

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN BAMENDA COMMITTEE

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September 2008

To my brother priests, parish administrators, and head teachers

I hope you managed to get a break over the summer. I am writing to you because ***Bamenda Sunday is coming up soon (weekend 1st / 2nd November),*** to ask you to support the **annual special collection** for the Bishop, priests and people in our twinned diocese of **Bamenda, Cameroon, West Africa.**

Though we do not now have priests out in Bamenda, we are happy to welcome here a whole succession of Cameroonian priests, and an increasing number of Cameroonian laypeople are based in our diocese, especially the Southampton and Reading areas.

Earlier this year, a small Portsmouth delegation (Mgr Vincent Harvey VG, myself (Chair of the Bamenda Committee), Dr. John Hughes (vice-chair), and Colm Lennon (Committee member), made a memorable visit to Bamenda, to visit forty of the parishes, schools, health centres and social projects you support through both the Bamenda Sunday Collection and other donations from parishes, schools and individuals. This year we allocated more than £75,000. For details, see this year's Bamenda Sunday leaflet, or visit our new website (see address above).

I appeal to you to do all you can to give Bamenda Sunday the prominence it deserves.

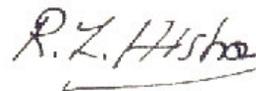
Through the good offices of the diocesan staff at Park Place, we are sending to each church two posters to be displayed from the weekend before the collection (24th/25th October) and 200 copies of this year's 'Bamenda Briefing'. May I ask you to have these given out with your weekly newsletter.

If you need extra copies, contact Eileen at Park Place.

If you need more information, or want to make any suggestions to help the cause, ring or e-mail me personally.

Thanks to everyone, and let's make this year a really good one for our brothers and sisters in West Africa

With all good wishes



Ron Hishon

Suggested inserts for your newsletters

1) *for weekend 25/26 October:*

BAMENDA SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND (1st/2nd Nov.). Every year we have a **special collection** to support the priests, religious and people of Cameroon in our twinned Diocese of Bamenda. ***This week please take a copy of 'Bamenda Briefing',*** along with this newsletter, and see how much your help is needed.

2) *for weekend 1st / 2nd November:*

BAMENDA SUNDAY SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND (1st/2nd Nov.). ***Please be generous in your donation for the many parishes, schools, hospitals, health centres and social projects we support in Cameroon.*** For details see your copy of **'Bamenda Briefing'** or visit the official Bamenda website: www.bamendaandportsmouth.com