

*Email from Fr. Dan Oryema, who many may remember has celebrated Mass for the Parish over the years:*

*Dear Fr. Andrew, As per the virus in Uganda, the numbers are now rising faster because the government attempted a partial opening as people were starving badly in the full lockdown. Struggles with life is still continuing as many people have lost jobs and businesses. Curfew time is still on from 7:00pm to 6:30am. Private cars must not carry more than 3 people. Public buses must carry half their capacity. Boarder districts must not be travelled to and they are 40 in Uganda. Only travelling within central districts is allowed. It is compulsory to wear masks when you leave your house, but many cannot afford even the masks, can you imagine! So the government is now working on distributing free masks throughout the country to ensure that everybody gets one mask. They are to wash it, dry, iron and re-use. So for now many are going around without masks yet.*

*Although the number of infections in Uganda is still small (only approaching 700), it jumped to this within a few days of the partial opening. Small as it may seem compared to the developed countries, it is already overpowering the hospitals. Our health sector in Uganda (and in Africa in general) is weak with even referral hospitals having something like 3 beds for intensive care and ordinary hospitals have none at all. We are just at God's mercy here.*

*Adherence to social distance requirement is next to impossible given living conditions here. Just think of a family living in a hut and sharing meals by hand from a common pan. Just think of drinking from the same cup during family meals. Just think of 4 children sleeping on one mat sharing one bedsheet or blanket. How would you enforce social distance here? It is such situations that make even a small number of infections very scary. We just pray that treatment and vaccine are found soon.*

*Once again we are so grateful for your unbelievable level of compassion and generosity. May the lord reward you abundantly.*

*Regards,*

*Fr. Dan Oryema.*