



Jos Jottings, January 2023

A new year without fear!



Along with the Anglicans of Jos Diocese, we give joyful thanks to God for Bishop Ben's safe return to Jos on 9 December, after his healing through prayer and successful treatment in the US from stage 4 colon cancer. Like Ben, his US surgical team were frank in describing his recovery as "nothing short of a miracle." And in light of that experience, in his New Year's Day sermon Bishop Ben powerfully exhorted Jos Anglicans to live deeply in the Word who came in Christ to live with us, so that as we run our race in 2023, whether in life or facing death, we will be joyfully and confidently His.

While incidents of persecution of Christian communities in Plateau State (of which Jos is the capital) seem to have eased during December, serious deadly attacks have continued in neighbouring southern Kaduna State, Benue and Borno states.

In southern Kaduna State (specifically in communities along the Abuja-Jos highway), suspected Fulani herdsmen and other terrorists:

- killed 46 people Sunday 18 to Wednesday 21 December in attacks on predominantly Christian rural communities in Mallagum, Abun and Kpak villages in Kaura County and Kamuru village in Zangon Kataf County of southern Kaduna state. More than 100 houses were reportedly burned down (some victims being burned alive, and at least one mutilated), and communities were forced to flee;
- killed another 3 Christians and burned homes and businesses in an attack on Kagoro village (on the Abuja-Jos highway, and host to a Protestant theological seminary) on the night of 23 December; and,
- killed one Christian and kidnapped 53 in a Christmas Day attack by armed men on motorbikes on Christians gathering for worship at 10am in Angwan Aku village in Kajuru County.



40 caskets of murdered Christians awaiting burial at Mallagum Village, 22 December.

Zambiri School annual “Christmas by the book” celebration 2022

For those supporting the Zambiri School strand of our Diocesan partnership, the Jos Diocese Facebook coverage of this celebration event gives a good idea of the transformation of the lives of disadvantaged/displaced children served by this initiative (see 18 December posting on the Diocese of Jos Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanDioceseOfJos>).

For prayer:

- Praise God for Bishop Ben’s healing, and pray for ongoing strength for him as he resumes his diocesan and international ministry duties.
- Keep praying for protection of our Christian sisters and brothers in Jos Diocese and northeast Nigeria from violence and persecution, for comfort for those affected by killings and attacks over the Christmas period in states adjoining Plateau State, and praise God for the relative freedom from attacks on Christians in Plateau State over Christmas.
- Pray for God’s hand of peace and guidance over the forthcoming 25 February Nigerian Presidential election, that it may not deepen religious divisions and persecution, but bring justice, peace and security to the oppressed.
- Keep praying for a spirit of generosity amongst us in Australia to provide practical support under our gospel partnership with Jos Diocese, and wisdom for the partners as we complete essential project documentation and reporting.

To make a tax-deductible donation to projects under our Diocesan partnership to support our persecuted fellow-Christians in Jos and Plateau State in Nigeria, go to <https://anglicanaid.org.au/locations/Nigeria> . To book a presentation on the situation in Nigeria and our partnership with Jos Diocese for your church or fellowship group, contact Rev Canon Patrick Cole on pandncole@bigpond.com .