



# News

MARY WARD CHILDREN'S HOME

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CHILDREN'S HOME  
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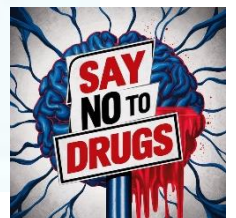
**JANUARY-JULY 2024**

DEVELOPING PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AMONG CHILDREN



The first-ever sports gala offered a unique occasion to establish new customs and strengthen the bonds of unity among the catholic children's homes in the Gweru diocese. A sense of excitement and enthusiasm spread to all the children from different homes as young sports players and talented choirs performed on stage. Fr.

Matingwina conducted Eucharistic celebrations to kick off the sports gala, and on the 18th, the Gweru Bishop graced the occasion by celebrating high mass for the kids. In his sermon His Lordship urged the children to respect their elders and refrain from using drugs.



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Following the mass celebrations, Mary Ward, Loreto, Driefonten, and Rutendo children's homes competed against one another. In the end, Mary Ward emerged victorious in the majority of the events, showcasing their team spirit and inspiring other homes with their achievements



Cheers and acclaim were given to the winning team. Not to be forgotten, Mary Ward took home the Bishops trophy for being the greatest team to play in most of the games, with bright smiles, the winning team accepted their trophies, and raised their trophy in triumph. The Sports gala was not a one-time event, but it will be distributed to all children's homes so that our children will have exposure. The sports gala brought children together, allowing them to demonstrate their talents and dedication

## **MARY WARD DAY CELEBRATIONS**



Mary Ward children's home was filled with excitement on the thirty first of January 2024 as children, Mary Ward sisters and friends of Mary Ward gathered to celebrate Mary Ward day. It was a joyous occasion filled with laughter and the children had the opportunity to connect with Mary Ward Friends. It was a privilege to be part of this special day witnessing the

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love and support that defines Mary Ward. The Mary Ward day was commenced with an inspiring Holy Mass setting a reverent and joyful tone of the day. The children actively participated in the liturgy, singing, and reading the first reading making it a memorable and inspiring celebration. Following the mass celebration, the Mary Ward friends gathered for a meeting

After the productive meeting Mary Ward friends and sisters gathered for a delightful lunch with the children. The atmosphere was warm and festive with plenty of delicious food and drinks to go around. The hall was filled with laughter and chatter as people shared jokes with each other. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to bond and connect with each other creating memories that will last a lifetime.



The joy and connection shared during the gathering had a ripple effect inspiring a sense of belonging and community among the children at Mary Ward Children's Home. The children felt loved and valued. This sense of belonging and connection had profound impact on the children's emotional and psychological well-being. The Mary Ward celebration was a real success, filled with joy and laughter.

## NEW CHILDREN

*Christopher is holding Kimberly who at the home when she was a*



Twelve children were received at the Home from the Department of Social Development, since January 2024. In comparison to the previous year, the number of children accepted so far is cause for concern. Most of the children received were suffering from malnutrition and this is a reflection of the country's economic crisis. The smallest baby received was a day old. Many thanks goes to our donors who work day and night to make our mission possible.

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## **MY EXPERIENCE AT KWEKWE POLYTECHNIC**

As I pursue my diploma in Accounting at Kwekwe Polytechnic. I am actively engaged in developing my skills and knowledge finance and business. Through a combination of coursework, hands on projects and extracurricular activities I am gaining a deeper understanding of financial analysis, budgeting and financial reporting.

At school I have experienced an opportunity to enhance my technical skills, fostering my critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration abilities, preparing me to succeed in a dynamic and fast paced professional environment. I have also learned how to prepare financial statements, analysing financial statements and also reporting them. At Kwekwe polytechnic I also had an opportunity to work on various projects including analysis of different companies for example the public trading company which deepened my understanding of financial ratios. Through engaging lectures, stimulating discussions and collaborative projects, I developed a deep understanding of theoretical concepts and practical applications.

Outside of the classroom I actively sought out opportunities to expand my skill set including research projects. I have also experienced how the college's diverse community and supportive structure fosters creativity and critical thinking, preparing me to navigate the complexities of the professional world with confidence and resilience. While pursuing my diploma in accounting at Kwekwe polytechnic I have been equipped with the skills to analyse financial data and optimise financial performance. I am also excited to leverage my skills and knowledge to contribute in financial growth. I want to thank the Mary Ward Sisters and our donors who have given me this opportunity. May the good Lord bless you all!

***By Bianca Maruma***

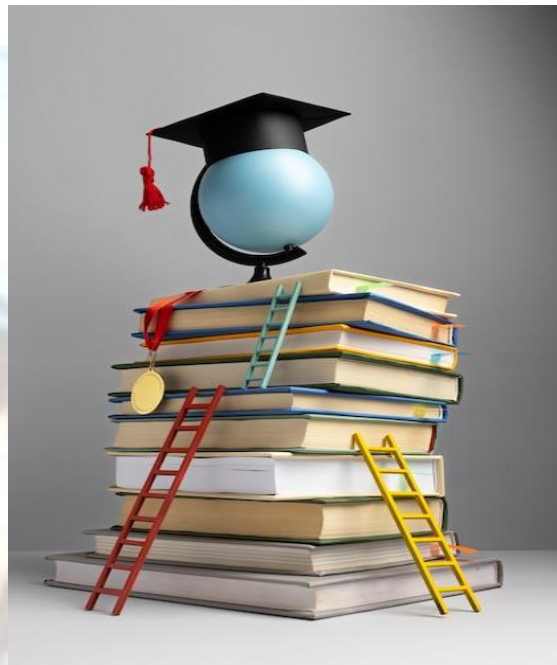
### *Children receiving Sacraments (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation)*

On Easter vigil, five children received the sacrament of baptism at St Marys Parish. Among those baptized four were infants and one was an adult. Congratulations to Ropafadzo, Takudzwa, Panashe and Pamela and Tanyaradzwa.



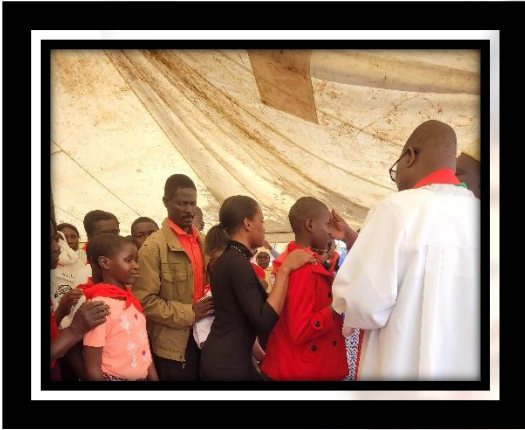
On this memorable occasion five of our children were very excited to receive their first communion. Warmest congratulations to Martha, Charmaine, Patience, Tanyaradzwa and Mutsawashe

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## *Confirmation*

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June nine children received the sacrament of confirmation. The children were eagerly waiting for this special day. The Holy Mass was celebrated by His Lordship Bishop Nyandoro at St Pauls Tiggerif. In his sermon the Bishop urged the confirmands to be strong in their faith even in the face of trials and tribulations. The Holy Spirit they received increased their ability to witness the risen Christ in every situation as well as practising their Catholic faith in every aspect of their lives. Congratulations to Grace, Anesu, Charmaine, Patience, Martha, Moreblessing, Tinevimbo, Tanyaradzwa and Ruvarashe



## MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD TRIP

The children were delighted to go for a missionary childhood gathering that was held at St Xavier Parish in Kwekwe Deanery. The event was commenced with Holy Mass and all children present were urged to respect elders and to pray constantly. Over the course of the three days, the event featured a number of activities that included spiritual presentations, Bible quizzes, choir competitions, and ball game competitions. It was a memorable gathering for the children.



## GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS.

The 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 marked the special day for Mbongeni Moyo as he graduated at Catholic University in Zimbabwe. Mbongeni studied a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and Information Technology. The event was graced by Sr Tendai, Sr Grace and Rudo one of the children. The graduation ceremony commenced with High Mass

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presided over by the Archbishop of Harare, who was the guest of honour. Mbongeni's dreams were accomplished and his gratitude goes to Congregatio Jesu sisters and to all the benefactors who helped him to become the person he is today. The road was not easy for him but he managed and sailed through. During his address, the Guest of Honour stressed the value of education in daily life. This was a memorable day for Mary Ward Children's Home as we celebrated one of our children's success. We are very happy that Mbongeni Moyo is now independent after securing a job at Bakertily. We wish him God's blessings and we thank our donors for supporting him this far..



### *Theory that turned reality- School trips*

As part of their curriculum, Ruvarashe and Tinevimbo visited Victoria Falls in April 2024 on a school field trip. They got to see one of Zimbabwe's greatest wonders, which was a dream come true.



Though they were familiar with Victoria Falls from books, this helped them understand the theory that was taught in class. This was a memorable trip for the two as they are about to complete their grade seven studies at Mary Ward Primary school.

Our pre-school learners visited Masasa Park Play Centre in Kwekwe in July 2024 as part of a preschool field trip. They were very happy to have such an exposure.



## COLLEN REUNITES WITH HIS BIOLOGICAL FAMILY

Collen's father showed up at the Department of Social

Development after 27 years. The man has been searching for his son who had been abandoned by his deceased aunt. Reuniting with his family was not an easy process for

Collen. In March 2024 Collen was reunified with his biological family. We give thanks to God Almighty that Collen is now with his family.



## AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May we celebrated Africa Day at Mary



Ward Children's Home. Our Children had an amazing time learning and exploring African culture and traditions. Our children were wearing colourful traditional outfits representing the diverse cultures of the continent. The children participated in various activities. We played African music, with drums and traditional dancing. We also made yummy African food and learned about different countries in Africa. Through these activities the children were able to gain a deeper understanding of the continent's history and traditions. The celebration also provided an opportunity to emphasize the importance of unity and solidarity.



The Africa Day celebration at the children's home was a joyous and an enlightening event that allowed the young participants to connect with the rich and diverse heritage of



Africa. Hence promoting cultural understanding among the children. It was a happy day filled with laughter and smiles.

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## HONORING OUR SON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS



On the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 Sr. Tendai, Fadzai, Michael, Bridget attended Logistic's Doctorate graduation ceremony in Tourism and Hospitality at the University of Johannesburg. Since Logistic is currently a lecturer at the University of Johannesburg, some of his fellow faculty members threw him a celebration following the graduation ceremony. During his address at the party, Logistic conveyed his gratitude to all Congregatio Jesu members and all the benefactors for their love, care and support during his journey. He highlighted that it is unbelievable being a doctor, especially for a person who once stayed in the

streets prior to being placed at Mary Ward Children's Home. This message was a challenge, motivational and inspirational to the other children that with God nothing is impossible. It is through support, hardworking and determination that one's dreams can be accomplished. We wish him the best in his life.



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## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

- ❖ Kudzai, Bianca, Mary, Handsome and Lontislyn who commenced tertiary studies
- ❖ Ropafadzo, Takudzwa, Panashe and Pamela and Tanyaradzwa for receiving the sacrament of Baptism
- ❖ Martha, Charmaine, Patience, Tanyaradzwa and Mutsawashe for receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion
- ❖ Grace, Anesu, Charmaine, Patience, Martha, Moreblessing, Tinevimbo, Tanyaradzwa and Ruvarashef for receiving their sacrament of confirmation.
- ❖ Logistic and Mbongeni for their graduation

*Living the synodal message of communion, participation and mission we pray and remember in a special way:*

- ❖ The victims of conflicts and wars
- ❖ Deceased members of Mary Ward Family and donors
- ❖ Our benefactors
- ❖ The sick and suffering

***We provide a family and friendly and environment to the needy children.***



*MARY WARD CHILDREN'S HOME*

*What we do*



*Caring for each other*



*Our projects*



*Our activities*



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