

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC PARISH – NYAGWETHE

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A WRITTEN REPORT ON WATER HARVESTING REPORT:

Summary of the report:

Date: 4th June 2025 **Place:** Nyagwethe

This report is about the water harvesting project implemented at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish in the Catholic Diocese of Homabay Kenya. The diocese has 48 parishes with St.Francis of Assisi Nyagwethe being one of them. Nyagwethe is located in the Gwasssi North Ward within the Suba South Constituency of Homa Bay County.

The entire leadership of St. Francis Catholic Parish –hereby acknowledges the receipt of your kind donation of £4,000 that has enabled us to install tanks for rainwater storage. Special thanks to the congregation of St. James the Great Parish in Pretts Wood for their generous contribution that has directly helped us to achieve our goal of harvesting rain water for our parish that does not have a functional piped water supply. We are incredibly grateful. The harvested rain water will be for domestic use our church and mission school. This is the most valuable donation I have received since I was posted to serve in this parish.

The donation is so impactful in the following ways:

Improved hygiene and sanitation in our parish:

We have been relying on contaminated lake water that possibly transmits various diseases like cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and polio among others. Lake water is also exposed to contaminants like microplastics and heavy metals which can cause neurological damage and increase the risk of getting cancer. Our parish is situated very close to the lake's shoreline where we collect water. Water from Lake Victoria is contaminated due to various sources including untreated sewage, industrial waste, limited waste management around the lake, pollutants like fertilizers, pesticides, and industrial effluents that are washed into the lake during rainfall. Practices such as open defecation contaminates the lake water and poses serious health risks to the direct users especially for those who use it for drinking, cooking, and bathing. Other local water sources like rivers are also polluted with human and animal faeces harbouring deadly bacteria.

Improved water access:

The water tanks you donated to us now provide a readily available water source, drastically reducing the reliance on lake water posing serious health risks. The harvested rainwater harvesting has offered a readily available and more reliable domestic water supply, especially in this area that frequently face water scarcity. It has equally provided a reliable alternative water sources that fluctuate during dry seasons and more contaminated like lake water.

Improved hygiene and sanitation:

We are sure of our sanitation. We are protected from waterborne diseases and improved our overall health including the clergy, seminarians, deacons, visitors, parishioners and the students belonging St. Francis Nyagwethe Primary School.

Lessened economic burden:

In the priest's house we have been financially burdened because we have been buying clean water for drinking and cooking especially during church functions that brings about visitors from different places. During the apostolic visits by our bishop Rt. Rev. Michael C. Otiemo Odiwa, we have to buy clean water for him and his entourage. It is economic burden because sometimes we do not have money for buying clean (bottled) or treated water. My parishioners are poor and often experience financial hardship. This has serious financial implications has far as our ability to purchase basic necessities like food and water among other living expenses. When school children drink contaminated water they become sick and need lots of money for medication which we don't have. The school children are no longer at risk of life-threatening diseases. They have clean water to drink, stay hydrated and healthy.

As it is now, we are enjoying access of clean water and we remain eternally grateful to you for ensuring that we have clean water flowing from our own taps.

May I take this moment to express my deepest gratitude to St. James the Great Parish in Pretts Wood for making a significant impact on our lives.

Kindly receive our heartfelt appreciation for this timely donation.

May the Lord's blessings be upon you as you endeavour to reach out to needy communities like us all over the world.

We are forever grateful.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fr. Konyero". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rev. Fr. Timothy Konyero