

## FR. EJAZ – PAKISTAN CHILDREN AND ORPHAN’S FUND

### REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th JUNE 2017

It is time for our quarterly report and we give below details of all transactions arising in the Pakistan Orphan’s and Children’s Account since 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

<b>Balance per Statement 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017</b>		<b>437.90</b>
Income – Standing Orders & Cash Receipt from our		
	FIVE parishes	1784.00
	Private Donations	970.00
		3191.90
Transfers -	4 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	1000.00
	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	(2500.00)
		£691.90
<b>Balance</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b>	<b>£691.90</b>

We had hoped that, by this date, Fr. Ejaz would have been able to, at least, have arrived for his summer visit with us. Indeed it was his and our sincere wish that he could have been here in time to share in the celebration of Fr. Murphy’s Golden Jubilee. His Visitor’s Visa has been granted (for 2 years), but as we have come to understand Fr. Ejaz’s life in Pakistan is always extremely busy and often uncertain and hazardous.

He has told us that, at present, (although he has some help from an older assistant priest) he cannot, leave his duties behind and therefore, we know that we must accept that his own people have great need of him. His parish (of St. Thomas in Karachi) is extensive, consisting of approximately 2500 families.

It is situated in a very poor area of the city, but to quote Fr. Ejaz, "Although people are very poor they are rich in faith".

In addition to serving his parish, Fr. Ejaz has other onerous duties – he has just finished conducting a course for Catechists and he is very involved with Christian Schools - Education always being one of his major considerations. However, at this present time he is required by Archbishop Joseph Coutts (Archbishop of Karachi) to lead and be responsible for the hundreds of Hindu people who wish to convert to Christianity and who have appealed to the Diocese of Karachi for help.

This task is extremely difficult. These poor people are living in appalling conditions. Many of their dwellings, made of reeds and mud have been washed away by the recent rains. There is much sickness, especially in the elderly and children, probably caused by drinking water from a nearby canal. We think that the Archbishop is trying to get help from national or international agencies as this immediate problem is a matter for major intervention. However, in the meantime, Fr. Ejaz says "I can do nothing for them, but I can be with them" and so he is spending as much time as he can "over there". He often says that his wish in life is to follow wherever "Almighty God leads me".

We are not involved in this part of the life of Fr. Ejaz, except that he constantly asks for our spiritual support. We are still involved in the material support of the approximately 50 children living in the Orphanage in Faisalabad. Sahill, his wife, and helpers manage the orphanage, in a very loving and efficient manner. Fr. Ejaz is in constant touch and he sincerely thanks us for our ongoing vital support which enables the children to be clothed, fed, educated and kept safe.

Please help us to continue this venture for as long as we can and let us hope that Fr. Ejaz may be able to spend a little of his precious time, with us, later in the summer.

Thank you for everything.

Celia Hetherington 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017