



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter

January 2025



Summer Holiday

Our annual summer holiday is a six week break from the middle of December until the end of January. While the typically students spend their Christmas holidays at home, there are always a few who cannot go back due to the long distances or difficulties with their families. Six girls remained in the compound this holiday and spent Christmas with the Sisters. During this time, they organised and worked with the students who came to look after the animals and the garden.



Peace Pilgrimage

Around 140 young people from our parishes and from La Salle and Loreto Schools, along with Sisters, Brothers, and Priests joined the 2025 Peace Pilgrimage. Under the theme, "It's time to build peace!" we walked around 150km through the southern part of our Diocese. The Papal Nuncio and our Bishop accompanied us on our first stage from Rumbek to Malou. Every day, when we reached our destination, people welcomed us with dancing and singing and generously provided classrooms for the night, where we slept on the floor. On the way, we marvelled at the different landscapes. We also used the time to reflect on the day's Gospel and pray the rosary. We especially enjoyed Mvolo River after a long walk in the hot sun and the delicious welcome the Sacred Heart Sisters prepared for us in Mapuordit.



Building peace always starts with small changes, for example, with gender equality. For example, it's not typical for men to cook here. However, during our time together, cooking, serving food, washing the dishes, and packing the truck were all done together. Of course, when we were tired on the way, we helped support each other. When we reached Aluak-Luak, our final destination, we had taken approximately 27 million steps for peace. All participants, happy about this experience, promised to bring peace back to their homes. Besides our donors, we want to say a big thank you to our twelve young leaders who organised the whole pilgrimage.



A Special Thank You to all of the donors, advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in South Sudan.

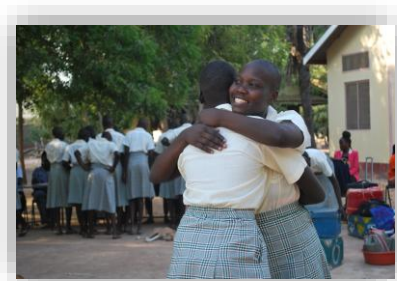
Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.

For more news & info about the programs, our students, and how you can help, please visit our website: loretorumbek.ie and our Facebook page [Loreto Schools Rumbek](https://www.facebook.com/LoretoSchoolsRumbek)



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter

Start of the new school year



At the end of January, the general staff from various departments received a week of training on essential topics, such as child protection policies, and set objectives for the coming academic year. The training included a range of activities, including team-building exercises, teacher development sessions, and a school opening Mass, which provided a valuable and enjoyable experience for all participants. On the 27th, the students returned to school. There was great excitement among the girls as they reunited with their friends after a long holiday.

Aweil Construction start

On the 4th of January, a delegation of students, together with Fr. Alan, our school chaplain, and Sr. Orla, met the construction company and officials from Aweil on the ground for the official start of the first construction phase of the new Loreto school.



Since then, the mission in Aweil has made notable strides. The materials required for constructing the convent for the sisters had successfully been delivered to the site. Furthermore, the development has moved forward with the commencement of the foundation work for the chain-link fencing surrounding the convent and the start of excavation for the convent itself. Meanwhile, Mr Amos has moved to Aweil to supervise the ongoing construction activities in the upcoming months.

Clinic Holidays

During the holiday season, the clinic experienced a significant increase in activity due to the presence of many people within the compound. According to Nurse Sora, the holidays were quite busy as she attended to the residents of the compound, the students who worked on the farm, and various visitors. Despite the increased workload, Nurse Sora found the experience enriching, as she had the opportunity to interact with a diverse group of people from different locations, especially during the retreat and the pilgrimage. Overall, she described it as an amazing and fulfilling holiday period.



A Special Thank You to all of the donors, advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in South Sudan.

Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.

For more news & info about the programs, our students, and how you can help, please visit our website: loretorumbek.ie and our Facebook page [Loreto Schools Rumbek](https://www.facebook.com/LoretoSchoolsRumbek)