

Mission TODAY

missio 

AUTUMN 2018



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Mission Today is the magazine for supporters of APF-Mill Hill.

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Cover: Sister Dinesha and one of the children being cared for at the Our Lady of Valour Pastoral Centre in south Tel Aviv, Israel. You can find out more at missio.org.uk/srdinesha

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The National Director writes



Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel,' St Paul wrote long ago in his letter to the Church in Corinth in the first century. In the twenty-first century, these words still echo in the hearts of all of us who claim to follow Jesus Christ, for across the world there are countless people who have not yet heard the Good News.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, challenges us in his exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: 'For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?'

The love of God we find, here and now, in the Risen Lord. He has been our gentle, often silent, companion on the road of life. He offers to guide us on the journey, and, when we listen, we find life in abundance.

When we are lost, he comes looking for us and rejoices as he puts us back on track. When we collapse and think we can face no more, he carries us.

He never imposes, forces, cajoles; only accompanies with a love so profound and so all-embracing, that it is hard to comprehend and almost impossible to ignore.

World Mission Sunday is an opportunity for the whole Church to support her mission of proclaiming the God who revealed his immense love in the crucified and risen Christ. Read more on pages 6-9.

Your faithful support of Missio, through your prayers, sacrifice and offerings makes this possible, and the world is a better place for it. May this year's *World Mission Sunday* in October be a celebration of even greater things to come.

Yours in Christ,

Father Tony

Fr Anthony Chantry, National Director



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**

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions



Please join Pope Francis and the whole Church in praying for these monthly prayer intentions, particularly for ten minutes on Fridays at 12.30pm

NOVEMBER

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

DECEMBER

That in their dialogue with culture, people involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find a language that is appropriate to the present time.

JANUARY

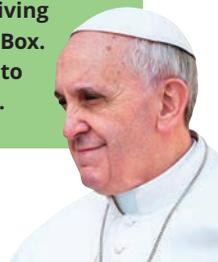
That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

FEBRUARY

For a generous welcome of victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

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.



Missio around the world

ENGLAND

'Children helping children' for 175 years

A sunny Aylesford Priory was the setting for Mission Together's Good Shepherd Liturgy in Southwark Archdiocese recently. Over 1,200 pupils gathered to celebrate being '*children helping children*'.

Mission Together is Missio's children's branch and encourages children to share their faith through prayers, scripture, reflections, song and dance. This year is particularly special for Mission Together as schools mark 175 years of children around the world praying for, and sharing with, one another.

Thank you to the children of Southwark who raised over £8,500 for Mission Together last year. Thanks to them, children living in poverty overseas know that they are not forgotten and that there are children who care about them and who pray to God for them.

Well done Southwark Archdiocese!



VATICAN

Missionaries all our lives



Archbishop Romero meeting Pope Paul VI at the Vatican

Two inspirational missionary figures will be recognised as saints by Pope Francis on 14 October.

Pope Paul VI wrote the influential letter, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, in 1975. It helped reinvigorate our understanding of our baptismal call to mission.

Archbishop Oscar Romero was martyred whilst celebrating Mass on 24 March 1980, for speaking up for the poor and marginalised in his native El Salvador. He was Missio National Director in El Salvador from 1974-1977.

Praising the fact that 'the Church celebrates *World Mission Sunday*', speaking in 1977 Romero reminded us that 'this does not mean that we must be missionaries for just one Sunday. We have to be missionaries for the duration of our lives.'

St Paul VI, pray for us.

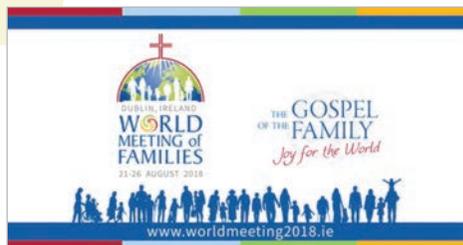
St Oscar Romero, pray for us.

IRELAND

Supporting families

Held every three years and sponsored by the Holy See's Pontifical Council for the Family, the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) is the world's largest Catholic gathering of families. It has been described as a celebration of family life and of the Catholic Church's commitment to support families.

Dublin in Ireland has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the 9th World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018, guided by the theme *'The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World'*. This major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church.



For more information, please visit www.worldmeeting2018.ie

We pray for the success of this wonderful endeavour!

BOLIVIA

**All give and all is given**

Archbishop Giovanni Pietro Dal Toso, President of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS), also known as Missio internationally, recently met with bishops attending the Fifth American Mission Congress (CAM 5) in Bolivia, to speak about the work of Missio.

'Some principal tasks of Missio... to kindle the missionary spirit by means of raising missionary awareness; promoting and supporting prayers for the missions; offering the opportunity for formation to priests, religious men and women and the laity; being responsible for missions collections, especially the collection on *World Mission Sunday* in October, a collection which is entirely destined, according to the intentions of the Pope, for the Universal Solidarity Fund.'

On this matter the Archbishop added: '... this Fund receives the contributions of even the poorest dioceses in the poorest of countries. As far as I know this is the only example institutionally constituted in the Catholic Church in which all give and all is given to the most in need... I would underline that this is a formidable service that distributes aid equally to all circumscriptions in mission territories, guaranteeing them the minimum for survival.' (Source: FIDES)

Building a future of hope

Our perception of Ethiopia is still strongly linked with the devastating famine of the early 1980s in which one million people died. Much has happened since then, but despite the recent economic growth in this east African nation, it remains one of the poorest countries in the world.

Millions of people benefit from the Catholic Church's presence in Ethiopia. Among them are the Menja, who live on the fringes of society. The Little Sisters of Jesus are taking on the challenge to help the Menja overcome the discrimination and hurt they have endured for centuries.

Sister Karlo, from the congregation of the Little Sisters of Jesus, helps to support families in Wush Wush. The majority of families are part of the Menja, whose cultural differences, in particular their consumption of certain wild animals, mean that they are considered 'untouchable' by the majority of the population in the Kaffa region.

The Menja are excluded from festivals and meetings, and historically, Menja people have been forbidden from entering Kaffa people's houses, sitting together with them at a table or eating together with them at all. Education and growing awareness have led to greater acceptance of the Menja, but their lives are still marked by social isolation and discrimination. **Sr Karlo refuses to accept this situation, and seeks direct contact with Menja families.**

For Kenito and his family, home is a simple round hut made of branches and clay. Kenito grows maize and bananas in a field next to the hut to support his family. His two children – four-year-old son Israel and three-year-old daughter Mekidse – run barefoot and rub their eyes constantly, waving away the flies that swarm around their heads. Their mother, Tigist, looks at their red eyes with concern and says, apologetically, 'We have no clean water



Sr Karlo with Kenito and his family

here. I have to fetch it from far away every day.' The Sisters invite the two children to their nursery, where they will care for them and offer them a chance to wash and have a hot meal. Kenito promises to bring the two of them along, even though the nursery is a long way away.

Sr Karlo remembers her first days in Wush Wush very well. There were only a few Catholics among the Menja. 'Our Menja neighbours were all very shy,' she explains. 'Once in a while, I would speak to a lady who always sold us firewood. One day, I invited her to come into the house, but she was embarrassed to do so. I told her, "Please come in, Alemeto, you are our friend." Finally, she came in. We sat together, ate bread from the same plate and drank coffee together, as is traditional here in Ethiopia. When Alemeto left, there were tears in her eyes, and she said, "Today, your God and my God met." I had to cry as well – with joy.'



Much has changed since then. When the sisters invite people to festivals, the Menja families they have befriended come too. They also come to Mass, saying: 'You are our sisters, you are our friends. We come to your church, where we are accepted and understood. Now, it is our church, too.'

As the Pope's official charity for overseas mission, Missio works to answer the call to love God and to love our neighbour by bringing the hope of the Gospel where there is turmoil, poverty and uncertainty in the world, through you.

World Mission Sunday is on 21 October this year. Missio will be encouraging the

Coffee: a ray of hope

Bishop Markos Gebremedhin is the head of the vicariate of Jimma Bonga in south-western Ethiopia, where many ethnic groups and religions coexist. He explains why the Menja are destroying their own way of life and how the church is trying to help them to live with dignity.

Can you describe the Menja's situation?

The Menja are the original settlers of this region. However, because they live differently from the other groups of people here, they are discriminated against. They have no opportunity for education. Economically speaking, they are very poor. Many make their living from cutting down trees in the rainforest and turning them into charcoal that they sell in the cities.

Won't this destroy the forest and their way of life?

Because the people here are very poor, they live in the here and now, with no vision of the future. We want to help them to develop new ideas about how to use the available natural resources effectively and manage the rainforest sustainably, instead of destroying it.

Does coffee represent an opportunity for the Menja?

Absolutely! Coffee is an attractive product on the global market. We work out sustainable projects for people. When we teach them how to grow coffee, they gradually become able to make a living. We've established a coffee plantation on the church grounds, where we employ the poor. During the harvesttime, they pick coffee and earn

faithful of England and Wales to 'work together to build a future of hope' in Ethiopia and throughout the world through your prayers and donations.

The Pope's worldwide collection is a real sign of God's mercy and love to our sisters and brothers around the world who are suffering through poverty and discrimination.

Let's work together to build a future of hope in Ethiopia

Find out how you can help by visiting missio.org.uk/wms



a wage. We use the proceeds from selling the coffee to help them, too.

Can you describe how you help the people in your vicariate?

We can be found in every district of our vicariate, proclaiming the Good News, looking after the poorest and the needy, and engaging in peace-building work between opposing groups of people. Many of the Menja are unable to send their children to school because they don't have enough money, so we help them by providing nursery places and helping with school visits. We have a boarding school for disadvantaged boys and girls from rural regions. We also look after older people, homeless people and orphaned children.

Has the Church's work changed the Menja's lives?

Many of those who are now part of the Church have seen positive changes in their lives. They have a better understanding of family life; their family relationships have become more loving. The Menja see that people from their community, just like others, can go to school and get ahead in life. That gives them hope. Thanks to the work of everyone in the Church, where everyone really does give their very best to convince other communities that everyone is equal before God, the Menja have seen significantly greater acceptance. We were all created by God. **We are all one.**

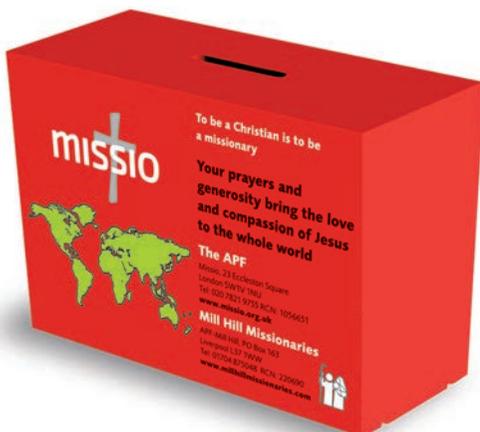
Celebrating mission

Violet is a seven-year-old altar server from St Gabriel's Church in Alsager. Earlier this year her parish priest explained to her about how we care for our church family around the world through our prayers and donations to the Red Box.

It struck a chord with Violet, who saw how she could make a real difference. So she asked Missio's Diocesan Director for Shrewsbury, Fr Tony Grace, for her own Red Box.

Violet's missionary efforts have even been influencing the rest of her family, too. She says, 'My brother and I put half of our money-box contents in, because my brother has been learning about Africa and he wanted to help the children.'

'During Lent, my nanny gave us the money she would have spent on cakes and biscuits, too. I was amazed when Fr Tony told me to look under my Red Box to find my total – an amazing £17.69! We've now started collecting for our third box.'



A big thank you to Violet and her family for reaching out to others all over the world. You're never too young to be a missionary!



Summer Mass in Liverpool

Just over the diocesan border from Alsager, hundreds of people came together at St Helen's Church, Crosby in the Archdiocese of Liverpool in June. For the first time, the annual Liverpool Summer Mission Mass took place away from the Mill Hill Missionaries' base in Freshfield, reaching out to the local community. St Helen's has been an incredibly supportive parish for many years. Last year, they raised almost £8,000 through the Red Box!



Fr Andrew Mukulu MHM, the Councillor for Africa on the Mill Hill Missionaries' General Council, was the main celebrant, and Missio's National Director, Fr Anthony Chantry, gave the homily, sharing his recent experiences of the church in Cambodia and Vietnam, supported through Red Box donations.

More local events are planned later in the year. Keep an eye out in *Mission Today* and on Facebook and Twitter for Masses and events near you.



65 years of dedicated service

In 1953, the same year as Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, Maureen Crowhurst became Local Secretary for her parish in West Wickham. She has worked tirelessly ever since to promote the Red Box, organising collections, and telling others about how they can help the needy around the world. Over the last 65 years, the collections in her parish have raised almost £150,000!

Catherine Scott, Missio's Community Outreach Coordinator, together with Southwark Diocesan Director, Deacon Tom Kavanagh, presented Maureen with a 'gold award' for her incredible dedication as she finally retires from the role. Catherine explains, 'Maureen has done sixty-five years' service, and while she has not visited the missions, like Pauline Jaricot – founder of the APF – she has nurtured a life-long passion for mission from her south London environs.

'It is a flame in Maureen which will only be extinguished with her last breath on earth. Congratulations to her. What a woman!'

Huge thanks to Maureen, and the whole community in West Wickham.

More stories about the Red Box around England and Wales can be found online at:



MissioUK
MillHillMissionaries



MissioUK

Being part of a community and sharing faith is so important in today's society. In times of sorrow, the hope and love we share with others can bring about miraculous transformation.

Paul recently shared his experience of faith with us and is happy to share it with you too:

By way of an introduction I was baptised a Catholic but not, unfortunately, brought up in the faith. In fact I only found out that I was a Catholic a few years ago.

For many years I felt lost. Although I would often find myself sat in a church seeking its sanctuary I always felt an outsider, unworthy to be there, let alone being worthy to attend Mass and fully engage with the Church as a community. I don't know what finally prompted me to actually attend my first Mass, but from that day forth I came to realise that I had come home. Yes, I was a sinner, but so was everybody else at that Mass. But I was worthy, and God loved me as he loves everyone.

Looking back now I very much feel that the words from Matthew were being directed to me: 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you' (Mt 7:7-8).

I had just been afraid to knock.

What important life lessons would I like to pass on to future generations? That God is always there, with us, and loves us, we just need to learn to open our hearts to find him. And also to thank God for every day that he has given us by making the most of each day. Our time is short.

I am so grateful to our Church for helping me find my way home, and for finding real purpose to my life, that I would like to help lay those foundations for the future. A gift in my Will to Missio is the perfect way to do that, and to ensure that others in the future may also find their way home to God.

I was baptised in January 1964, and confirmed at the Easter Vigil 2017, aged 53.

Paul

Wales





Leave a legacy of faith

Care for the future of our Church

Like Paul, on page 12, you too can share the love of Jesus.

Special gifts left to us in our supporters' Wills help us reach out with God's compassion and light to some of the most desolate and desperate parts of our world.

Where there is turmoil, poverty and uncertainty, where the Church is new, young or poor, there you will find the APF and our Mill Hill Missionaries.

By providing the building blocks of our churches, schools, orphanages and clinics, we ensure that your gift will live on year after year in places like these, in generations yet to come and in children

who, thanks to your love, will receive the gift of faith and hope.

Making a gift to Missio and/or Mill Hill in your Will means that you will be leaving a foundation of faith for the future. A wonderful gift of faith that lasts forever.

Leave a legacy of love

The next step is to send for our information brochure by filling in the form overleaf. We will send you this in confidence and without any obligation on your part. If you would prefer to speak to someone, please call Monica at Missio's National Office on 020 7821 9755. Alternatively you can email the National Director, Fr Anthony Chantry at: director@missio.org.uk

Help bring faith and hope to where they are most needed

We need your help to reach out to all people, offering the dignity and hope that comes through knowing Jesus.

Your prayers and generosity make possible the essential and life-giving mission of the Church in our world: fighting poverty, injustice and exploitation.

Red Box holders and annual members are part of the APF world family. You play a vital role in the mission of the Church, bringing God's love and renewed hope to the poorest and most in need.

To offer your support, please complete the form on the right.

You can also call 020 7821 9755 or visit missio.org.uk



Our Lady's Guild of the Sick

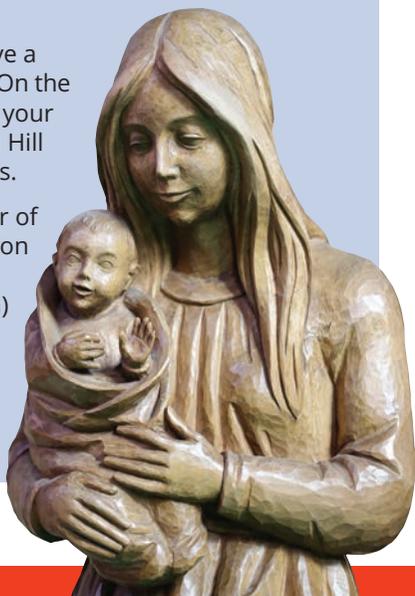
In the spirit of St Thérèse of Lisieux, members of Our Lady's Guild of the Sick offer up their prayers, their pains and suffering for the mission of the Church and its missionaries.

By becoming a member of the Guild, you will receive a quarterly newsletter and a *Mission Today* magazine. On the first Friday of each month, Holy Mass is offered for your intentions in the chapel at Herbert House – the Mill Hill Missionaries' home for sick and retired missionaries.

Membership is free and you can become a member of Our Lady's Guild by ticking the box in the blue section on the page opposite. Please remember to fill out your name and address above (in the white section) and return to us.

'By making such an offering, the sick themselves become missionaries'

St John Paul II



Please fill in the form below and return to:

National Director, Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU

Your details (PLEASE PRINT)

***Required fields**

Title*

First Name*

Surname*

Address*

Postcode*

Tel

Email

Please send me the quarterly Missio **e-newsletter** (provide email address above)

I want Missio to claim Gift Aid on this and any future donations until I notify you otherwise. I am a UK tax payer 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 Tax.

Date

N.B. Please ensure the box is ticked.

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I enclose a donation of £ _____ (please make cheques/postal orders payable to APF-Mill Hill). You can also give online at **missio.org.uk** or call us on 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or via Credit Card/Direct Debit – see over

I would like to make an **annual gift**, offering £30 or more a year

I will collect a Red Box from my parish Local Secretary or Parish Priest (money from Red Boxes is collected by volunteers in your parish)

I would like to become a **volunteer for the APF** in my parish

Please tick if you require a receipt

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

I would like to become a member of **Our Lady's Guild of the Sick**

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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 require a receipt

Please tick if you would like to receive a Mass Card



To donate via card

Please ensure you have filled in the front of this form first!

Your details (PLEASE PRINT)

*Required fields

I would like to pay £ _____ by:

Visa/Mastercard Maestro/Delta/Visa CAF Charity Card

Name on card (PLEASE PRINT)* _____

Card No* _____

Issue No _____

Start date _____

Expiry date* _____

Security code* _____

Last three numbers on the signature strip on the back of your card

Please tick if you require a receipt

To donate via Direct Debit

I wish to pay Missio the sum of (Please tick):

£30 £50 £100 Other £ _____

Monthly Quarterly Annually on the:

5th 15th 28th day of the month



Instruction to your bank or building society to pay Direct Debit



Please fill in the whole form using a ballpoint pen and send to:
Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager _____ Bank/building society

Address _____

Postcode _____

Service user number

2 5 4 5 8 8

Reference (for office use)

Bank/building society account number _____

Branch sort code _____

Name of account holder(s) _____

Instruction to your Bank/building society: Please pay Missio Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Missio and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature of account holder _____

Date _____

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.





Nourishing with love

Life for plantation workers in Thika, Kenya is difficult – labour intensive tasks with little reward, as the salary is around £1 per day. And the work is seasonal, so in the rainy season, there is no work and therefore no pay.

Many of the men move to the cities in search of work, which means the plantation workers are mainly women. They live in small tin huts on the plantation land with their children. Each house has only one room and is often home to several generations of the same family. There is no electricity or running water, nor any health services nearby. The workers own no land of their own on which to grow food.

This desperate situation means that most families cannot afford essential items and often go hungry.

Unemployment in Kenya is high and pay is low, so many families have to send their children to work rather than school. Children without an education end up trapped in a cycle of poverty, unable to get more secure and better paid jobs.

The Assumption Sisters of Nairobi recognised the need for change and came to Thika to help. With the support of Missio, the Sisters run a feeding programme from the school. It aims

to ensure the children living on the plantations are given the opportunity to have a healthy meal every day; it is often their only meal.

The Sisters are doing more than simply physically feeding the children. They are also nourishing them with love, empowering them with hope and fuelling a more positive future for them.

The Thika Feeding Programme is one of the many worldwide children's projects supported by Missio. With your support Missio brings God's love to vulnerable children living in poverty overseas via educational, medical and welfare projects, regardless of their background or belief. The food, education, medications, shelter and formation the children receive, fulfil the children's spiritual and practical needs.



For more information about how you can support vulnerable children in developing countries, please call 020 7821 9755 or visit missio.org.uk/about-mt

Drawing nearer to Christ



Fr Emmanuel Mbeh is a Cameroonian Mill Hill Missionary and is passionate about living out his calling to love and to serve

For the seven years I served in South Africa, I could feel the hustling and bustling of the community – the energy that vibrates in song, dance, prayer and celebrations, and yet often only disguises the pain, hopelessness and trauma that is bottled up.

Within the parish, I was responsible for celebrating the Sacraments, the supervision of catechetical outreach, home visitation of the sick, parish council meetings, the facilitation of various groups in the church, and Small Christian Communities in their house-to-house weekly Bible sharing.

As Diocesan Youth Chaplain, it quickly became apparent that what young people really needed was accompaniment to face or heal their pains – especially those from challenging family situations, those feeling hopeless and engaging in drug abuse or destructive behaviour, and those who were not baptised, but coming to church like any other social gathering for fun.

The concerns they expressed included joblessness, idleness, superficial

spirituality, emotional woundedness and lack of opportunities to develop their talents. Just mentioning these needs sounds like an understatement already; it's not until one is actually on the ground to feel the negative and positive energies raging in the young people, needing direction and channelling, that you can appreciate their distress.

To address the specific needs of young people, the Church in South Africa, in addition to laity and social workers, has initiated two youth programmes – *Education for Life* and *Theology of the Body*. I have attended workshops on these programmes and with support from Missio, I was able to facilitate workshops and training days, music competitions, faith marches, Bible study, and vocational training. Many youth leaders at both parish and diocesan levels have been trained to initiate a ripple effect in their environments.

The feedback has been wonderful and their experiences, life-changing:

Mission to the youth is important and it means having guidance to live our purposes and finding our identities in Christ. It means to draw nearer to Christ with vibrancy and faith. It means making use of our different gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit to serve the Church and to bring our communities closer to Christ. Fr Emmanuel definitely left an incredible mark on the lives of the youth of the diocese of Kroonstad – his teachings, humility, prayerfulness, perseverance and resilience will always live in our hearts. **Nthabiseng**



Fr Emmanuel worked very hard to revive the youth of Kroonstad diocese. He wanted young people to unite and worship God in their daily activities and worked very hard for the youth ministry to be alive and dynamic.

Gloria

Fr Emmanuel made a personal impact in my life as a spiritual father. He inspired me to live a decent and respectful life.

Refilwe

Fr Emmanuel was not only a priest but an angel sent from God to teach and reach out to the youth of Kroonstad Diocese. He would send us to workshops just to teach us that it is alright to be you in a Catholic manner, one of the best workshops was Theology of the Body; we came back to teach others about it and they welcomed it with open hands.

Ntaoleng

Fr Emmanuel was our youth chaplain in Kroonstad Diocese. We did so many programmes which helped us as Catholic youth to find our true selves, such as: visiting prisoners to uplift their spirit towards God, visiting hospitals to pray for patients, visiting the elderly parishioners who struggle to come to church to help them uplift their spirit, and helping orphans and children who struggle at home. Through this, we managed to bring many young people close to God and learn how to help others. After the death of both my parents, I started to think that God had neglected me, but Fr Emmanuel found me and showed me the true love of a parent. I felt alive again and started to attend Church to find true love in God. I managed to finish school and I got baptised. **Innocent**



Please pray for Fr Emmanuel and all Mill Hill Missionaries who are inspiring young people to live out their faith

Fr Michael Corcoran MHM, General Superior of St Joseph's Missionary Society, reports on the latest news from Mill Hill Missionaries sharing the Good News around the world

Bonded labour: a continuing scourge



Pakistani children with Fr Edson Paguntalan MHM

The Justice and Peace Commission in Pakistan recently highlighted the challenges bonded labourers face, through research into the lives and socio-economic conditions of brick-kiln workers. These labourers could be considered as 'slaves' of the modern world; they are born and die at the kiln and are frequently sold to other kiln owners.

Our Mill Hill Missionaries are working amongst the bonded labourers of Sindh in Pakistan. Pope Francis speaks about a Church which is 'bruised, hurting and dirty' because it is out on the streets, reaching out beyond its own comfort zone to those in need throughout the world, especially the poor. I think he would be very at home with our missionaries in this part of the world.

The Church in China

On a recent visit, I was able to witness first-hand the state of the Church in China today.

Pope Francis is encouraging an inclusive approach to China, that is, none are to be excluded. It is what is reasonable, what is right, and what is good for the whole of humanity.

The Church in China has an essential freedom, albeit not complete freedom. If the Church were to give up the present freedom, she may not gain more, but might end up losing everything. Those we met on the ground felt strongly that we are called to share the Gospel in China within the context of inconsistencies, paradoxes and contradictions.

Despite the emotional stress on foreign missionaries working 'underground' as priests, and the continuous self-censoring, one has to admire their courage and commitment.



Bishop Gan of the Diocese of Guangzhou. His uncle is an eighty-eight year old bishop who is monitored 24 hours a day by the authorities and is confined to his headquarters



The next generation of MHM

Young Mill Hill Missionaries from various mission centres in India gathered together in May. They shared their experiences, each one listening to the joys and sorrows of the others as young Mill Hillers involved in mission. A particular focus was on their role and place in the world today as a missionary. Questions of identity, fitting-in and consistency were all discussed.

The Mill Hill Missionaries have invested wisely in our formation programmes in Africa and Asia. Our missionaries now coming from these continents will number one hundred by December 2018. We rejoice. This is surely Good News in the heart of our Mill Hill world as these young missionaries cross physical borders and boundaries of language, culture and peoples, as carriers of the Gospel.



Mill Hill Parish Church, Juba

Juba, South Sudan

The Church in South Sudan has a unique credibility and moral authority. It was the only institution which remained on the ground, with the people, throughout the 1983-2005 Civil War. During this period there was no government, no civil society, no non-governmental organisations, no United Nations (UN) and the standing of the traditional chiefs and elders was eroded by those with guns.

Wherever there were people, the Church was present. And, unlike the aid industry, it had no evacuation option. The Church remained, suffered, lived and died with the flock.

The Church provided many of the services which one would expect from a government – health, education, food and water, local peace and reconciliation mediation, even security, to the extent that the presence of Church personnel often moderated the violence. South Sudanese of all faiths, including Muslims and followers of traditional religions, looked to the Church for leadership during troubled times.

The Mill Hill Missionaries first came to Sudan in 1937 and worked in the Diocese of Malakal. Presently they are working in the Archdiocese of Juba reaching out to the many people who had to flee Malakal due to the violence and insecurity.



Eucharist is mission

Fr Paul Mooney describes himself as 'A Gospel traveller with the Mill Hill Missionaries, who has worked in Kenya, Pakistan and the Philippine Islands.' Here he shares his reflection on the Eucharist.

As a priest, I have celebrated the Eucharist in many magnificent churches, in small self-constructed chapels, on the lakeside in Galilee, on hillsides, in fields and on seashores with the faithful.

What a beautiful responsibility God has given us to share, to bear fruit that will last, and to transform the world! The task before us is to enter into dialogue with

the world: our family, relatives, friends and neighbours and strangers; to offer, to listen, to respect, to learn, these are all essential aspects of the mission set before us; to resist the temptation to restrict God's grace only to ourselves or those who share our faith, and, instead, to reach out in his name with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, to all. We are called to extend our care especially to the poor, the marginalised, the persecuted, the exploited, those who are denied justice, those denied the peace they deserve and that God wants for them, the stranger who feels beyond forgiveness and without hope, and those who promote secularism and a culture of death.

My responsibility is to make sure that the Eucharist I celebrate and the presence of the Lord whom I receive penetrates and positively transforms all aspects of my life; my attitudes, my behaviour, my words and deeds. **My life must demonstrate what I believe and what I have received.**

'Mission', in this regard, means that I must find effective and affective ways of sharing what I have received. It may be the helpful gesture I extend to someone in need, the smile I share, the kind word I express, the friendship I offer to friend and stranger alike, the humility to seek forgiveness and reconciliation from the one I have wronged, to practice less judgement and more tolerance; the possibilities are boundless! This is truly the 'efficacy' of the Eucharist finding expression through me.

The Eucharist has always been one of the most important aspects of Christianity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church strongly asserts the 'Real Presence' of Jesus' body in the Eucharist; this is to say that the sacrament is not symbolic of the body and blood of Jesus but rather that it is his body and blood.

If I am to be 'salt of the earth and light to the world', then I must quell the anger that so prevails in the world today and replace it with respect, as I approach, reach out, assist, care for and dialogue with the world and its peoples. **This is what our Lord did before me. This is what he asks of me today.**

Only in the Eucharist will I find true meaning and lasting satisfaction. Even in the tranquility and peace I experience after receiving Holy Communion will fan the fire of faith into a flame, burning in my heart, excited, as the first disciples were, to share the good news that brings hope, love, peace, truth, justice, purpose, direction and life. Truly, in the Eucharist I become a new creation, fit for mission and ready to glorify God through my life.

This is an excerpt from Adoremus Extra, which is available from Redemptorist Publications www.rpbooks.co.uk



Dear Editor

I feel that regardless of religion everyone celebrates Christmas – for many, it's just a day of celebration. We organise parties at our homes, offices and go to the pub, all in the name of Christmas. It is so commercialised that shops start to display all sorts of things as early as August or September!

Are we really celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, as we should? Is he being remembered in these celebrations? Shouldn't we give presents to Jesus on His birthday, as we give birthday presents to our loved ones for Christmas? Young children say 'yes' to this question without even thinking.

I believe that one way we can do this is to give some money to APF-Mill Hill, who help the needy all over the world. How many people don't have any food to eat on Christmas day or any other day?

If we explain this to our children and grandchildren, I am sure they would be all for it. I have experienced this with my grandson, Rian, who is only six years old. I gave him a Red Box last Christmas and explained to him where the money from the Red Box goes. I asked him to put some of his pocket money into the Red Box and to my surprise I collected £8.65 after seven months! I am sure all children would do the same.

We can also put extra money in our Red Boxes whenever we celebrate various occasions in our homes. It is our duty to remember the unfortunate and help them through Missio. It will be very meaningful and would give us a great satisfaction too.

Joseph Jeyakumar, Reading

Editor: Thank you very much to both you and your grandson!

Don't talk, just show!

The early Church, in the 400 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, grew at a phenomenal rate throughout the Roman Empire. Surprisingly it was not because of any successful systematic programme of evangelisation or missionary activity. After the missionary journeys of St Paul, the early Church had no interest in continuing to go out and convert people! Rather, they believed that people would be attracted to the Christian way of life by seeing how they (the Christians) lived as a community of love, peace, justice and non-violence.

The third century Christian leader, Tertullian, said that the pagans exclaimed 'See how these Christians love one another!'

Christians displayed a way of life that others did not possess, and these others desired to live that way too. It was only *after* a person expressed an interest in joining the community that catechesis and instruction in the faith would begin.

Living the Gospel, not just teaching it or trying to explain it, is the way of a true missionary. We can all be true missionaries wherever we live. 'Faith is caught not taught', and St Francis of Assisi said, 'Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words!'

Father Peter

You can write to Fr Peter at:

41 Victoria Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 1LW

Do write to us!

Please send your thoughts and comments to: **The Editor, Mission Today, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU.**

Or email: info@missio.org.uk

All living and deceased supporters of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries are remembered at Mass in our chapel. Mill Hill priests offer Mass for deceased members in November and they are remembered at Mass every Sunday and in their Daily Office

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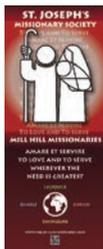
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Annual Novena to St Joseph

10–18 March 2019



St Joseph's Missionary Society (Mill Hill Missionaries) is Britain's own missionary society, founded by Cardinal Herbert Vaughan in 1866.

Each year the Mill Hill community prepares for the feast day of St Joseph, our patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers. We pray for the intentions of all those who support our work, and for all of those who have asked for their personal intentions to be remembered in the novena. Prayer is the foundation of all mission work, both in this country and abroad.

The Novena is one way for APF-Mill Hill members to pray for each other and build links of prayer across the world for missionaries and the people they serve.

Please join us in person, if you can, at the daily Masses in Maidenhead, Berkshire and Freshfield, Liverpool.

Visit millhillmissionaries.co.uk for more details

Take part at home

You can also join us in your own home by praying the daily Novena Prayer and/or by sending your petitions to us. All you need to do is complete the form inside the Spring 2019 issue of *Mission Today* and return it to: Novena Director, 58 Cookham Rd, Maidenhead SL6 7HT or email: novena@millhillmissionaries.com

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