

# 2024 LEGACY MISSION NEWS

## GOOD NEWS INDEED!

Our whole life is marked by beginnings and endings. Our education, our relationships, our careers, our illnesses and tragedies, even our hopes and joys; they always begin somewhere and end sometime later. Often people come into our lives at certain times to help us through a bad patch, to comfort and encourage us, and then withdraw when all is well again.

Jesus' mission is to demonstrate that our loving God is here with each one of us from the moment of our conception until the moment we die. He does not drop in and out of our lives, willy nilly, but stays with us until the hour of our death, after which new and eternal life in him awaits us. This is Good News indeed!

The last words of Jesus in St Matthew's Gospel are 'And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time'.

Missio is the Holy Father's charity for mission and is with the Church throughout the world at all times. It is over 200 years since Missio began supporting church communities and we still do today. And tomorrow, Missio will still be wherever the Church is young, poor or new, with support and encouragement. Through prayer and charity, Missio expresses the solidarity God has with us, from the beginning until the end.

Your legacy intention will ensure that we can continue these works of active solidarity long into the future. Through



your generosity, we will be able to say to countless Catholic communities around the world, 'We stand with you in your times of joy, hope, grief and anguish, now and forever'.

**May God reward you for your goodness.**

*Father Tony*

**Fr Anthony Chantry**  
*Missio National Director*

## GIFTS OF FAITH

The Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph (FMSJ) are a Congregation of Sisters operating in Kenya and Uganda. Their mission is to minister to those most in need – people who are experiencing extreme poverty, the sick and the dying.

The Sisters – also known as the Mill Hill Sisters – run five health projects, including three health facilities, a dispensary, and a hospital, which serves an

estimated 50,000 people every year. The Sisters also run six schools (nursery, primary and secondary) in Kenya and Uganda, and serve children with special needs at two centres.

But until last year, the congregation's novices faced a common yet significant obstacle to their formation.

As the Sisters had no transport of their own, they had to rely on public transport which, in





eastern Africa, is extremely insecure and unreliable – often a 25 minute journey can take more than two hours. At times, it is also very dangerous, especially for young women.

Maximillah Adisa, a second year Novice, shares: ‘It is worse during rainy season when we have to arrive in the house very late, and when you hear on the news about young ladies who have been drugged in public vehicles and kidnapped. We come back home very shaken.

‘I remember going for a retreat with my two sisters in Ngong Diocese – we had to shift from one matatu (shared minibus) to another, and even some motorbikes to get to our destination. In some cases, we have been forced to use costly taxi services when travelling as a group for recollections and pastoral work.

‘As part of our formation, we are required to participate in inter-novitiate courses – usually held in a suburb with no public transport.

‘To reach this centre on time, we sometimes had to rush away from our apostolate in the nearby Kibera slums. Sometimes we arrived late and found the hall full, therefore having no choice but to join

other latecomers sitting outside. Coming back after 5pm was rush hour – another ordeal.’

**In July 2022, the Sisters asked for Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries’ help to buy a van of their own. Thanks to legacies from our generous supporters, in December 2022, the Sisters purchased an eleven-seater van.**

Mill Hill Novice Director, Sr Bibiana says the van enables the novices to travel together safely. She shares: ‘In the short period we have had the van, it has made a big difference. We are happy and have a little pride! This van will enable us to carry out our work with ease.’

Maximillah Adisa says: ‘I want to express my sincere gratitude for your generous gift. Your help brought a sigh of relief and endless joy to us. I had experienced hardships in terms of transport; I know how it feels to have this precious gift. I know my two Sisters who were professed last year, if they were here, they would be flying high with excitement... Really it has not been easy and that is why my happiness can’t be explained in this short note.







‘Thank you so much for the selfless giving of your supporters. You have really changed our lives as novices; our four postulants who are to join us, and others in future. You have played a significant role in God’s work. It is my prayer that God may continue blessing you abundantly for the services you offer to those who are in need and to His servants. Amen.’

Missionaries rely on your support to bring the love and compassion of Jesus to those who are in desperate need of hearing that God loves them and that they have value in

God’s eyes and in ours. If you can, please consider leaving a legacy to Missio in your Will.

*Thank you.*

**‘It is worse during rainy season when we have to arrive in the house very late, and when you hear on the news about young ladies who have been drugged in public vehicles and kidnapped.’**

Maximillah Adisa

## MEMORIAL MASS

We celebrate a special Memorial Mass every November in our chapel of Ss Peter and Paul, located in the Missio office. During this Mass we recall in thanksgiving the names of those benefactors from whom we have received a bequest in the past year, and pray for the repose of their souls.

## REMEMBRANCE

We pray for all living and deceased supporters of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries at Mass. Mill Hill Priests offer Mass for the deceased in November and remember them at Mass on Sunday, and in their Daily Office.

If you would like to add the name of your loved one to our online Book of Remembrance, please call 020 7821 9755 (9am-5pm) or send an email: [info@missio.org.uk](mailto:info@missio.org.uk)



You can scan this QR code to watch a short film about the Sisters in Kenya, or visit: [missio.org.uk/legacies](http://missio.org.uk/legacies)

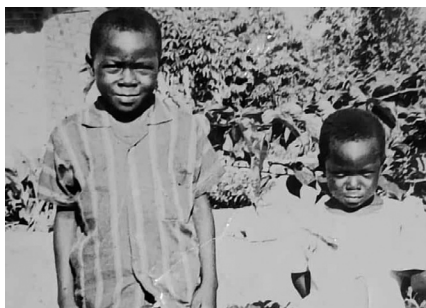
# SHE LIVES ON THROUGH ME



When Teresa Gleeson from Bury St Edmunds supported a young seminarian through Missio, she probably had no idea what an impact her support would have. Today, that seminarian is Fr Vincent, the National Director for Missio in Malawi. Here, he reflects on the immense difference Teresa and other Missio supporters make to our global Church family, and her amazing legacy of faith.

'I was not born at the mission hospital, but we received childcare services from the Catholic hospital when I was very young, and then as I grew up, we got all the medical support and services from there. That is Missio.

'Many of the crucial people in Malawi were supported by schools run by the Church. The incumbent president of the country and the vice-president came through secondary schools run by the Catholic Church, supported by Missio. My birth, my primary education



and secondary education were all made possible by Missio.

'Then, when I was studying at the major seminary, to become a Priest, Teresa Gleeson began supporting me through Missio.

'Teresa was my (spiritual) mother. Of course, we never met in person, but she shared her faith through her letters, her prayers and her financial support.

'Teresa Gleeson's prayers were answered. She produced me! She offered those prayers to the Blessed Sacrament of Jesus for me, and here I am: I'm a Priest. I'm the living example; the response to Jesus Christ and the Blessed Sacrament.

'I was trained through Missio, and by God's grace, I'm now the Missio Director in Malawi. So today, I am giving the ripple effect of what Teresa did for me. I teach people about the importance of sponsoring and praying for seminarians; praying for young people that they become Priests.

'Teresa died in 2019. But she continues to live on through me, and through my programme of animation and teaching in Malawi. She will continue to live forever, because what I'm teaching today, others will continue. I see young people in the seminary today whom I animate and encourage. And through Mission Together (Missio's children's branch) in Malawi, there are some children today who I know for sure will be Priests. I know they are the future leaders of our church and our country.

**'Missio is all about bringing good to humanity across the whole world, especially in the places that are more in need, like the young churches, the poor churches – Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, India, and many other parts of the world.**

'So in this, I tell you, the spirit of Teresa Gleeson will continue to live forever and ever. I know the good she has done for me and for the whole Church, through Missio. And I am certain that she must be in a better place in heaven, with Jesus and Mother Mary and the Saints.'

**You can request our Sponsorship information and our new Legacy leaflet by contacting Angelica. Missio's contact info is below.**