

Pastoral Programme Newsletter

February – March 2026



Five young men on the path to ordination

The Catholic Diocese of El Obeid organized a retreat in preparation for the upcoming Ordination to the Diaconate and Priesthood, held from February 1st to 5th, 2026. The theme of the retreat was: "Here I am, I come to do your will" (Hebrews 10:7). It was preached by Fr. John Loboka AJ and was requested by the Bishop of Tombe in collaboration with the Bishop of El Obeid.

During the retreat, four candidates for the priesthood and one for the diaconate gathered in prayer and reflection, preparing for this significant milestone in their vocational journey. The sessions focused on the core pillars of ordained ministry: priestly identity, obedience to God's will, pastoral charity, and missionary commitment.



This time of recollection offered a precious opportunity for silence, Eucharistic adoration, and spiritual conferences, allowing the candidates to deepen their relationship with Christ as they prepare their hearts for service to the Church.

This initiative was made possible through the generous support of the Good Shepherd Peace Centre, which continues to support the formation and spiritual growth of clergy, religious, catechists, and pastoral workers in the region.

We continue to pray for these candidates as they prepare to serve the Church and the people of God with dedication, humility, and faithfulness.

Teachers Training Workshop



From 2nd to 5th February 2026, the Solidarity Pastoral Service team conducted a Teachers Training Workshop in Maridi for 40 primary school teachers from three Salesian schools. The workshop was facilitated by Sr. Guille ACJ and sponsored by the Salesian Community in Maridi.

The training focused on scheme of work, lesson planning, active learning methods, Bloom's Taxonomy, assessment, and Salesian educational values. It combined presentations,

group work, discussions, and practical activities. The results have been very encouraging: 85% of participants have become self-sufficient in lesson planning and curriculum development. To consolidate this progress, the team has already scheduled follow-up sessions and ongoing support, confirming Solidarity's commitment to strengthening the education system and Salesian educational values in the country.



Day of Reflection on the Season of Lent

Holy Rosary Parish in the Archdiocese of Juba organized a Day of Reflection and Recollection on the Season of Lent for the faithful of the parish on March 7, 2025. The spiritual program was organized by the Parish Community in collaboration with the Parish Priest, with the aim of helping Christians understand the meaning, purpose, and structure of the Lenten season.

More than 60 parishioners participated in the recollection day, which was facilitated by Fr. Christy John CMF. In his reflection, Fr. Christy explained that Lent is not a season of punishment or sadness, but a season of grace, conversion, and reconciliation.



He emphasized that Lent is God's invitation to all Christians to return to Him with all their hearts, as the prophet Joel says, "Return to me with all your heart."

The recollection day included talks, silent prayer, personal reflection, and the opportunity for confession and reconciliation.

At the end of the program, participants expressed gratitude for the day, saying it helped them to understand Lent more deeply and to prepare themselves spiritually for Easter.

MCA Animators Training Program



The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Animators Training Program was successfully held in the Diocese of Torit from March 26th to 30th, 2026. The event brought together 46 catechists from 21 parishes, all actively engaged in children's faith formation and missionary animation.

Facilitated by Fr. Christy John and Sr. Lizabeth, the program guided participants through key topics such as MCA identity and spirituality, child safeguarding, meeting structures, pastoral planning, and reporting systems. The training was designed to equip catechists and animators with the essential skills and knowledge to effectively manage MCA programs within their respective parishes and schools."

During the sessions, Bishop Emmanuel Bernardino Lowi Napeta praised the initiative and urged participants to embrace the mission of forming children with dedication, reminding them that the young are the future of both Church and society. He also celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the group, praying for the success of MCA programs across all parishes. The workshop concluded with a powerful call to action, encouraging everyone to return to their communities and actively organize MCA meetings, prayer groups, and service projects. This initiative marks a significant step in strengthening the Missionary Childhood Association within the Diocese of Torit, preparing children to become young missionaries for the world.

The program was supported by Missio München, which continues to support missionary and children's formation programs in the diocese.



Laudato Si' Active Group Meeting



On March 14th, the Laudato Si' Active Group of St. Augusto Memorial Secondary School held its second meeting of the year, led by Sr. Guille Vásquez Rubinos. The session focused on strategic planning for 2026, student leadership formation, and practical conservation efforts.

A key highlight was the audit of the school's "green legacy": members inspected trees planted in previous years, specifically ensuring that those planted in 2025 were thriving and reinforcing their protection. The students drew inspiration from the late Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai, reflecting on how her courage in

planting trees transformed entire communities. By committing to regular monthly training sessions, these young leaders are ensuring that environmental protection is not just a one-day event, but a lifestyle that will benefit the entire school community throughout 2026.