamfe, Msgr Francis Teke Lysinge. I am the fifth priest in this quasi parish since its erection. Our quasi parish has 16 active mission stations spread over a very tough terrain’. (Extract)

‘I thank you for your interest to help us and our parish. If you could help us with any of the following, we will really appreciate’.

He gave us a list of items, most of which now we were more than happy to supply. We did have initial problems with postage as there were long delays. However, he and we have managed to sort it out. Many parcels have now been delivered, with some unexpected requests.

At first we were not sure exactly what would be helpful, and the first parcel contained rosaries, pictures, a small monstrance and a green stole. We also sent something directly for children, like pencils, crayons and notebooks. (3.2.2025)

In the second parcel we sent prayer material and spiritual reading, particularly the Church’s Social Teaching, as this is Fr. Gordon’s specialism.



Subsequently we have sent something rather special: We received two beautiful, very large, monstrances. One of these went to Fr. Gordon, but it was so large that we had to dismantle it and we sent it in two parcels, together with a gold chasuble, candlestick and a large crucifix. However, more exciting requests were to follow. He had problems with the roof...



However, we did have a special request from Fr. Gordon asking whether we could help him repair the roof of his church which had been eaten by termites and white ants. He would also like to put tiles on the floor to avoid dust. At first we thought we could not afford to do so. However we quickly realised that what seemed like a lot in local currency was in fact, a very small amount in British terms. We were able to ask him to celebrate Mass and use the donated stipends for this purpose.



The second picture shows the new roof over the altar. The rest is still very much a work in progress, though we are delighted to see that progress is being made with a tabernacle. There was, in fact, to our amazement, a little money left and so a band set.... Drums... was purchased. Music is VERY IMPORTANT.



Fr. Gordon said: "By your support we are also able to acquire a band set for our church. May God bless you more abundantly from His treasury to keep supporting His Church. Amen"

(Fr. Gordon, Besali, Quasi Parish)

