

Christmas Greetings

from Fr. John,

Amani Center



I wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings. I pray that the dry places receive the blessing of rain, and the troubled places discover the way to God's gift of peace. Here in Tanzania we are being blessed through the El Nino effect in the western Indian Ocean. The land is green. Our hill is now a jungle again instead of a scene of apparently dead trees and bushes. Instead of dust we now have weeds! It is truly beautiful. The people in this central region are delighted. It will be a truly thankful Christmas, with the anticipation of a bountiful harvest in the New Year.

I did meet many of you during 2019. That was a joy and a blessing. I am thankful for wonderful hospitality and generous friendship. How can I repay that? Maybe the question ought to be, how should I respond? There is an old saying, 'Bloom where you are planted.' Therefore I should reflect your kindness and love within the community here.

I pray that rain will fall over the drought stricken areas of Australia and that the fires will be 'swamped'. I pray that society will once again heed the words of Jesus, which are the words of the Father, and in that attitude find peace and a unity of purpose.

I offer you the gift of a flower, found on our hillside. As far as I am aware there is only one such shrub surviving. It is about seven foot tall. I have taken cuttings. We plan for many more.

A Report from Makang'wa, prepared by staff here, will be distributed shortly.

Every blessing.

Fr. John