

# ቁምስና ኪዳነ ምሕረት ሐጋዝ



Hagaz Sts Peters and Paul is a new pastoral centre established around 2003 in the northern part of the town by Abba Uqbagabir Woldeghiorghis. Likewise Hagaz De La Salle prayer centre is in western side of the town in the De La Salle Agro – technical school which was established in 9 May 1999.



Hagaz is 25 km west of Keren on the main road to AQRudet. Originally Hagaz was a water source with little importance

until 1925, when it became the train station from Keren to AQRdet and again in 1935 the main road passed through it. As this time the Catholic families working in the station had to go to the church in Glass some 5 km east.

In 1956 with the establishing of Keren Vicariate, the church reviewed her pastoral plan and in 1957 established the Chapel in Hagaz and Shekloti under the parish of Ghlas and the chapels of Qereotnejar, Sequar, and Mensura were put under the parish of Ashera. Hagher and Erora Bait Ghebru were placed under the parish of Keren. Even after this development, Hagaz had little attention from the church and only a cursory visit was paid to it by the parish priest of Ghlas. Thus, in 1964 the church acquired land and had built two decent huts there.

In 1965 Hagaz furthermore became headquarters of military operation in the area and in 1967 many villages around Hagaz were destroyed and 100s people were massacred in cold blood by the Ethiopian army of Haile Selasie. Due to lack of security, in 1969 the parish of Glass was dismantled and the village was burned down. Meantime, Hagaz became a concentration place for the displaced people and no one was to take care for them.



After so long time, in 1984 the Catholic Church decided to make Hagaz the centre of social service to the drought affect districts of the area. At that time the population of Hagaz not more than 300 families, but with the new development of trade and relief aid,

by 1985 Hagaz come to have more the 2000 families and they were taken pastoral care from Ashera and Glass. In fact, in 1989 the Church opened a parish school, and still in 1999 the agro-technical school run by the Brothers of the Christian Schools was opened and inaugurated in Hagaz.



New Parish house



With the independence of Eritrea in 1991, many returnees settled in Hagaz that became a sub- region centre town. Thus, the eparchy of Keren on taking notice of the pastoral development in Hagaz in 2000 raised it to the level of parish with a resident parish priest. Today Hagaz is the deanery of Bogu, Ghlas and Ashera parishes. It has also two chapels under it, namely that of Awenjeli and SheQloti.

Old parish house





Celebrations in Hagaz