



15th Sunday Ordinary Time – 14 July 2024

## OBSTACLES TO HUMANITARIAN AID DELIVERY IN SUDAN



As more than half of Sudan's population faces severe food insecurity, the International Committee of the Red Cross warns of significant barriers to delivering humanitarian aid in the war-torn country and laments the international community's indifference. After fifteen months of conflict in Sudan, peace negotiations have stalled. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, leader of the

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), recently ended dialogue with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), led by General Mohammed Hamdan Daglo, and their allied militias. According to the UN, at least 15,500 people have been killed, and 2 million have fled the country since the war began on April 15, 2023. The humanitarian crisis is worsening, with 25 million people facing acute food insecurity. However, obstacles on the ground prevent NGOs and institutions like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from reaching civilians. Several independent UN experts condemn the use of famine as a "weapon of war" to starve civilian populations. Speaking to Vatican News, Pierre Dorbes, head of the ICRC delegation based in Port Sudan, now the administrative capital of the country, warned that "crossing front lines to access conflict zones, whether in Wad Madani or Khartoum, becomes significantly more challenging because obtaining agreements from the parties, which is necessary for security, is tough." The situation is similar in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur and the only capital of the five Darfur states not under RSF control. "El Fasher is currently under complete siege; nothing gets in. In other central areas, telecommunications are down, making it impossible to deliver aid or even understand the real situation," he said. A report from Human Rights Watch in May warned of possible ethnic cleansing against the Massalit and other non-Arab communities by the predominantly Arab RSF in El-Geneina, the capital of West Darfur state. Beyond the danger zones, the Red Cross also faces issues with obtaining authorisations for humanitarian workers to carry out their missions. "The international community needs to negotiate and pressure conflict actors to simplify administrative processes, grant visas, and facilitate aid delivery and access to the country, even across front lines," emphasised Mr. Dorbes, who has been in post since October 2023. In his thirty-year humanitarian career, Pierre Dorbes says he has never seen a crisis of this scale. "With 10 million displaced people within the country, that represents 20 to 25% of the population," he stressed. Sudan is facing the world's worst humanitarian crisis, yet the conflict "is not making headlines."

The lack of media attention explains the underfunding of the humanitarian response. For instance, the UN mission responsible for Sudan is seeking \$2.7 billion to aid Sudanese people, but only 15% of the needed funds have been raised. "Donors are much less generous towards Sudan compared to more publicized crises, which significantly limits the humanitarian response both within the country and in neighbouring countries," he said. Of the 2 million people who have fled Sudan, 35% have sought refuge in South Sudan and 33% in Chad, both of which are also facing severe food crises.

*Courtesy Alexandra Sirgant  
Vatican News*

## Liberties Festival

Runs from 22nd to 28th July 2024 with a packed programme of events. Its the 54th year of the Festival, which was established in 1970, making it the city's longest running city arts festival. More information:

[https://  
thelibertiesfestival.com/](https://thelibertiesfestival.com/)

## Offices Guide

The May 2024 Diocesan Offices Guide can be downloaded here:

[https://dublindiocese.ie/wp-  
content/uploads/2024/05/  
Diocesan-Guide-2024.pdf](https://dublindiocese.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Diocesan-Guide-2024.pdf)

## Remembered this Weekend

Bridie & Richard Neville  
Mary O'Dea 11th (A)  
Teresa Branigan (1st A)  
Mary Rice (7th A)  
Fr. Dinny O'Kane (17th A)  
Mick Kiersey (17th A)  
Paul Dempsey (5th A)  
Margaret Taylor (11th A)

## Pioneer Pilgrimage to Knock

will take place on Sunday, July 21. Mass at 3pm will be followed by Eucharistic Blessing and Procession to the Shrine. Pioneers along with friends and relations of people who are living "one day at a time" with addiction are welcome.

## Support for Birth Mothers

Information and Support for Birth Mothers whose babies were placed for adoption may be found at [www.birthinfo.ie](http://www.birthinfo.ie) or by calling the relevant section of Tusla at 0818 445500.

## SeniorLine

is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open every day of the year 10am-10pm, Freephone 1800 80 45 91.

## 15TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### Penitential Rite

Our God is a God of blessings. As we begin our celebration let us call to mind God's goodness to us.

You make us poor in spirit. Lord have mercy

You make us merciful. Christ have mercy

You make us thirst for righteousness. Lord have mercy

May the God of Blessings fill us with compassion, in the face of hatred and hardness of heart. May he forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

### Amos 7:12-15

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah. 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

### Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons and daughters, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight. He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth. And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came. Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it: and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia

### Mark 6:7-13

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits.

And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

### Prayer of the Faithful

God, Father, Son and Spirit your compassion and love for us are beyond doubt. We praise you and thank you. Lord hear us

Lord, may we have the courage to live the gospel in a spirit of simplicity and generosity. Lord hear us

That our Christian Communities, may defend and support all who suffer prejudice, intolerance and discrimination. Lord hear us

We call to mind all those who have died, and all who mourn for them. May we be inspired by the memory of those who have gone before us to live more faithfully the Way of the Lord. Lord hear us

For those in our own country who are unemployed, those living with uncertainty and those who are homeless, that they may be at the heart of our society and not pushed to the margins. Lord hear us

In silence we remember those who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



### Reflection

A sense of concern for others gives our lives meaning; it is the root of all human happiness. The most compassionate form of giving is done with no thought or expectation of reward, and grounded in genuine concern for others. If we can cultivate a concern for others, keeping in mind the oneness of humanity, we can build a more compassionate world. The challenge today is to convince people of the value of truth, honesty, compassion and a concern for others. As human beings we each have a responsibility to care for humanity. Expressing concern for others brings inner strength and deep satisfaction. As social animals, human beings need friendship, but friendship doesn't come from wealth and power, but from showing compassion and concern for others.