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# JBMS NEWSLETTER



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# INTRODUCTION

We are living in very uncertain and strange times where nobody really knows what the future will hold. With most of us in isolation at home, for some people all alone it can be a very difficult time.

Please know that as a charity we are here at the end of the phone, email or by post should you need to speak to anyone in your time of need. If you would like any leaflets, prayer cards sent to you, please just let us know, we are more than happy to help in any capacity.

# LOCKDOWN

**BY FR RICHARD HENDRICK OFM, MARCH 2020**

Yes, there is fear.

Yes, there is isolation.

Yes, there is panic buying.

Yes, there is sickness.

Yes, there is even death.

But, they say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise, you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet, the sky is no longer thick with fumes but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality.

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So, we pray and we remember that

Yes, there is fear, but there does not have to be hate.

Yes, there is isolation, but there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes, there is panic buying, but there does not have to be meanness.

Yes, there is sickness, but there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes, there is even death, but there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen.

Behind the factory noises of your panic the birds are singing again

The sky is clearing, Spring is coming

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul and though you may not be able to touch across the empty square, sing.

# LATEST UPDATES



We wanted to keep you informed as to the situation of how the Coronavirus is affecting Zimbabwe. Lockdown started on the 28th March 2020. Schools were closed, access across borders was restricted and there are no international flights.

Indications so far are that this has been effective in Harare and other urban centres, but how effective it will be in the rural communities is still not known. So far there have been 32 cases of Covid 19 and 8 confirmed deaths. The isolation hospitals dealing with these patients are far from adequate and have been in a poor state for some time due to shortages of drugs and equipment.

We know that at least 50% of the Zimbabwean population needs food aid. There is a fear amongst the people, that if the virus spreads around the country, their malnutrition will make them less able to overcome the virus.

Added to this is the problem of water supply. Many people rely on communal boreholes which means queuing, which brings about problems of social distancing. With inadequate water supply and financial limitation of buying items like soap for washing hands, will be a problem. So far there are no recorded cases at Mutemwa. Visits and

pilgrimages have been stopped and it is hoped that the community and patients will remain isolated from this virus.

## **"AT LEAST 50% OF THE ZIMBABWEAN POPULATION NEEDS FOOD AID"**

Despite the world not having been in this kind of situation before in recent history, we know that Zimbabweans as a whole have a remarkable record of overcoming seemingly impossible odds. With the help of John's intercession for not only Mutemwa, and Zimbabwe, but also for our own families and friends across the globe, we can get through this together.





## LEPRA

There is growing concern that leprosy is re-emerging in Southern African countries and the governments, NGO's and private health staff no longer have the knowledge and expertise to properly identify and treat the disease.

Lepra is providing skills, knowledge and expertise to the staff at Mutemwa. They are using a combined approach of active case finding, health worker training to improve the diagnosis and treatment of people affected by leprosy, with mental health support and manufacturing specialist footwear. Following Lepra's visit to Zimbabwe in June 2019, a shipment of specialist

footwear was recently received at the Centre, providing tailor made protective footwear for those individuals affected by leprosy. We are hugely appreciative for Lepra's ongoing support of our community at Mutemwa and hope that this partnership will go from strength to strength.



# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020

This year we had a special interest in the World Day of Prayer on 6th March. The worship service for that day is developed by women from a different country each year, and in 2020 the country was Zimbabwe.

Even more relevant for the JBMS was the chosen theme: 'Rise! Take up your mat and walk' - spoken by Jesus as he cured a sick man. As our mission is to look after the needs of those still suffering in Mutemwa, Zimbabwe where John Bradburne worked, we felt a special affinity with those words, and with the aspirations of people all over the world who prayed together on that day.

As most people are aware, the situation in Zimbabwe is currently extremely grave, with food in very short supply and lack of enough rain water and a severe shortage of electricity and fuel. To take up another of Jesus' sayings, in the Sermon

on the Mount, we therefore feel we should 'go the extra mile' and make a special effort to help safeguard the community in and around Mutemwa at this very difficult time.

We were hugely grateful to those parishes and individuals who gave generously to JBMS for the World Day of Prayer, we raised £854 from your donations alone. This will go a long way in supporting our community in Zimbabwe. Thank you.

# BEATIFICATION PROCESS



After the 40th Anniversary celebrations event in September 2019, the Ecclesiastical Court was formed. Since that time, testimonies have started to be formally taken in Zimbabwe from the many people who were close to John Bradburne.

This is a lengthy process and we must have patience, especially given these extraordinary times in which we find ourselves. Once all the people in Zimbabwe have been interviewed, then the Court will see the other people in UK and Ireland to hear their testimonies. We will keep you updated on any news on this process.

## THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT-TYPE WRITER

Poem written by Tony Black, with his response to reading a book on John Bradburne

Jolted and dazzled by rhyme sharp as frost  
Only-begetter of lines for those lost  
Heroic some couplets, all typically clever  
Now Mutemwa, your lepers he's barded  
forever.

Before all the world, his faith is displayed  
Regina Coeli and God ungainsayed,  
And Trinity, Trinity - Thought, Word and  
Voice

Dazzles him daily in triple rejoice.  
But this Vagabond Soldier, so ruthlessly slain  
Unsanctified, unhallowed will not long remain:  
Raise up your prayers in his holy cause  
Never doubt, one day, he will answer yours.  
Ee by gum! (So demotic! Why I Donne it? -  
X-tra initial to conclude Wholly Sonnet

# LEPROSY WALK 2020



On Sunday 15th March, families from around Surrey came together for a charity walk on Chobham Common and raised over £1,020 to help patients living with leprosy in Zimbabwe.

Along the planned route there were checkpoints with activities for the children to get involved with. These included local wildlife questions, cracking a morse code message, bark rubbing and spot the hidden animal.

It was questionable whether the event would take place due to Coronavirus, but at the time,

government guidance allowed group activities. A week later, the guidance changed to stop all communal events.

We are grateful to all who took part and we hope to put on an even better walk next year, with more activities.

## TO DONATE:

We are so grateful to all of our members ongoing support and generosity to JBMS. At this difficult time due to the Coronavirus, the team at the care centre are finding it hard to get out to buy basics like soap, toothpaste, washing powder, toilet roll, washing up liquid, etc.

If you can spare any donation at all to go towards JBMS being able to ship out in bulk what is required for them, we would be so appreciative.

## WAYS TO DONATE:

**Website:** Go to our website to use Paypal to make a donation [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com)

**Post:** You can send a cheque payable to JBMS, PO Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB

**Telephone:** 01568 760632

**Email:** [info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com)

**A Gift in Your Will:** If you have any questions please Email or call us.



# FIRST HARVEST OF FISH



Mutemwa had their first harvest of fish from the man-made ponds built at the care centre overseen by Fr Tigere and the team. It is so important that the care centre can be run as self-sufficiently as possible. It provides jobs for the local community, food for the patients and pride in all that they produce.

# BATHROOMS REFURBISHMENT



With a very generous donation from Peter, we were able to refurbish the bathrooms at the care centre for the patients. They have been fully tiled on the walls and flooring and have been done amazingly well by the team.

# ASTRA PAINTS

The company Astra paints, donated a huge amount of paint and labour to paint the outside of the clinic, kitchen block, chapel and patients blocks at the Care Centre. We are hugely grateful to their support and the people who gave up their time to do the work.



## FIRST LADY OF ZIMBABWE, AUXILLIA MNANGAGWA DONATION

The President of Zimbabwe's wife, Auxillia, First Lady of Zimbabwe kindly donated food such as maize, soap, sugar beans and cooking oil to Mutemwa Care Centre during this Covid 19 isolation for the patients. We are hugely grateful for her donation.



# FR ALFRED PATIENCE TIGERE OFM

We are very sad to say, but after three years at Mutemwa, Fr Tigere who has been in charge at the care centre, has now moved on to a new post in February 2020.

We were very sorry to see this very charismatic, devoted character leave, he has been a great support to both the patients and community at Mutemwa, and also to JBMS and helped us enormously move John's Cause forward. We wish him good luck in his new post and we are sure that he will bring positivity and light to those he meets. Thank you Fr Tigere for all you have done at Mutemwa.



We want to say a huge welcome to Fr Linous Mkumbuzi OFM who has taken on the challenge of running Mutemwa Care Centre. Fr Linous came from St Francis of Assisi Parish in Harare where he spent three

years as the priest in charge and then came to Mutemwa in February 2020. We wish him all the luck and look forward to working together.



## NOVENA PRAYER TO JOHN

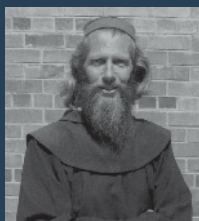
Dear John

You allowed your life to be guided by the Holy Spirit and by Mary your Queen and Mother, and with great generosity you searched unceasingly for God's will and love. In so doing you pleased Him.

We therefore ask a favour through your intercession, from the Most Holy Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for whom you laid down your life that:

Not our will but His be done:

Amen



John Bradburne's Novena has brought much hope and light to many individuals in times of need, not least now whilst we are living in such uncertain times. If you would like a novena prayer leaflet mailed out to you or anyone who may be isolated at present, please get in touch:

[info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com)  
07979 187498

# LETTERS

"Just to let you know that my niece, Denise is much better, thank God. She had that condition for about 15 months, with itching, swelling of the face, eyes and lips. She is great now. She has been to several consultants, but I feel it was prayer through John Bradburne helped a lot in her recovery."

**Carmel, Galway, Ireland**

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"I pray to John every day and we all need his help, now more than ever and I am sure he will look after us."

**Denis, Dublin, Ireland**

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"My husband lost his wallet yesterday when he was out cycling and I prayed that through the intercession of John Bradburne it would be found. When he got home a person contacted him to let him know that he had found his wallet and we were both delighted."

**Brenda, UK**

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"We visited Mutemwa, met the leprosy patients and climbed the Mountain. Visiting the leper colony made a profound impression on all including our son."

**Pat and Carmel, Dublin, Ireland**

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"I made an appointment to see a priest at the Monastery for spiritual direction. The secretary ushered me into a room, fully enclosed, doors closed. As I waited I was aware of bees (internally) at the window. Bees and flies, tend to bash themselves against the window. I thought of John Bradburne, and I prayed to him that I, a Secular Franciscan, would be able to have a

good session with the priest, that I would be as authentic as I could be. The priest arrived and we had the session. I looked up afterwards, no bees, nowhere to be seen. Not at the window, not dead on the window sill. No bees!

As I left the enclosed room, into the front entrance, again no bees. Where had they done? I know this experience is not terribly scientific, I don't claim it was. It was, however one of the most vivid memories of my life."

**Warren, Australia**

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"I bought a family size bottle of Coca Cola and a bottle of brandy at the local store together with a box of provisions. I found John in his hut, in which he had built his tabernacle. It consisted of all sorts of 'junk', about six foot high as I remember, and looked remarkably unstable. In the centre was a picture of the Virgin Mary, mother and Child. There were two sticks forming a cross within the structure.

We spent some time walking through the leper colony, during which John enthusiastically introduced me to several of the lepers, speaking in a mixture of Shona and English. Looking back on it, I could see that he was entirely at one with each of them.

After that we took some food, I had brought with me, the Coca Cola and the brandy, and climbed the hill behind John's hut. He called it Mount Ararat, as written on his letter to me, not one which the local post office would have recognised!

At the top, we sat down for quite some time as I remember, perhaps the whole afternoon, we talked, we sang, we recited poetry, we ate and we drank, we solved the problems of the world."

**Frank, Sussex, UK**