

## PARISHES OF CROOK, WOLSINGHAM, TOW LAW, WILLINGTON AND LANGLEY MOOR

### Fr Ejaz – Pakistan Orphans' and Poor Children's Fund

We are, once again, at the end of a Financial Year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31 March 2018) and we have been looking back through our cash, bank and correspondence records. It is quite remarkable to note that Fr Ejaz first came to us in the summer of 2010. It took a little while for us to get to know him and to become aware of his work and his mission, which was to minister and care for his people and particularly the lost and impoverished children in his home city of Faisalabad.

The need to support him in this mission became more and more apparent. The good people of this area responded to his humble appeal. The Bank Account was opened in February 2012 and the first transfer of funds was made on 2<sup>nd</sup> July of that year. Also, most importantly, the sincere prayers of the people began and have continued.

Since that time, despite some difficulties, our prayers, assistance and support for Fr Ejaz has played a part in enabling him to follow his vocation. We know that Father's own spirituality and talents make his ministry flourish but, we are fortunate to be able to help, even in a small way, to improve the lives of the children and people who live so far away from us and are so much less fortunate than we are.

We are pleased to report that, at the end of another year, the Orphanage (registered under Pakistan Law as "Nazareth House") is flourishing. It is always filled with children who desperately need shelter, sustenance and hope in their lives. Fr Ejaz is justly pleased and proud of the achievement and progress the youngsters make. He is adamant that education is the key; there is no state education system in Pakistan and much of our financial contribution is used to pay some school fees. Every qualification and professional job acquired is a step forward and we must thank Almighty God for every Christian teacher, nurse, administrator or tradesman that we have assisted. Father Ejaz is also greatly concerned about the education of girls and young women. He firmly believes that in families where the mother has even a basic education, the children of that family will also be educated as far as possible.

Father Ejaz has told us by telephone that Nazareth House has gained an excellent reputation among the Christian community and receives applications for entry from far and wide. However, Father and the Governors cannot extend the numbers already accommodated and they concentrate on the orphaned and most needy children; but Father hopes that by using Nazareth House as an example, others may find the means and will to establish other such places to provide for more children.

Meanwhile, Fr Ejaz continues to work, constantly in his huge parish of St Thomas. This covers 2000+ families, in a large area with one main parish church and at least 12 or more other Churches or Mass Centres. He speaks of the dreadful conditions and poverty in which many of his parishioners live, but also, he is sometimes amazed at the generosity and help which they give to each other.

Father celebrates Holy Mass and preaches to very large congregations. His complete faith and holiness is apparent but also, the great devotion and faith shown by the people is remarkable especially when we remember the risks involved in showing adherence to our Christian Faith.

We should also mention that Fr Ejaz has now written his 3<sup>rd</sup> book. This has been published by the Arch Diocese and centres upon the words spoken by Our Blessed Lord during his crucifixion. This follows his 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> books which related to Our Blessed Lady and to Marriage and Family life. We understand that he is now called upon to speak about one or other of these themes and he has "bookings" months in advance to give talks or lectures to large audiences.

He has said that he might be able to get these books translated into English, but we do not know if, or when, this might happen. Also, he has spoken about writing a book about his journey in the priesthood and this would include the story of how he came to this small corner of the north east of England and what resulted from that original visit.

As usual, we cannot fully express sufficient gratitude to the generous people of our five parishes, who faithfully continue to contribute to this worthy charity. It has lasted now for eight years and we hope to continue, but we can only do this with the help of faithful prayers and sustained commitment.

This "report", which has been a reminiscence of our activities, would not be complete if we did not mention and express grateful thanks for the vital support given to this venture by our Parish Priests. Fr Ryan initiated the whole undertaking and supported it in every way. Fr Murphy has been, and is, a constant loving champion of this cause and has always been a generous benefactor. Now Fr Clohosey has joined us, and we very much appreciate the support and assistance he has given to our activities from his first days in Crook. Finally, we must express our appreciation to Fr Riedling who, at first, inherited and then continued to further the aims of the charity in Langley Moor.

We must thank everyone in the small management group who keep everything going. In this connection and in the near future, we will call a meeting for everyone interested in the Fr Ejaz project to attend.

We hope and pray that Fr Ejaz will get some time off to visit us!! Hopefully before his current visa runs out.

P.S. A brief statement of last year's Income and Outgoings is attached. A Financial Statement for the year has (as usual) been completed and this is submitted to the Diocese, where it becomes part of the Consolidated Accounts presented to the UK Charity Commission.

P.P.S. We had a long telephone conversation with Fr. Ejaz – (last night 20<sup>th</sup> April). We were dismayed to hear that he has not been in touch since before Easter, because he has been suffering from a bout of Malaria. However, he assures us that he has been properly treated and is feeling better. Apparently, he went to visit, and stayed for a few days, with the Hindu converts at their camp. The temperature was over 40 degrees and Father says, "there were clouds of mosquitoes". Please pray for him every day as he takes risks with his health and safety.

We are helping him with the finalisation of a Website for Nazareth House. When this is ready we will publish the www address and we will all be able to view the orphanage and read of the activities etc.

## FR. EJAZ – PAKISTAN CHILDREN & ORPHANS' FUND

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2018

	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<b>Monthly Standing Orders and Cash Envelopes</b>			
Received from our FIVE PARISHES in year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018		6764.10	
<b>Church Collections</b>			
Christmas 2017 Wellington, St Thomas'		324.05	
<b>Individual Donations</b>			
Anonymous 2 x 1000	2000.00		
Private Cash & Chqs from Parishioners & Supporters	1915.00		
Blessed John Duckett School	250.00		
Tow Law	100.00		
Langley Moor	100.00		
Small Change Saved (3 savers)	127.08		
Barclays Bank	<u>20.00</u>		
		4512.08	
<b>Special Efforts</b>			
Afternoon Tea and Auction	656.82		
Bonfire Night	252.90		
Sale of Christmas Donation Cards	228.00		
Ladies Coffee	11.71		
Mary's Shop	15.00		
Easy Funding	<u>17.54</u>		
		1181.97	
		<b><u>12782.20</u></b>	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Transfers to Pakistan	11800.00		
Bank Charges	<u>1.00</u>		<u>11801.00</u>
			11801.00
<b>BALANCE</b>			
1 <sup>ST</sup> April 2017		437.90	
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018			1419.10
		<b><u>13220.10</u></b>	<b><u>13220.10</u></b>

**CMH April 2018**