

# PARROQUIA DE SANTA TERESA DE JESÚS

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Dear .....

Without a doubt there is a certain charm about the month of May. Yet my memories of May back in Uist are not so exhilarating: the sunshine would suggest that there was warmth in the air but it would be an act of bravado to throw off the coat or jacket; the daffodils would fade but would not be replaced by other flowers to give colour to the land; I would feel sorry for the poor lambs that had grown to size. Their mother's milk was insufficient and yet there was little grass to satisfy their hunger. And so I could continue.

At the same time May continues to uplift our spirits. We think of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and rejoice in the love and tenderness which she offers the world; the feast of Joseph the Worker, on the first day of May is a timely reminder of the dignity of work and how human work and activity have changed the world. In Ecuador I would always participate in the workers' march. Thousands would take part with banners, bands and protests a plenty. It was the way things were and are.

I always start with these reminiscences as I try to think what I should really be writing.

## NEW PRESIDENT IN ECUADOR

The party which have been in power for the last ten years won the elections. There is the cry of "fraud" but it is not very tenable. At the same time there is a strong reaction against levels of corruption, and authoritarianism. The country's finances are in bad shape and the debt level is high. A high proportion is on partial or informal work. When you stop at the lights you are invaded by people selling from bottled water, all forms of food or sweets to cellular phones. Black Market.

## SOCIETY OF ST JAMES

After 55 years working in the poorest barrios of Ecuador the Society of St. James is closing its mission in Ecuador. We shall have mass in my parish with the retired archbishop of Guayaquil (who best knows the Society) being the chief celebrant to commemorate our time here. Then we shall go off to some hotel and have a meal, I suppose. It does not seem a very auspicious ending to 55 years of history but the Society was never anxious to hit the headlines or seek publicity. That is how I think it should be. A priest from Motherwell and myself will be the only two priests left behind – we only live about eight hours drive from each other!

As the rains fall the streets become fast flowing rivers. The rain stops, the water disappears and things return to normality!



FR. DONALD MCKAY:

There are many things to claim the attention while working here in Ecuador but not a day passes without thinking and praying for Fr. Donald and his will to keep on living as full life as possible without hiding from himself that he will be another victim of cancer. There is much to be admired in his attitude and his tolerance of pain. We thank God for the example he continues to give to all. May continue to bless him and give him fortitude.