

Solidarity Teacher Training  
College  
Yambio, South Sudan  
**Graduation**

05 October 2021





Solidarity Teacher Training College was at its most colourful and lively on Tuesday 5 October 2021, World Teachers' Day, for the graduation of the class of 2021. Twenty students, four women and sixteen men, were awarded the National Certificate in Primary Education.

The programme began with the Eucharist of Thanksgiving. The honoured guests included a distinguished international scholar Sister Scholastica Nganda PhD, a Mercy sister from Kenya who is also a member of Solidarity and Director of the Kit Pastoral Centre near Juba, Mr Peter Mbia, Western Equatoria State's director of education, and Fr Charles Tombe, vicar general of the diocese of Tombura-Yambio.

The commencement speech was delivered by Sister Scholastica. She presented each student with their Certificate, assisted by the Br Chris Soosai, the Principal, Sr Jacinta Prunty, the Academic Director, and honoured guests.

Everything about the day was participatory as befits a teacher training college, and especially one with the title of 'Solidarity'. Traditional dancers drawn from the other classes enlivened the liturgy and the graduation ceremony itself. The choir and musicians had rehearsed intensely under very able student directors and tutor Br Sylvanus.



The compound was decorated with imagination and ingenuity; the Library verandah served as sanctuary, stage and viewing platform. A group of schoolchildren led the graduands in procession while local headteachers were thanked for facilitating teaching practice, a crucial part of the training at STTC.

Delicious food was prepared while proceedings were underway so that the meal was served promptly. All joined in the dancing at some point: cooks and workers, graduates and guests, children, students and tutors. When the guests had left, the dancing and fun resumed and lasted until 9.30pm.



One graduate, Nyadit Gatluel, still in residence in the college, was blessed with the safe delivery of a daughter in the early hours of Thursday. We thank God for this new member of the Solidarity family, and all who supported our student to reach her goal of Qualified Teacher Status. It was a happy end to a memorable few days.