



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter

November 2024



Poem Recital

This month, our Primary School had a poetry recital competition. This was a worthwhile learning experience for both teachers and learners. The learners had the privilege to recite poems about families and teachers, giving praise and thanking them for guiding them to always do the right thing. To conclude the competition, a drama was acted out by the learners, where they played the role of a family and some teachers nurturing education of their children. We thank all our teachers and families for supporting learners through every step of education.



Prayer Days

This month, we had colourful Prayer Days for 78 students in Senior 4 and 57 students in Primary 8. It is always a source of great joy to see our students moving on to the next level of education. A Mass was led by Fr. John Malou, and in his homily, he spoke about the challenges facing girls today. He advised parents to allow their daughters to continue to university once they were done with secondary education. After the Mass, there were a number of speeches. Mrs. Lwiza Deng, who represented female parents, said, "Loreto is a home for peace and unity." She encouraged the Senior 4s to be peace ambassadors for their country. We wish our candidates well as they prepare for their forthcoming state exams.



Pilgrimage to the Cathedral

On November 3rd, our Senior 4 class, together with interns, teachers, and Sisters, walked 7km to the Rumbek Cathedral to celebrate Mass. This initiative was led by Sr. Orla and Fr. John Malou. The aim of the walk was to find God's call in our lives and give thanks to Him for all His blessings. Along the way, stories were shared, especially one of a mahogany tree near our school, which was cut down, but survived. Fr. John encouraged the pilgrims to not give up in life, just like the mahogany tree, and to always find a reason to rise despite the challenges they face.



A Special Thank You to all of the donors, advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in Rumbek.

Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.

For more news & info about the programs, our students, and how you can help, please visit our website: loretorumbek.ie and our Facebook page [Loreto Schools Rumbek](https://www.facebook.com/LoretoSchoolsRumbek)



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Holy Communion



As a community of Christ and a Catholic school, faith formation is at the heart of what we do. This month, twenty-eight of our students in Primary 7 and 8 received their First Holy Communion. Sr. Priyanka had been preparing this group every Saturday morning for the last year. She taught them their prayers, explored the Bible with them, and helped them learn more about the life and values of Jesus. Father Alan Neville explained in his homily that Tamaleka and milk are food for our bodies. School with all the subjects like mathematics or English are food for our brains, and Holy Communion is food for our faith and our relationship with God. He encouraged them to go often for Holy Communion to grow in faith and be a witness to the love of God.

University Graduation

Nothing brings us more happiness than seeing our former Loreto students graduate from university successfully. Earlier this month, a group of seven finished their studies in Nairobi. Now, they are teachers, nurses, entrepreneurs, and development workers ready to come back and help to build up their country. We thank all those who contributed to the success of their journey. Some have already expressed an interest in returning to Loreto and being part of our uplifting community by offering their services where needed. We are very happy and eager to welcome them back.



Blessing of the land



In the last week of November, a small group of sisters travelled to Aweil to set an official beginning for the new Loreto Aweil school compound. Rev. Fr. Ambrose Barach Awen, the Episcopal Vicar for Aweil Pastoral Region, blessed the land and broke the ground with the Director General of the ministry of land and sister Noelle. During these days, lots of people in Aweil expressed their joy and gratitude that Loreto is coming to build a new school and bring quality education to their daughters, and the people in the parish gave the sisters a very warm welcome. Now, we are all looking forward to the start of the construction and would like to say a huge thank you to all who have already donated some money for this new chapter of Loreto in South Sudan.

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