

A photograph of two young girls standing side-by-side. The girl on the left has white face paint on her cheeks and wears a necklace with a white cross. The girl on the right holds a metal bowl and wears a necklace with a globe. They are in front of a building with a window.

missio

Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Mission Today

Spring 2026

Hope in Myanmar | Our vibrant Church | Lives of faith

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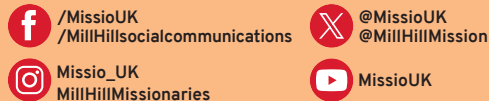
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Editorial Board:
Fr Anthony Chantry
Michelle Slater
Nicky Pisa
Stephen Davies

Mission Today is the magazine for supporters of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries through the Red Box.

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Registered charity number 1056651.*

Cover: Children living at the Internally Displaced People (IDP) Camp located in the grounds of a Catholic Church in Myanmar.

The National Director writes



As we enter the season of Lent, the Church calls us to prayer, fasting and almsgiving – leading us further along the road to full conversion.

Pope Francis taught us that ‘Lent is also a privileged time for prayer’, describing fasting and almsgiving as ‘the two wings of prayer’, because they are signs of love. ‘Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it helps us to become more like the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him.’

As a Missio family, we take these words very seriously not just in Lent but throughout the year.

We encourage each other to pray for mission and missionaries and to give as much as we can towards supporting the work and growth of the Church across the world.

It is the Risen Christ who calls us into a living relationship with him and it is he who simultaneously sends us out as missionaries to share the love of God with all people.

From among us God calls some of us to become Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers to shepherd and serve the Church in its mission. In this edition you will see some of the results of your prayers, sacrifice and generosity.

God’s mission is to bring all humanity together into his Kingdom, and the Church stands at its heart bearing witness to this. As Pope Leo says, ‘we are the Church of Christ, his members, his body. We are brothers and sisters in him; and in Christ, though many and diverse, we are one’.

Today, Tomorrow, Together – We are Missio.

Fr Anthony Chantry
Missio National Director



Be a missionary through prayer

Whoever and wherever we are, we can all be missionary: joining together in prayer with the wider Church, volunteering for Missio or giving generously through the Red Box. These are all valuable ways to further the work of mission.

See the Holy Father’s monthly Prayer Intentions for 2026 on pages 14-15



Morning Offering

Eternal Father, I offer you everything I do this day – my thoughts, works, joys and sufferings. Grant that, enlivened by the Holy Spirit and united to Jesus in the Eucharist, my life this day may be of service to you and to others. And with Mary and the whole Church I pray especially for the Pope’s prayer intention this month.
Amen.



Sr Regina works at the St Joseph Internally Displaced People (IDP) Camp, located in the grounds of Mary of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Mandalay. The Camp provides shelter and one hot meal a day to 512 civil war refugees who are living in makeshift communal accommodation in very cramped conditions.

Many of these families have been living there for more than three years. The Sisters provide care and therapy through their pastoral work and psychosocial support. Sr Regina shares: 'Many are suffering from fear, anxiety, uncertainty and many don't want to live anymore.'

Although it is widely underreported, Myanmar is in deep crisis following the military coup in 2021. Armed resistance against the military continues, while the military responds with airstrikes that have caused widespread devastation amongst the local communities.



Fr Stephen (above), the Missio National Director in Myanmar, sent us this message which he asked us to pass on to all of you who supported World Mission Sunday with your prayers and gifts:

'Thank you very much for your continued concern for Myanmar and your prayers for peace and stability in our country.'

'During the Christmas season, I was only able to reach displaced families living in camps. Due to ongoing military restrictions and serious safety concerns, it was not possible to reach families and children trapped in heavily war-torn areas where access remains blocked.'

'These limitations continue to prevent direct humanitarian assistance to those regions at present.'



Missionaries of hope among all peoples

Everyone deserves to hear the Good News that God loves them and to live in peace and safety, regardless of their background or belief. For World Mission Sunday in 2025, we featured the work of Sister Regina (above) and her community of the Good Shepherd Sisters in conflict-ridden Myanmar. Through this special celebration of our shared faith, we encouraged the Catholic community to pray for peace and offer their financial support.



‘In the camps I was able to visit, I celebrated Mass with the displaced communities, spent time with them pastorally and organised simple social games, especially for children, to bring some consolation and hope during the Christmas season.

‘We have had to find different ways to access the support that you have sent because it cannot go through the banks here.

‘However, thankfully the Church always has a way to get the support where it is needed.

‘In the meantime, I have been using the little personal Mass stipends I had saved, together with local donations from friends

and relatives whom I specifically approached for this charitable intention.

‘Thank you once again for your solidarity, your interest in sharing the reality of Myanmar through *Mission Today* and your continued prayers. Please be assured of my prayers in return.’

In his recent address to the Diplomatic Corp accredited to the Holy See, Pope Leo XIV expressed his concerns for Myanmar:

‘We cannot fail to mention the intensification of signs of tension in east Asia, expressing the hope that all parties involved will adopt a peaceful and dialoguing approach to the disputed issues that are a source of potential conflict.

‘I address a special thought to the serious humanitarian and security crisis afflicting Myanmar, further aggravated by the devastating earthquake of last March.

‘With renewed intensity I appeal for courageous choices to be made of the paths of peace and inclusive dialogue, guaranteeing fair and timely access to humanitarian aid for all.

‘Democratic paths, in order to be authentic, must be accompanied by the political will to pursue the common good, to strengthen social cohesion and to promote the integral development of every person.’

Through World Mission Sunday you have supported missionaries in Myanmar and

in many other countries where people are suffering through turmoil and conflict. By joining Catholics throughout the world in prayer, solidarity and giving you are enabling struggling communities to grow in faith, dignity and self-reliance.

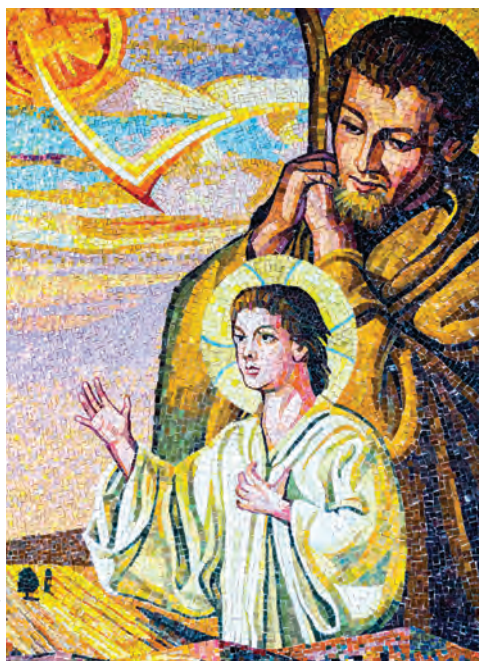
Thank you for helping missionaries, like those in Myanmar, to be messengers and builders of hope. Together, we continue to be ‘Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples’.

To support the work of missionaries around the world, please visit: missio.org.uk/donate



Sharing faith throughout the world

Missio is an instrument through which Catholics in England and Wales can support the training of future priests and sisters in mission dioceses all over the world. Missio also has a special, long-standing relationship with five seminaries in Kenya, India, Malawi, Nigeria and Sri Lanka. These seminaries offer the opportunity to sponsor the training of a future priest. When you sponsor a seminarian, you are playing your part in helping God's immense love to reach the furthest corners of the earth – transforming our world.



The reality for the missionary Church is that some challenges, such as climate change, political unrest, poverty and conflict, affect many or all of the seminaries you support through Missio. What our seminary partners have in common is the desire to overcome these obstacles and nurture confident and compassionate future priests who can bring the love of Christ to their communities and our world. God willing, they will achieve that goal through faith and hard work, aided by your prayers and financial support. Thank you for being a source of support and inspiration in the lives of future priests and their journeys of faith at the service of others.

Scan this QR code to watch short videos of the students:



Christ the King Major Seminary, Kenya

There are currently 398 students studying for the priesthood, with nine seminarians ordained last year. Our challenge is the hiking of prices of commodities due to inflation, which puts a serious strain on our budget. We try to overcome this by cutting our expenditures and doing more subsistence farming.

We are dairy farming, growing crops for consumption, poultry farming and keeping pigs and beef cattle.

Please pass our regards to the whole fraternity of Missio and assure them of our prayers.

Fr Daniel, Rector

Message from Br Joseph, a sponsored student:

Your faith in my vocation strengthens my resolve and inspires me each day to offer myself fully to the service of God and his Church. Your kindness has accompanied me in countless ways; reminding me that this calling is nurtured not in isolation, but through the love and sacrifice of many who believe in the mission of forming future ministers.



St John's Regional Seminary, India

There are currently 80 young men studying for the priesthood, with 17 seminarians ordained last year. The seminarians grow vegetables, take care of the poultry and supply food to the Seminary; however it is not sufficient to meet our needs. The prayerful support and monetary help from Missio donors are indispensable and of great help, as many seminarians come from rural villages with poor economic backgrounds.

There are occasional tensions and discrimination against Christians by other religious people. However, the Mill Hill Missionaries who established the Church in this area in 1883 – and later the seminary in 1926 – laid strong foundations for the Church. We assure you of our prayers for God's blessings in your mission.

Fr Marreddy, Rector

Message from Br Hemanth, a sponsored student:

I sincerely appreciate your self-sacrificing spirit, your prayers and your willingness to share from your heart so that I may continue my journey toward the sacred priesthood. It is a great blessing for me to have a sponsor who not only supports me but also prays for me. Please be assured of my heartfelt prayers for you and your family. When I stand at the altar of God, I will remember you with deep gratitude.



Read the full messages from the Rectors and students at: missio.org.uk/seminaryupdates



of general elections and the situation was tense with much political mudslinging. Our economy was affected and politicians spent a lot of money on campaigns for their personal gains, neglecting the plight of the poor. The issues of mismanagement and corruption led to the devaluation of the local currency. As a result, the cost of goods on the market almost tripled, so sustainability became even more difficult.

Secondly, we received poor rains in the last growing season – bringing about untold hunger. Many families of our seminarians and formators have been affected, with people struggling with where to find something to eat.

The task of formation is huge and when food is short, we have no choice but to send the students home. We are so grateful for your help which makes the burden lighter!

Fr Daniel, Rector

Message from Br Valentino, a sponsored student:



The financial support given enables the seminary to provide for us seminarians with various necessities like food, library books, spiritual literature, pastoral equipment, sporting materials, buying projectors and learning tools and carrying out maintenance work to create a conducive environment for our formation.

Your spiritual support is very vital to our formation journey. Your prayers give us joy and courage; knowing that we are not alone on this journey. Your prayers help us to overcome fears knowing that we have people of good will always with us.

St Peter's Major Seminary, Malawi

There are currently 125 students studying for the priesthood, with 24 seminarians ordained last year. Our mission is to provide a thorough human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation so that the seminarians may become zealous pastors in the service of Christ, his Church and its mission in the world today. In particular, candidates are being invited to take seriously their mission as future priests in the Church and in her evangelising mission.

The past year was yet another very challenging year. Firstly, it was the year

Bigard Memorial Seminary, Nigeria

We currently have 714 student seminarians, with 87 ordained last year. The security situation in Nigeria is getting worse by the day, such that virtually every citizen lives in fear. This is aggravated by the fact of a systematic targeting of Christians – and especially their leaders – by kidnapers and armed bandits. It is unfortunate that the last half of 2025 took a deeply worrisome turn in terms of insecurity: it became so bad that schools are shutting down and even some of our seminaries in the northern part of the country have closed down indefinitely. In the same vein, the cost of living has remained bitingly high, without any hope of reduction any time soon.

However, our people have remained unwaveringly faithful and hopeful that God will definitely intervene in the situation; a determination they have expressed boldly through their increased Church attendance, devotions and practice of Christian charity.

We will always remain grateful to our sponsors and benefactors for their faithful support, and kindly request your continued provisions for the sake of the future of the Church both in Nigeria and beyond.

Fr Albert, Rector



Message from Br Kingsley, a sponsored student: I must remark that the consciousness of your support, both financially and spiritually, makes me feel so special and gives me much sense of a child whom God and humanity loves. I assure you of my prayers also. May God bless you.



Our Lady of Lanka National Seminary, Sri Lanka

Our Seminary currently has 234 students for the priesthood, with 31 seminarians ordained last year. A major challenge faced by the National Seminary is the mounting financial pressure caused by the country's continuing economic instability. With inflation remaining high, the day-to-day running costs of the Seminary, particularly food, utilities, maintenance, educational materials and medical support, have increased sharply.

Compounding this situation is the significant decline in funding from overseas. Global financial constraints, shifting donor priorities and increased competition for aid, have resulted in a steady reduction of external assistance. We understand the situation, but it is hard when we have to turn good students away.

We pray for a fruitful and grace-filled year in 2026, trusting in God's providence and in the generous support of our mission partners.

Fr Quintus, Rector



To find out how you can sponsor the training of a future priest as an individual, or as a family, a community or a parish project, please turn to pages 24 and 25.



Message from Br Mishal, a sponsored student: Your kind help lightens the practical burdens of my studies and daily needs, allowing me to focus wholeheartedly on prayer, formation and pastoral activities. But even more profoundly, it strengthens me spiritually – knowing that someone I have never met is accompanying me with such kindness reminds me constantly that I am not alone in this journey.

Read the full messages from the Rectors and students at: missio.org.uk/seminaryupdates

Portsmouth and proud!

Red Box Local Secretary, Christiane, read an article in *Mission Today* about a parish in Birmingham which was supporting seminarians overseas via Missio. She and fellow parishioner, Jack, were inspired to sponsor a future priest in their parish of St Thomas More in Twyford.



It just sounded so nice and they were so enthusiastic about it,' says Christiane. 'I thought, if we can have a small group, then it's not as heavy a commitment as one person doing it alone.'

Jack agrees: 'The idea of joining together as a parish means people can give according to their ability. It appeals to people because it's a community thing.'

Now, the St Thomas More Twyford Sponsorship Group are eagerly awaiting the name and picture of their seminarian, which will come when students are allocated before the next academic year.

'It will be nice to focus our prayers on a particular person,' says Jack. 'We hope whoever is allocated to us will become part of our parish family.'

Christiane and Jack enthusiastically encourage other parishes thinking of setting up a similar group: 'It's a good way to include everybody, whether they can give 50 pence or £50,' says Christiane. 'I had a warm feeling about the reaction we had to our project.'

'We're already thinking the same idea could be replicated in the other churches that form our parish,' adds Jack.

Jack and Christiane see the sponsorship group as an expression of their mission in the Church. Jack says: 'Jesus said: "spread my word". That's what I have to do with whatever means I've got. Any way I can fulfil that task, that is my mission.'

Christiane agrees: 'We can't all be "on mission", but we can support missionaries in whatever way we can. I've been committed to the Red Boxes for a number of years; that's my commitment to mission. That's where I feel comfortable and happy to help.'

To find out how you can sponsor the training of a future priest as an individual, or as a family, a community or a parish project, please turn to pages 24 and 25.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions 2026

Please join Pope Leo and the whole Church in praying these monthly intentions, particularly on Fridays after the *Angelus*



JANUARY

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God may be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church

FEBRUARY

Let us pray for children suffering from incurable diseases and their families to receive the necessary medical care and support they need, never losing strength and hope.

MARCH

Let us pray for nations to move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and for world leaders to choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

JULY

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising that it is a gift from God.

AUGUST

Let us pray that by finding new ways to proclaim the Gospel in large cities, which are often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we may discover creative ways to build community.

SEPTEMBER

Let us pray for the just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



APRIL

Let us pray for priests going through times of crisis in their vocation; may they receive the accompaniment they need, and may their communities support them with understanding and prayer.



MAY

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoiding food waste, and to ensuring that everyone has access to quality food.



JUNE

Let us pray for sports to be an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue among cultures and nations; may they promote the values of respect, solidarity and personal growth.

OCTOBER

Let us pray for mental health ministry to be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination towards people with mental illnesses.

NOVEMBER

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth; that by not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and in solidarity with those who have less.

DECEMBER

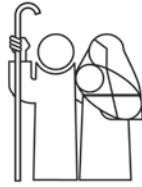
Let us pray for families experiencing the absence of a mother or father; that they may find support and accompaniment in the Church and help and strength through faith during difficult times.

Prayer is central to everything we do. Stay connected with us online for more prayers and reflections: missio.org.uk/pray

And follow us on social media:



A journey of transformation



Br Bonaventure is a tenth-year student training to be a Mill Hill Missionary in Nairobi, Kenya. Originally from Cameroon, his journey has been challenging, but his resilience, determination and faith have strengthened his resolve ‘to love and to serve’.



Q Why did you want to become a Mill Hill Missionary?

I was inspired to become a priest by the Mill Hill Missionaries who served my community in Cameroon. They were missionaries who said very little, but through their lives – striving to be holy in the way

they carried themselves and interacted with the community – they left an indelible mark of faith. I wanted to become like them.

When I researched the Mill Hill Missionaries and who they were, the first thing that caught my interest was the motto itself: ‘to love and to serve’.



Q Can you please share about your experiences of growing up in Cameroon?

Growing up in Cameroon, there are daily life-threatening experiences and many innocent people die. I have been a victim of intimidation at checkpoints from both the Anglophone and Francophone parties; sometimes simply because I hold an ID card bearing the national colours, or because I couldn’t meet their demands for money.

One fateful evening, I was held at gunpoint on my way from Bamenda to Ilung where I was doing my Mission Experience Programme. One of our retired MHM priests, Fr Arnold, used to describe the mission in Cameroon as ‘mission under the gun’. This was sadly all too accurate when one of our brothers, Fr Cosmas Ondari MHM, was murdered in 2018. That year is actually referred to as the ‘heart of the crisis’ because so many people lost their lives.

Through my experiences of the ongoing conflict, I realised that many caught up in the fighting do not value human life as being dignified and sacred, but as something that can be ‘wasted at any time’, as some of the gunmen would say.

Q How has your faith sustained you?

The words of Jesus in John 16:33 have been very close to me: ‘Do not fear, I have conquered the world’. And Jesus’ promise to be with me ‘till the end of time’ in Matthew 28:20 is always comforting.

I have been encouraged by both the perseverance of the Christians who have lived the experience of the sociopolitical crisis in Cameroon, yet look up to God, and by the Church – for consolation and spiritual nourishment.

Q What are your hopes for the future of Cameroon?

I’m hoping for genuine dialogue founded on truth, justice and peace where both parties can freely express their opinions. Only through this can the country regain peace and the opportunity to co-exist. Following this, there would be national reconciliation and peace talks for citizens to begin to trust their government again.

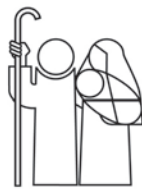
I pray that all who have taken up guns will be able to lay them down.

Q What kind of priest would you like to be?

I would love to be a Mill Hill Missionary who is truly present with the people I am sent to be with, especially in areas where the faith is still struggling to grow. I hope to be a listener, a companion, a bridge-builder and a true shepherd after the very heart of Jesus.

I look forward to serving people who are most in need of the Gospel message. This has always been my desire as a missionary student and as a MHM priest – always being open to go where the need is greatest; to love and to serve the most vulnerable according to Christ’s call.

Red Box donations are shared between Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. The Mill Hill share goes towards training future Mill Hill Missionaries. Please continue to support the Red Box either by having one in your home or by giving directly via Direct Debit or on our website: missio.org.uk/donate



Called to mission

Fr Michael Corcoran MHM, General Superior of St Joseph's Missionary Society, reports on the latest news from the Mill Hill Missionaries:

As a missionary society we are continually invited to reflect on our unique vocation – a calling that challenges us to embrace its prophetic dimension through dialogue, discernment and shared responsibility. Our missionary journey is not a solitary path but a humble walk together, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Our missionary vocation calls us to choose peace; becoming bridges of healing for all humanity. In celebrating the Jubilee of the Missions and of Migrants, Pope Leo XIV reminded us to rekindle our awareness of this vocation – a vocation born from the

desire to bring the joy and consolation of the Gospel to all, especially those enduring pain and hardship.

Pope Leo affirmed that each of us should be able to say with joy that the entire Church is missionary, and it is urgent that we 'go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance or fear'. The Spirit sends us to continue the work of Christ in the world's peripheries; marked at times by war, injustice and suffering.

I have just returned from visiting our Mill Hill Missionaries in Pakistan. In the late



1970s, the Mill Hill Missionaries charted new territory in moving to Sindh Province to work amongst the tribal peoples; namely the *Kutchi Kholi* and the *Paraki Kholi*.

Our missionaries do their best to support those experiencing the oppressive situations caused by the landlord/feudal system. This system has such power over people's lives as they struggle to pay off debts incurred over a long period of time.

There is also quite an 'obsession' with the arranged marriage of young teenagers, even though the State has ruled marriage age to be 18 years old.

Mill Hill Missionaries help families restore their sense of dignity and worth through practical education and spiritual accompaniment.

Despite the many challenges they face, the local peoples' sense of hospitality for the 'stranger' was humbling – they welcomed us to their make-shift homes, sharing the little they had with the visitors.

In this context, the presence of our group of Mill Hill Missionaries from Africa and Asia are a beacon of hope to the landless peoples scattered throughout distant villages.

By walking alongside them, we too are challenged to deepen our missionary spirit and find new ways to deepen and develop our witness to God's love for all people.

We work towards communion – communion with God, communion among us as Mill Hill Missionaries, communion among peoples. The choice to be connectors is crucial in our missionary journey.

For more Mill Hill news, please visit millhillmissionaries.com or follow them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MillHillsocialcommunications): /MillHillsocialcommunications

National Novena to St Joseph

10-18 March 2026



Each year the Mill Hill community prepares for the feast day of St Joseph, our patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers. The Novena is a wonderful way for Red Box supporters to pray for each other and build links of prayer across the world for missionaries and the people they serve.

This year's Novena focuses on St Joseph the Migrant Worker. As a migrant worker, St Joseph faced vulnerability and relied greatly on the kindness and hospitality of others. As we prepare for the Feast of St Joseph this March, let us reflect on those who, like him, find themselves 'strangers in a foreign land'. May our prayers and the intercession of our blessed patron, St Joseph, help them feel welcomed and supported.

You can join in at home by praying the daily Novena and prayer and/or by sending your petitions to us at 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7GZ.

You are welcome to attend the Novena Masses and Novena Evening Prayer at St Joseph's Church, Maidenhead SL6 7EG, from 10-18 March. Mass will be held at 10am each day of the Novena, except on Sunday when it will be at 11am. Novena Evening Prayer will take place at 7pm each evening. The Solemnity of St Joseph will be celebrated on 19 March at 10am.

For more information, or to request a petition slip, prayer booklet or newsletter, please email: novenamhm@gmail.com or visit millhillmissionaries.com/novena

During office hours, you can also call: 020 7821 9755

Missionaries killed in 2025

Seventeen missionaries and pastoral workers across the world were killed in 2025. 10 priests, two seminarians, two catechists, two religious sisters and one layman lost their lives whilst going about their daily lives of service to Christ and his Church.

The causes of these attacks were seldom due to religious differences; more often than not, they were the result of the violence, poverty and injustice being experienced locally.

Some of the killings appear to be revenge attacks on missionaries who had stood up to local criminal activities or who had spoken out against the ill treatment of the vulnerable in their communities.



The report by *Agenzia Fides** on missionaries killed in 2024 did not include the name of **Fr Tobias Chukwujekwu Okonkwo**, a priest and pharmacist who was attacked whilst driving in southeastern Nigeria, on the evening of 26 December 2024.

(Image: Nigerian Voice)

Mathias Zongo and **Christian Tientga**, two catechists, were travelling by motorbike with two other catechists when they were killed by a group of armed men on 25 January in Burkina Faso.



Fr Grzegorz Dymek, 58, was killed by an intruder on 13 February during an attempted robbery of the substantial charity funds that had been raised by the parish in Poland. The perpetrator was found on the scene and arrested. (Image: Parish of Our Lady of Fatima, Kłobuck)



Fr Donald Martin, 44, priest of the Archdiocese of Mandalay, was the first Burmese Catholic priest killed in the conflict that has plagued Myanmar. On 14 February his mutilated body was found by parishioners in the grounds of the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes where he was the parish priest. (Image: Mandalay Archdiocese)

Br Andrew Peter, a 21-year-old seminarian, was murdered by kidnappers who abducted him and Fr Philip Ekweli from the presbytery of St Peter's Catholic Church in Nigeria on 3 March. Fr Ekweli was released by the kidnappers on 13 March and the news of Br Peter's death was released on 17 March.

Fr Sylvester Okechukwu, parish priest of St Mary Tachira Church in Nigeria, was kidnapped from his home on the evening of 4 March and his lifeless body was discovered the next day.



Srs Evanette Onezaire and **Jeanne Voltaire**, Religious Sisters belonging to the Little

Sisters of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, died on 31 March in Haiti. They had been working in the local school and were killed by armed gang members whilst taking refuge in a pupil's nearby home. Devastatingly, everyone died in the attack. (Image: lenouvelliste.com)



Fr Arul Carasala, originally from India, had been serving in Kansas in the United States since 2004. The parish priest was shot and killed on 3 April in his presbytery by an elderly man unknown in the parish. Fr Arul, a dean and member of the Bishop's council, had helped many missionary priests become accustomed to the local culture before serving in the Archdiocese's parishes. (Image: Archdiocese of Kansas City)



Fr Alloyd Cheruiyot Bett was shot on 22 May at the end of Holy Mass in a small Christian community in Kenya. The murder was carried out by several gunmen who fired shots, one of which hit Fr Bett in the neck, killing him instantly. Fr Bett was known for denouncing cattle theft and other banditry in the area. (Image: Agenzia Fides)

Fr Luka Jomo, a parish priest in Sudan, was killed by a stray bullet that took his life and that of two other young people on 13 June.

Fr Godfrey Chukwuma Oparaekwe, a parish priest in Nigeria, was killed while attempting to mediate a family dispute on the evening of 17 June.

Br Emmanuel Alabi was one of three seminarians kidnapped during an attack on the minor seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Nigeria on 10 July. Whilst the other two seminarians were later released, Br Emmanuel, who had been wounded during the attack, died as a result of the forced march imposed on him by his kidnappers. The news of his tragic death was confirmed on 5 November.

Fr Augustine Dauda Amadu was killed on 29 August during a burglary of his presbytery in Sierra Leone. He was committed to helping disadvantaged youth and families, with his sermons against corruption and crime earning him great respect. According to parishioners, this also created enemies in certain circles.

Fr Matthew Eya, a parish priest in Nigeria, was killed on the evening of 19 September. His vehicle was ambushed by armed men whilst he was travelling back to his parish.

Fr Bertoldo Pantaleón Estrada, a parish priest in Mexico, disappeared on 4 October. He was found murdered on 6 October.

Mark Christian Malaca, 39, a teacher at St Stephen's Academy in the Philippines, was shot on 4 November by unknown assailants in the village where he lived.

** This information is based on the report published each year by Agenzia Fides, the news agency of the global Missio network and includes all Catholics who are involved in the Church's pastoral activities and were killed in violent circumstances.*

Please join us in giving thanks for the work and witness of these missionaries. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

An enduring legacy of faith, hope and love

For many of us, faith is the greatest gift we have received. It has shaped who we are, sustained us through life's joys and struggles and rooted us in the love of a God who never abandons his people. Through Missio, that same gift of faith continues to be shared with communities across the world, often in the most challenging of circumstances.

A legacy gift to Missio plants a seed of faith, sown in hope, that continues to grow and multiply long into the future. It hands on the gift of faith in a God of love and forgiveness to generations yet to come.

The Holy Father has asked Missio to help the Church to be present where it is most needed. This is why Missio is so much more than a charity; Missio is the way we, as Catholics, live out our own call to mission received at baptism.

Yes, Missio helps meet practical needs: building clinics, classrooms, churches and shelters, but the heart of our work is offering people the chance to encounter Christ by living and sharing the values of the Gospel.

Through Missio we can all take part in something bigger than ourselves: sharing Christ through word, witness and works of love.



The quiet miracle of legacies

Today, gifts left in Wills fund one in four Missio projects. Quietly, powerfully, legacy gifts sustain the Church's mission across the world. They allow missionaries, priests and religious sisters to live and work alongside communities, responding in crises and helping people overcome the injustice, violence and poverty which deny them their God-given dignity.

Thanks to legacies, parish communities in Nigeria have been able to rebuild classrooms and churches destroyed by conflict. In Myanmar, local communities have multipurpose halls where families can gather safely to celebrate Mass. In Cameroon, children whose villages were burned down can continue their education in newly built classrooms. In Malawi, legacies have funded a new dormitory to house the growing number of young men discerning the priesthood.

Big or small, every legacy gift matters.

The promise of hope

Missio reminds us that we belong to one global family. When we say to another, 'you are my brother, you are my sister,' we reflect the love of Christ himself. In a world increasingly marked by division and need, this sense of shared faith and responsibility has never been more important.

Through Missio you can help missionaries offer people in great need a hope rooted in the promise of eternal life – a hope that makes all things new.

A gift to Missio in your Will is an offering of the gift of faith itself: placing ourselves at the service of the Gospel and of those who suffer, trusting that God's love will continue to work through our generosity.

Our promise to you

Missio is funded entirely by Catholics like you. We are deeply grateful for the trust you place in us and we do not take it lightly. Our promise to you is simple: your legacy will be used wisely, carefully and prayerfully. We are committed to the highest standards of accountability; ensuring that your gift is distributed efficiently where the need is greatest. We work directly through the Catholic Church and local bishops in mission dioceses.



By remembering Missio in your Will you are helping to build God's Kingdom of mercy, peace and justice. You are ensuring that the gift of faith you cherish today will continue to be shared tomorrow and for generations to come.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how your faith might live on as an enduring legacy of hope and love.

We hold an annual memorial Mass every November to remember and give thanks for generous supporters who have left a gift to Missio in their Will. To find out more about this Mass, call 020 7821 9755.

To receive some useful information about how to remember Missio and/or the Mill Hill Missionaries in your Will, or to speak to someone in confidence and with no obligation, please call Angelica on **020 7821 9755** or email: **legacy@missio.org.uk**

You can also visit **missio.org.uk/legacies** or complete the form on page 25 and tick the yellow box.

Training the priests of tomorrow

In many mission dioceses there are increasing numbers of students for the priesthood and religious life. Because their communities are poor, they must undertake their training with very basic facilities and scarce resources.



Valentino, a seminarian in Malawi

Your prayers and donations help to build and maintain seminaries, cover day-to-day running costs and provide for the education and formation of future priests.

Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, has been given a unique role and is committed to supporting every diocesan seminary in the missionary world – as first entrusted to us by Pope Pius XI in 1922.

In mission dioceses across Africa and Asia it costs at least £700 a year to train one future priest. Even with significant sacrifices made by families, parishes and the seminary community, the full cost of formation is often beyond their reach. Your contribution helps faith communities to grow in places where the Church is new and under-resourced.

Could you give £1.37 a day to help them?

If you, or your parish group, can commit £42 a month (£500 per year) for four years,

you can ensure that board and lodging, building maintenance, support staff and library books for one seminarian are paid. If you wish, you will be told the name of your student so that you can hold him in prayer, as he will you. Read more on pages 8-13.

Your prayers and support are a powerful way to help the Church share the Gospel across generations and across the world. Together we can ensure tomorrow's priests can answer God's call and reveal his love and hope to every person, wherever they are.

For more information about how you can support the training of a future priest, please call 020 7821 9755, email info@missio.org.uk, visit missio.org.uk/sponsor or complete the form on the next page and return it to us.

Please fill in the form below and return it in the **freepost envelope attached** (Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU)

Your details (PLEASE PRINT)

*Required fields

Spring 2026

Title*

First Name* Surname*

Address*

Postcode*

Tel Parish

Email

- Please send me the monthly **Missio eNewsletter** (provide email address above)
- I want Missio to treat all donations I have made for this tax year and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years as **Gift Aid** donations until I notify Missio otherwise. I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I will notify Missio if I want to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on my Income and/or Capital Gains.

Date **N.B. Please ensure the box is ticked.**

- SUPPORT**
- I enclose a donation of £ _____ (please make cheques/postal orders payable to Missio-Mill Hill)
- I enclose a donation of £ _____ towards the training of future Priests and Sisters (please make cheques/postal orders payable to Missio)
You can set up a Direct Debit or give by Card overleaf, or online at missio.org.uk or call us on 020 7821 9755 (office hours).
- Please send me information on how to sponsor a future priest
- Please tick if you do not require a receipt

Please send me information on how to leave a gift in my Will

Please send me a booklet for the Feast of St Joseph Novena (suggested donation £1)

MASSSES

I would like _____ (please state number) Mass/es offered for the following intentions (please use a separate sheet if necessary):

Intentions:

- I enclose £ _____ (the recommended offering is £10 or more per Mass; please make cheques payable to Missio Mass a/c or see over to pay by card)
- Please tick if you do not require a receipt

If you would like to receive a Mass Card, please contact us on 020 7821 9755





Mission Today

Mission Today

23 Eccleston Square,
London SW1V 1NU





Tel: 020 7821 9755 (office hours)
Email: redbox@missio.org.uk

Missio

Web: missio.org.uk
Reg. Charity No. 1056651

Mill Hill Missionaries

Web: millhillmissionaries.com
Reg. Charity No. 220690

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Mission Today is the magazine for supporters of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Published by Missio © 2026 ISSN 0967-8379

Missio continues the vital work of The Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) and the other Pontifical Mission Societies.

Mission Today is printed on paper from renewable resources – managed forests in which new trees are planted for each one felled.

Let's think outside the Box!

If it is not possible for your Red Box to be collected or for you to take it to church, here are ways to 'think outside the Box'.

Below you will find how you can send us your Red Box money today, so that together we can reach missionaries and communities who need our help as soon as possible.

How you can make a donation:



Send a cheque: Make it payable to **Missio-Mill Hill** and post it to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU



Give online: Go to missio.org.uk/redbox



Give via text: Text **REDBOX 5** (to donate £5) or **REDBOX 10** (to donate £10) to **70085**
This costs £5 or £10 plus your standard message rate



Give via phone: Call us on **020 7821 9755** during office hours to donate with your credit or debit card



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Thank you!

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Today. Tomorrow. Together.

