

Richard, Pinuccia, Stefania, Daniele, Luca, Mattia

Helping a church to plant new churches and start new ministries in Trento, Italy

In the family

We are joyful and grateful for the safe arrival of Luca and Mattia on Monday, October 20th. They were a month premature, not because of any problems but because the doctors wanted to play it safe with twins. In any case, Pinuccia

was starting to topple forwards trying to carry them in her belly. They weighed 2210 and 2185 grams. However, being a month early they have had some troubles adapting to the new environment, and have been in incubators in intensive care since their birth.



Not because there is any danger, but they just need some help. The separation is hard - after all the excitement, Stefania and Daniele have only seen them for a couple of minutes on Monday before they went into intensive care, and Pinuccia could not get out of bed to see them until the next day. And seeing all the tubes and sensors attached to the twins tended to make us sadder rather than happier. Pinuccia has recovered well now and can go to see them a few times each day, and there are a lot less things attached.

As I write this (Thursday), the plan is that Pinuccia will be coming home tomorrow, but Mattia and Luca will be staying at the hospital until they can cope on their own. The doctors (rightly)

will not give us any idea of how long this will be, but it will be at least several days. In the mean time Pinuccia and I will be making lots of trips to the hospital.

I'm sorry for the lack of good photos - with no flash, the twins behind glass, and only the parents allowed to see them, in is hard to get anything good. But in the next few days who can check my blog or Facebook page (addresses on the next page), and as soon as I have some good photos I will put them there.



Mattia and Luca getting to know each other.

I don't know if we are ready yet for the arrival of the twins in the house - we just do not know what it means to look after two extra children at the same time! It will be something that we will learn on the job. But certainly the house looks like a shop for baby supplies, with prams, strollers, high chairs, cots, and more put into all the available spaces. We do also have a larger car now, ready for the six of us and two prams - we are very thankful to all of you who contributed financially to that need.

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In the church

There were two wonderful Sunday afternoons in the church a few weeks ago. The first was four baptisms from the church at Trento. This time we went to a park next to a lake, where there was lots of space to mingle with the others and celebrate this time together. In fact there were more than 100 adults, from Trento, the church at Rovereto, a lot of Africans as one of the people baptised is from there, as well as other Christians from around the province and friends and relatives. It was also great that it was the day that Romeo Dinale, the missionary pastor until 1998, and who was my mentor as a young missionary at Trento, visited the church. We could remember all of God's work in the church over the decades, as we looked forward to the new life in these people as well.



Points for prayer

- Give thanks for a good pregnancy, despite the many extra risk factors, so good that the gynaecologists were surprised and asked Pinuccia how she managed to survive.
- Give thanks for Luca and Mattia, and pray for their physical, spiritual, social and intellectual growth. And that they can come home soon!
- For Elisa, Arsene, Luis, and Stefania, who were baptized, that they will continue to grow in their faith.
- That the refugees from Pakistan in the church will find the Lord's joy in our church and in Italy.

The following week there was the regular monthly after church lunch, but this time it was a special one. The international group cooked for everybody, instead of the usual bring and share lunch. The point was that everybody made a donation for the food, with the proceeds going towards helping the several refugees from Pakistan that are in our church. As well as the eating, there was also the opportunity to hear their story. It was great to see the Pakistan people beaming as they found a way to serve the church, cooking and distributing the food for us. Most of them have suffered a lot, physically and psychologically, when in Pakistan and also since arriving in Italy, so it was wonderful to see their joy serving the Lord in Italy.