

Stay Awake

A pandemic lockdown gives each of us good reason to take stock of what is really important to us; family, friends, faith, love, food, shelter, employment, health care, respect and the welfare of our neighbour. It is a time too, to reflect on the opportunities that come our way each day and how we respond to them.

Some opportunities we grasp enthusiastically, others we reject out of hand while others slip by almost unnoticed, even the call to be always grateful. To drift aimlessly through our daily opportunities is such a common hazard that in this weekend's Gospel, Jesus strongly challenges His disciples (and ourselves) to STAY AWAKE to God's invitations to goodness and generosity of spirit. Otherwise our blessedness is lost.

Sometimes the invitational opportunity is given to an individual. Othertimes, the call is to a group. In September 2019, as our Faith in Action Group looked forward to the year ahead, the seed of an "impossible" opportunity was sown. In Turkwel, we had already facilitated the provision of a clean water supply and then, a clinic had been built. What was now important to our brothers and sisters there, was a maternity unit. It was an urgent



Original Clinic on left, New Maternity Unit on right

need but looked to some to be an impractical dream. It could cost over €100,000. Fortunately, the visionaries, the courageous ones, the workers nurtured the seed of love and you seized the opportunity to be generous beyond expectations. So with all costs paid, on last Friday (30th October 2020) the unit was blessed and officially opened at 9:00 am and at 2:00 pm the first baby girl, Rosalie Pascalia, was born. Deo Gratias.

Hopefully, she sleeps well. But each of us must stay awake to grasp every opportunity at this time to keep hope alive, to protect all our well being in little things and big things, to be leaders in kindness and in thankfulness to one another and to God.

Go Raibh maith agaibh go I éir

Fr. Tom Clancy



Baby Rosalie Pascalia with Sr. Pascalia

We are delighted to share with you these photographs of the joyful celebration of the opening of the Maternity Unit last Friday. We will circulate a full, detailed and costed report about the completion of the project in the near future.

Faith in Action Group







