

NEWBRIDGE

Lions send trucks to Africa for drinking water



Oliver Murphy and John McLoughlin of Newbridge Kildare Lions Club are preparing a large aid package for Tanzania.

By CONOR McHUGH
NEWBRIDGE Kildare Lions Club are currently putting together a massive consignment for a Kildare priest in Tanzania. And the group is still looking for

companies or individuals to donate a number of vital items.

Leading this huge project is John McLoughlin of McLoughlin's Oil. John, a long-serving and Charter Member of Newbridge Kildare Lions Club, is about to organise and ship four identical DAF 1900 trucks, which are former oil delivery tankers, to East Africa.

The trucks are being sent, without their tanks, to Palatine priest, Father Dan Noud, who is responsible for a large community in the townland of Mogitu, Tanzania.

Father Dan, a good friend of John's, has lived and worked with this African community for over 40 years.

Lots of work has already gone into the preparation of the trucks to ready them for their second lives and working careers in Africa. But instead of distributing home heating oil they will be distributing fresh drinking water and other essential supplies.

Flat transport bodies with drop sides are being supplied and mounted on the trucks by Club President's Oliver Murphy's firm Newbridge Metal Ltd.

The trucks will be used by the locals to transport and distribute fresh drinking water, food and essentials around the rural community.

Fresh drinking water is currently this community's most essential commodity.

The people of Mogitu currently walk eight miles to a fresh river water source where they have to stand in line for a small consignment of water.

With the trucks now being sent from Ireland, Newbridge Kildare Lions Club hopes to transform this community's ability to source and distribute fresh water and aid.

Father Dan's team will be able to drive to a local saltwater lake where the water can be loaded onto the trucks and transported back to the community compound where it will be desalinated, purified and distributed.

Father Dan will also be able to hire out the trucks to transport goods into the area and derive a source of income for his community. An Irish organisation has also kindly donated two similar 4X4 diesel jeeps which are also being shipped to this rural community in this shipment.

These vehicles will be used

by teachers and doctors from Father Dan's team to visit those under their care in Tanzania and to deliver aid.

A full list of items Fr Dan needs is available at www.nklc.ie.

Items include an electric welding machine, a medium-sized farm tractor, a fresh water bowser on trailer, farm tools, roof sheeting, medical equipment, food concentrates, a water desalination plant, and two 4,000-litre blue plastic fresh water storage tanks.

Speaking to the *Leinster Leader*, John McLoughlin expressed his gratitude to his fellow Lions Club members and the many local people who have given much support, time, energy and encouragement to the project.

"This is just one of the projects that the club is involved in. Our friendships are strong and when we take on a project we put our whole heart into it. Together we know that there is no obstacle that will prevent us making a project a success."

The club intends to ship the first container on Thursday, September 20. Once empty the two 40-foot containers will be used as homes at Father Dan's community.

Full details of the project can be seen online at the Newbridge Kildare Lions Club website at www.nklc.ie. For details on Father Dan Noud see www.toilfoundation.com

To assist this project contact the "Trucks for Africa appeal", care of McLoughlin Oil, Ballymany, Newbridge, Co Kildare. Tel 045-431281. or e-mail: info@jhmcloughlin.com. All assistance will be gratefully appreciated and acknowledged.