



missio

Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Mission Today

Spring 2020

Mission in Malawi

Faith in the Philippines

Mission Martyrs

Featured highlights

4

EMM2019

Our Extraordinary Month of Mission!

8

Mission in Malawi

The providence of God

14

Michael's Mission

Faith in the Philippines

20

Mission Martyrs

Pastoral workers who died in 2019

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

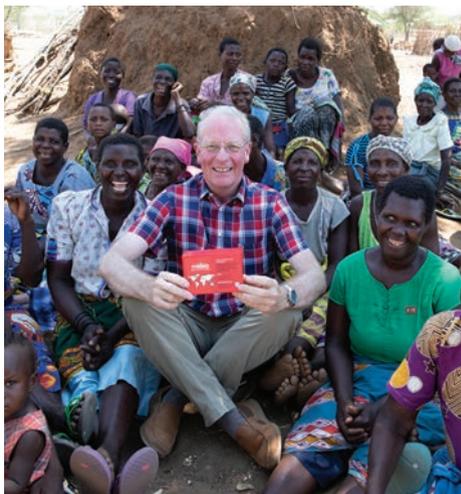
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Cover: A Sister caring for a child in Malawi

The National Director writes



Your Red Box in Malawi

Following the success of the Extraordinary Month of Mission in October 2019, we are renewed in our commitment to do all we can to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world.

Everyone has the right to hear the Good News that God loves them. This love must be rooted in the Risen Christ and bear the visible fruit of serving ‘the poor and the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked’, as Pope Francis has said many times.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a correspondingly high mortality rate and low life expectancy.

Most of the population is Christian, with Catholics comprising 17% of all people. In these circumstances the Church is a major provider of education and healthcare, as well as being a strong voice for human rights and care of the environment.

Missio is proud to continue to have strong links of support and encouragement with the Church in Malawi as it continues to serve those most in need. Read more on page 8.

Thank you for your support of Missio, which is now needed more than ever in order to bring about a peaceful and just world.

Yours in Christ,



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.



Our new recruit!

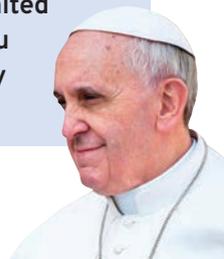
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Bishop Paul Swarbrick to the Missio family, as our new Chair of Trustees. I would also like to thank our former Chair of Trustees, Bishop Declan Lang, for his support, encouragement and leadership for the last 18 years.

Read more about Bishop Paul on page 27

Morning Offering

Eternal Father, I offer you everything I do today – 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.

See pages 12 and 22 for the Pope's monthly prayer intentions



EMM2019: standout moments

Pope Francis declared October 2019 to be an Extraordinary Month of Mission (EMM2019). Individuals, parishes and schools across England and Wales created a special time for mission that will last in our memories for years to come.

Missio toured parishes and schools during EMM2019, and we want to say a huge thank you for your commitment to mission!

Here are just a few standout moments:

In Parishes

St Teresa's church in Lexden, Brentwood Diocese was among the first to launch its parish program for EMM2019. Among the brilliant #MyMission statements we saw was 'to remember that no act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted'.

St Patrick's in Langley Moor, Hexham and Newcastle Diocese, held Holy Hours and daily meditations throughout EMM2019. The parish invited other Christian churches in the area, who joined for a light lunch and a Sunday afternoon of prayer for all missionaries of their respective churches. A truly special time for mission.



Everyone has
a mission!

In Schools

Among the many amazing and inspiring schools that we visited during EMM2019, was a junior school in Port Talbot that receives a Pupil Deprivation Grant. While chatting with the pupil Spiritual Leaders, one student mentioned that the previous Christmas Day, as his family sat down to eat dinner, he asked his family to pause and to pray for Sandra, the Iraqi refugee *Mission Together* was helping at that time. He said he wanted to remind his family to be grateful for what they had.

We were so humbled by this beautiful example of 'Children helping Children' – the very heart of *Mission Together*!



On World Mission Sunday 2019

World Mission Sunday had special significance running alongside EMM2019. Local Secretary, Rosemary Parles, from St Augustine's, Gloucester writes: 'We had another successful cream tea for World Mission Sunday. It was a vintage cream tea with 1940s music, tombola and a raffle!'



Online

People around the world added their personal #MyMission and #OurMission statements to the global online campaign. Over World Mission Sunday, we shared that Mission groups in the Antilles were reaching out to their community to bring help and light to people in need.

At the same time, Mary Immaculate & St Gregory the Great school in High Barnet shared their pledge to bring light to their community, while St Philip & St James Parish in Bedford pledged to reach out to homeless people in theirs.

It was a beautiful example of how we are all connected – wherever we are in the world – by our common goal to bring the light of Jesus to those who need it.



Our Local Secretaries

Congratulations to Local Secretary, Teresa Welsh, on over 40 years' service to the Red Box. She received her Silver Award at an EMM2019 Mass with school children in Swansea. A life-long teacher, Teresa had personally taught a large number of the teachers who brought their classes from Swansea and the surrounding area of Menevia Diocese. Thank you, Teresa, for your extraordinary work.

In Music

There were plenty of musical moments with schools and parishes around the country learning and performing the EMM2019 song *Baptised and Sent*. We were delighted to meet Local Secretaries at St David's Priory in Swansea, whose performance was especially moving.

We were also very honoured when Mrs Angela Filarowski from Yeadon gave us a special song she had composed and arranged for her school children, so that others could share the beautiful music.

Thank you, you are all stars!

What was your EMM2019 moment?

These are just a few of the many EMM2019 moments we know people experienced during October 2019. We thank you for sharing them with us and with each other! If you have a standout moment you would like to share, please do so via our contact information on the back cover – we would love to hear your stories.

Mission accomplished for Mission Together!

In October last year Missio Diocesan Director, Fr Philip Baptiste, decided to do a sponsored walk in support of *Mission Together*, Missio's children's branch, and raised over £1,300! Fr Philip shared the following with us...

I was inspired to do something different to mark the Extraordinary Month of Mission and give hope to the world's poorest children through Missio's *Mission Together*. As a Diocesan Director, it's all very well to ask others to raise funds and pray, but I needed to do something myself!



I walked from Mill Hill in north London to Westminster Cathedral in central London, which took me just over 5 hours, 29,000 steps and burnt 3,172 calories! The starting place symbolises where I started my initial formation studies to the priesthood, and the ending place represents where I am now, as a Priest for the Diocese of Westminster.

At times, the walk was very difficult. I was tempted to get on a bus! So, I sang hymns and I prayed, I texted friends and I asked them to pray for me too. My thoughts were with those first missionaries from Mill Hill and other communities – they set out on foot. And the Lord sent disciples out in pairs. I walked by myself, but the Lord was my companion. I was sustained through prayer, walking down the A5.

People who have supported me – a huge thank you. On behalf of children that are less fortunate overseas – it makes a difference. It gives them dignity and helps them to see their worth and value. That can never be taken from them.

Working for *Mission Together* is a privilege; we are linked to the Pope and we assist the Holy Father in his ministry as a shepherd and a teacher. I know that the funds will go where they are needed most.



On mission in Kenya

Missio receives information about where this need is. It's in faith that I give my funds.

I feel pleased and humbled that I've done it. I'm very grateful for those who sponsored me. It's a small achievement and a small contribution that I can make in solidarity with children. I would encourage everyone: do something you can do!



St Joseph's College, Mill Hill and Westminster Cathedral – my starting and finishing points



Mission in Malawi



Fr Tony recently visited Malawi on behalf of Missio



Fr Vincent and Sr Nilceia, caring for communities in Malawi

Driving along the dusty, red dirt track I was struck by the stark beauty of Malawi during the dry season. While much of the land in Zomba Diocese has been cleared to make way for crops, the greenery of the vegetation was pleasing to the eye, framed against the background of the bright blue sky and parched red earth.

Then, as we stepped out of the air conditioned van, we were hit by a blast of hot air, as if I had stepped into a sauna. The air felt heavy and damp, and the sun blazed down with unforgiving intensity.

The groups of women that had taken refuge under the trees with their sick children eyed us warily, until Fr Vincent, the National Director of Missio in Malawi, approached them with his welcoming smile and outstretched arms. The women returned the smile and several of them stood and began to sing, swaying rhythmically to their own music. In wonderful African fashion, we were made to feel welcome and included.

From among the women, Brazilian Sister Sr Nilceia, appeared with her infectious smile and open hands of friendship. She spoke to some of the women in their local language, Chichewa, while children reached out to her with loving gestures. Resting a small child on her hip, she told us that today's clinic was full, as it is every day, and that some of these women had walked up to three hours to bring their sick children to the Lisanjala Health Clinic.

Every Tuesday, boys and girls up to five years old are seen from 7:30am until 4:30pm at the Lisanjala Health Clinic. No matter who they are or where they



MISSION REPORT



The poorly stocked medical supply room at Lisanjala Health Clinic

are from, all children are welcomed by Sr Nilceia and her small team of health workers. There are about 20,000 people in the whole catchment of Lisanjala, from 18 villages, and the clinic sees around 80 cases per day.

Sr Nilceia led me through the women and their sick children to the small, brick building that houses the clinic and their medical supplies. She introduced me to their clinician, Peter, who explained earnestly that he had been working as a health services assistant for thirteen years.

Peter took me to their medical supply room, where their sole medicine cabinet was poorly stocked. Some boxes of malaria medication and some packets of eye ointment were all he had to show me. 'We have not had paracetamol for two years. We are unable to treat the children's fever

and pain,' he explained sadly. I silently observed that we probably had more medicine in our Missio First Aid kit than was here in this clinic.

We went back out to the mothers and their children. Peter called the next name. A woman came forward with a baby and Peter explained the process to me: 'All children have their height and weight measured.' He then started speaking to the woman in Chichewa and wrote vital information down on a scrap of damp paper.

The small child was almost lifeless. Her eyes were open, but she did not respond when Peter pricked her finger and squeezed out a small amount of blood onto a plastic tab. 'She has malaria,' he said to me, before turning back to the mother and passing her the malaria medication needed to make her child well again.



'The government provides medicine for malaria called Artefan, but we have a limited supply,' Peter shared with me. 'Out of 100, around 70 people are helped and the number of children with malaria is equivalent to those who have malnutrition. This year, four children under the age of five have died from treatable illnesses.'

I turned to look around the crowded room. Mothers anxiously fussing over their babies and little ones. I could see the concern in their eyes and suddenly felt like an intruder, an uninvited guest. I have to say that I left that scene somewhat downhearted.

Then Sr Nilceia approached me with a big smile and said 'My congregation, the Benedictine Sisters of Divine Providence, believe God is provident. We see the providence of God in the poor, the needy, the healthy, the rich. They give life; they

give their contribution. I believe in Him and His mission.'

It is her faith and example that inspire others to want to share the love of God with our sisters and brothers throughout the world. Missio has been supporting the work of the Sisters in Lisanjala for many years, but together we can do so much more. The need in this area continues to grow as communities struggle through illness, poverty and despair. We thank God for their self-sacrifice and generous spirit!

If you would like to help or if you give regularly to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries, look out for Fr Tony's letter about the ways you can support our brothers and sisters in Malawi, or go online to missio.org.uk



The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

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



JANUARY

May all Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill promote peace and justice in the world.

FEBRUARY

May the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters who are victims of criminal trafficking be heard and answered.

MARCH

May the Church in China persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Please turn to page 22 for the remainder of the prayer intentions for 2020



APRIL

May those suffering from addiction be helped and accompanied.

MAY

May Deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, be an invigorating symbol for the whole Church.

JUNE

May all those who suffer find their calling in life and allow themselves to be touched by the heart of Jesus.

Michael's Mission

The Mill Hill Missionaries in the Philippines joyfully celebrated the ordination of three new members in 2019. Curious to hear the vocational journey of at least one of these young men, I sat down one evening with 34-year-old Michael Gemanga. He was ordained into the missionary priesthood on 24 May, in his home parish of St Ann, Molo.

Michael recognised with great clarity, and some surprise, that the first stirrings of a vocation to the priesthood appeared in his early teens. A chance reading of the gospel of St Matthew, which he picked up when cleaning the local library, got him interested in the person of Jesus. A desire to 'want to follow, become a Priest' welled up in his heart.



Michael in the Philippines

But it lay dormant during most of the following long years of secondary and then university studies. 'I did apply to the diocesan seminary during my secondary studies in 1990, but failed to pass the exam and was turned down.' That put paid to the thought for quite a while.

The modest financial means of his family meant that he had to work hard, both mornings and evenings outside school hours, to pay for his studies. It was not until he was at college that he received a limited scholarship to pursue his studies. At the time he briefly toyed with the idea of becoming a sailor – two of his brothers were already at sea. 'I liked adventure', he muses. But his siblings convinced him such a course would be too difficult for him.

So, he chose commerce and business administration as his line of study. After graduation in 2007, he briefly worked in the accounting department of a real estate agent. He had a steady girlfriend, but still was not sure about the direction his life should take.

He then met Fr Rex Fedelicio MHM, the Vocations Director of the Mill Hill Missionaries

Please continue on page 19

Thank you
for your faithful
support of
Missio



missio
Today. Tomorrow. Together.



Freepost Plus RTKE-XAZJ-ULUA
Missio and Mill Hill Missionaries
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LONDON
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Monthly Quarterly Annually

On the: 5th 15th 28th day of the month



Instruction to your bank or building society to pay Direct Debit



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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.

Build a vibrant Catholic Church for the future

Remember Missio in your Will

For generations, people like you have been sharing their blessings by helping missionaries serve in communities that are poor or in need around the world.

Now, more than ever, we depend on the support and care of Catholics like you to pass on the gift of faith to future generations, and to share the love of God with those in greatest need.

Please consider leaving a gift in your Will to Missio.

For more information please fill in the form overleaf, or if you would prefer to speak to someone (in confidence and with no obligation), please call Monica on 020 7821 9755.



Share the gift of faith with those in Malawi

Help bring faith and hope to where they are most needed



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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 supporters are part of the Missio 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 overleaf and return it in the prepaid envelope attached.

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

Supporting children in Jordan

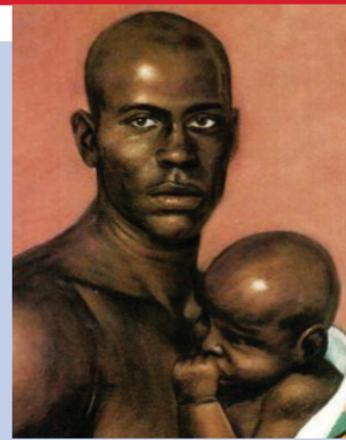
National Novena to St Joseph 10–18 March

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. Prayer is the foundation of all mission work, both in this country and abroad. The Novena is a positive 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.

You can join in at home by praying the daily Novena and prayer and/or by sending your petitions to us. You can order a free Novena booklet by ticking the box on the form opposite.

For more information, please email novenamhm@gmail.com



Join us for Mass

St Joseph's Church,
36 Cookham Road,
Maidenhead SL6 7EG

10-13 March at 7.30pm
14 March at 10am
15 March at 10.45am
16-18 March at 7.30pm

Send your Mass intentions to Missio

The custom of requesting a Priest to offer Mass for specific intentions, even when one cannot be present at Mass, is a longstanding tradition in the Church.

The faithful usually make an offering, called a stipend, to the Priest in order to apply the Mass to a specific intention, such as an anniversary or birthday. By making this offering and by parting with something that is their own, the faithful associate themselves more intimately with Christ. The offering of a stipend is also a means for Catholics to contribute to the upkeep of the clergy.

Many Priests in Africa and Asia depend entirely on Mass stipends for their income. Please help them by sending your Mass intentions to Missio and we will pass them on to a Priest overseas.

Please add your Mass intentions on the form opposite or call 020 7821 9755 during office hours.



Celebrating Mass in Palestine

Please fill in the form below and return it in the **prepaid envelope attached**

(Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU)

Your details (PLEASE PRINT)

*Required fields

Title* _____

First Name* _____ Surname* _____

Address* _____

Postcode* _____

Tel _____ Parish _____

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.

SUPPORT I enclose a donation of £ _____ (please make cheques/postal orders payable to Missio-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 overleaf

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 Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries in my parish

Please tick if you require a receipt

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

Please send me a free booklet for the Feast of St Joseph Novena

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 require a receipt

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

Please moisten and seal securely. If you are enclosing a cheque please secure envelope with sticky tape.



‘Formation is a continuous process,’ Michael reflects, looking back over his vocational journey. ‘I have learnt a lot about mission and what it involves. I don’t know at all how effective I will be. I wasn’t brilliant at theology. My charism is relational: to smile, talk, walk with people and learn from them. As a Priest you are part of the community, not apart from it or standing above it.’

It is late in the evening when we conclude our conversation. I feel humbled by the uninhibited you-get-what-you-see openness from Michael. His closing remark: ‘I prefer not to call you by your first name as is the custom among the Mill-Hillers. I’ll keep calling you “Father Fons”. That is our local custom, after all, you are like my *lolo* – my grandfather.’

Fr Fons Eppink MHM

at that time. Listening to his story, Fr Rex advised him to continue with his job, sensing that some additional life experience would help him to come to a mature decision about the direction he should take.

‘I joined the basic formation programme of the Mill Hill Missionaries in 2010 at age 25,’ he shares. The first three years of philosophy were in the Philippines, followed by three years of theological training in Pune, India.

That was followed by two years in Mbikka, Uganda for his ‘mission experience’ or MEP – a period of testing, allowing a candidate to get an on-the-ground taste of what missionary life involves, before proceeding to ordination.

Michael has made some tough decisions along the way. When he was on retreat, preparing to take his first step on the road to priesthood, he went away for three days. ‘I went to settle things with my former girlfriend. I have experienced the pain of breaking up a relationship. I know what it is to be deeply in love,’ he shares.



Lives of faith

Last year, 29 missionaries were killed worldwide: 18 priests, one permanent deacon, two religious men, two nuns and six lay people. Many lived and worked caring for people living in poverty, helping children and supporting development and faith projects.

Please join us in giving thanks for the work and witness of these, our sisters and brothers. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Fr Nicolas Ratodisoa was attacked on 9 February and died from his injuries five days later in a Madagascan hospital. He had taken the Eucharist to a sick man before being robbed and shot in the back.



Fr Antonio César Fernández, 72, was assassinated on 15 February during a jihadist attack near the border of Burkina Faso. The Spanish Salesian was in a car with two other confreres, who managed to survive the attack.



Fr Carlos Ernesto Jaramillo, 65, was stabbed multiple times in the neck and killed on 18 February in Colombia. Known for assisting immigrants and street dwellers, the Priest is thought to have been the victim of a robbery.



Fr Toussaint Zoumaldé, 48, a Capuchin father, was killed in Cameroon after leading a formation course for local Priests.



Fr Clement Rapuluchukwu Ugwu, was found dead on 20 March after having been abducted six days earlier. According to local Nigerian reports, the abductors had been making withdrawals from his bank account whilst he was held in captivity.



Br Paul McAuley, 71, a British De La Salle missionary and activist, was found lifeless on 2 April inside a hostel that he had set up for indigenous children in Peru. His body had been set alight, making it difficult to determine the exact cause of death.



Fr Siméon Yampa, 34, was killed along with five people on 12 May in Burkina Faso. Around twenty jihadist terrorists on motorcycles attacked the church after Sunday Mass.



Fr Fernando Fernández, 60, a Spanish Salesian Priest, was stabbed to death on 17 May in Burkina Faso by a former employee taking revenge for losing his job.



Fr Cecilio Pérez Cruz, 38, was shot dead by a criminal gang member on 17 May in El Salvador for not paying 'protection fees'. A note was found beside his body, which read: 'He did not pay the rent'.



Fr Landry Ibil Ikwel, 34, a Congolese Priest of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, was killed on 19 May in Mozambique. The Priest was stabbed and died in hospital from his injuries.



Sr Ines Nieves Sancho, 77, a Spanish Daughter of Jesus, was brutally murdered on 20 May in the Central African Republic where she had taught local children.



Fr Eutyca Murangiri Muthuri, 35, was stabbed twice in the head outside a shopping centre on 4 June in Kenya. He died at the scene of the attack.



Guillermo Luquín, 52, a permanent Deacon, was found dead on 9 June in his home in Argentina, with a fatal wound to his neck.



Hugo Leonardo Avendaño Chávez, 29, a seminarian and Deacon, was kidnapped on 11 June in Mexico. His body was found the next day, wrapped in a blanket, with signs of torture.



Margeli Lang Antonio, a children's catechist, was shot dead on 15 June in Mexico. Two young men entered a catechists' training course and started shooting, killing her almost immediately.

Ernesto Cavazza, 80, part of the Economic Council of his local parish, was killed on 30 June in Argentina. Arriving at his parish, he was approached by three men who attacked and shot him.



Fr Paul Mbon was kidnapped by strangers on 28 June in Congo whilst walking with a Priest friend. His body was discovered several days later.

Br Norbert Emmanuel Mugarura, 46, was strangled to death during an alleged robbery on 3 July in Uganda. He had recently become the Superior General of the Brothers of St Charles Lwanga.



Fr Paul Offu was shot and killed by a group of armed radicals on 1 August in Nigeria. According to reports, he did not respond to demands from the attackers to stop the vehicle he was travelling in.



Ms Faustine Brou N'Guessan, 60, was stabbed to death in her local parish office on 10 August in the Ivory Coast. The attack was preceded by the desecration of statues of the Virgin Mary.



Fr Stanislaw Szczepanik, 63, a Polish missionary of the Congregation of the Mission, died on 17 August in Puerto Rico, apparently having fallen from a bicycle. However, the local police are treating his death as suspicious, due to his injuries being incompatible with a fall.



Fr José Martín Guzmán Vega, 55, was stabbed several times with a knife on the threshold of his church on 22 August in Mexico. He later died in hospital as a result of his wounds.



Genifer Buckley, 24, a Jesuit volunteer, was stabbed to death on 23 August in the Philippines. She was attacked, along with another volunteer, inside their living quarters in an alleged robbery.



Fr David Tanko was stopped by armed men while on his way to mediate a peace agreement between two warring groups in Nigeria on 29 August. The Priest was killed, and his body and car set alight.



Diana Isabel Hernández Juárez, 35, was murdered on 7 September in Guatemala. The teacher and pastoral coordinator had been participating in a Bible Day gathering when she was shot.



Sr Antonia Pinho, 62, of the Congregation of the Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick, was brutally murdered on 8 September in Portugal. She had been strangled and raped.



Fr Kazimierz Wojno, 71, a Polish missionary, was killed by robbers on 21 September in Brazil. The Priest was found dead in a field beside his church.



Fr Jhony Ramos, 53, was found dead in the parish house on 2 October in Colombia. The Priest had been suffocated and hit in the head with a blunt instrument.



Fr Michael Maingi Kyengo, 43, was kidnapped on 8 October in Kenya and found a week later, buried near a river. The murderer confessed to robbing the Priest and to slitting his throat.

All information is supplied by Fides, the Vatican-based news agency of Missio.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

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



JULY

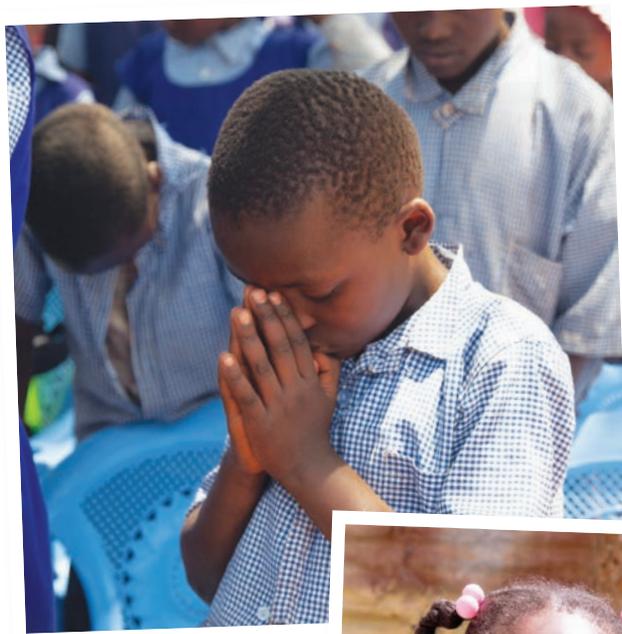
May today's families be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

AUGUST

May all those whose livelihoods depend on the sea, be blessed and kept safe from all harm.

SEPTEMBER

May the planet's resources not be plundered, but rather shared in a just and respectful manner.



Please find the prayer intentions for January – June 2020 on page 12



OCTOBER

By the virtue of Baptism, may the laity, especially women, participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

NOVEMBER

May the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence always serve humankind.

DECEMBER

May our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

New Mission Initiatives in Africa



Since 2015, the Mill Hill Missionaries have had a mandate to explore possibilities to expand our current mission areas and contribute to building up the Local Church

Here are some of our recent initiatives in Africa:

In Uganda, we have taken on a mission in Busaana Parish in the Diocese of Lugazi. This new parish was previously part of the vast Kayunga parish, in the central region of Uganda. Busaana is an extensive, isolated mission with 17 mission stations in an area of great need. The Parish was opened in May 2019 and two of our young missionaries, Fr Fred Yangnyi and Fr Kevin Barasa have taken up their appointments there.

In Kenya, we have made a return to Ngong Diocese and have taken on a new mission



Celebrating in Douala, Cameroon



Mill Hill Missionaries in the DRC

that is being split off from Lemek parish. The part that we have been assigned borders on the *Maasai Mara Game Park*. The appearance of wandering elephants is a common occurrence! Two young members, Fr David Masiga and Fr William Epiti, have been appointed there.

We have returned to Francophone Cameroon and taken on a new mission in

the Archdiocese of Douala. The mission, named St Jude, is located in Bojongo, on the outskirts of Douala city.

Mill Hill Missionaries previously worked in Francophone Cameroon in the northern part of the country. Two of our young members, Fr Innocent Akum and Fr Placide Botondobi, have been appointed there and began ministry in the Archdiocese in July 2018.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), we recently moved into the Archdiocese of Kinshasa. Two of our members, Fr Otto Bambokela and Fr Marius Tapang, are already working in a parish on the periphery of Kinshasa called St Zachary's, Bita. We also anticipate the possibility of one day reopening the Society's formation programme in Congo, this time in Kinshasa.

We do not see any further expansion in Africa in the coming year; the task now is to consolidate and deepen ministry in these new areas. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing prayers and support which has made it possible for the Mill Hill Missionaries to undertake these and other new evangelising initiatives.



Training tomorrow's generation of Priests and Sisters



Missio ignites God's love by helping missionaries to work alongside communities globally that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Together with our supporters, we play a vital part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.

In Cameroon, innocent people are being killed and entire villages destroyed in arson attacks. In our broken world, we need brave young men to take up the call of Christ. At St Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary in Bambui, numerous Cameroonian students are being trained for the priesthood.

Fr Ignatius has been the seminary Rector for eight years and a teacher for 24. 'We worry constantly about the students,' he says. 'The crisis is making the whole environment unsafe. We can hear gunshots, but no one has come here to attack us, thanks be to God.'

Jacob (pictured above) has chosen to dedicate his life to God. 'I know I have something to contribute. I just want to do something simple, to be of service. As students we reach out to the local community and help people in need,' he explains. 'At the moment the situation is traumatic; we hear gun shots every day. We have to transform this situation for our sake and the sake of our communities.'

Sadly, Jacob is acutely aware of the risks of being a Priest in Cameroon's present environment. He knew Fr Cosmas Ondari MHM, who was tragically murdered whilst helping those affected by the struggle. Jacob says: 'I spoke with the Spiritual Director. I am very afraid about what is going on. He consoled me and asked me to write a prayer.'

Jacob shares that support from Missio in England and Wales gives him strength: 'Because of you, I know that we are loved and cherished. Thank you, it encourages us and gives us the courage to continue in our ministry.'

For more information about how you can support the training of a future Priest, please call 020 7821 9755, email spa@missio.org.uk or visit missio.org.uk



‘I trust in Him’



As successor to Bishop Declan who has guided the work of Missio so well, I wish to pay tribute to his time with Missio. Please God, I will be able to build on the strong foundation he has helped to establish.

A little bit of information about me: I was ordained priest for the Diocese of Lancaster in 1982. In 1990, I began a fifteen-year period as a *Fidei Donum* priest, working in Monze Diocese, southern Zambia, predominantly with the Ba Tonga people.

Returning to my home diocese, I was surprised to be chosen Bishop of Lancaster in succession to Bishop Michael Campbell OSA, in the spring of 2018.

The shock of this news was alarming, but almost immediately, by way of consolation, came two simple words: ‘Follow me’. That made all the difference. First and foremost, it is about being His disciple, then letting Him do with us whatever He wishes.

I am delighted to be part of Missio. Thank you for your welcome and encouragement. I sense I am among friends.

+ Paul Swarbrick
Bishop of Lancaster
Missio Chair of Trustees

Keep the home fires burning!

Many years ago, I visited an old farmer in the west of Ireland. Retired, he was living alone in a small traditional Irish cottage. As we were having a cup of tea (nothing stronger this time!) he noticed me looking at his fireplace and the small glowing embers amidst the ashes. It was May and the weather was hot.

He said to me: ‘You know that fire has not gone out in twenty years.’ In wintertime, he would fan those glowing, pulsating embers into a roaring fire.

In each of us there is a glowing ember deep within our own souls – our spiritual DNA. We call it the ‘image of God’. It is an image of God for eternity, not just for twenty years! That God-ember can never be extinguished, not even by the ashes of evil, sin or wickedness.

Every single person has been created in that image. No discrimination then. We cannot decide who has or has not been created in the image of God! It is our calling in life to let go of our own ashes and fan that God-ember into a roaring fire which will transform ourselves and the little corner of the world in which we live.

Father Peter

You can write to Fr Peter at:
**41 Victoria Road, Formby,
Liverpool L37 1LW**

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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'Whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11:26



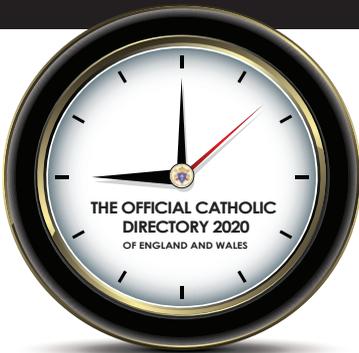
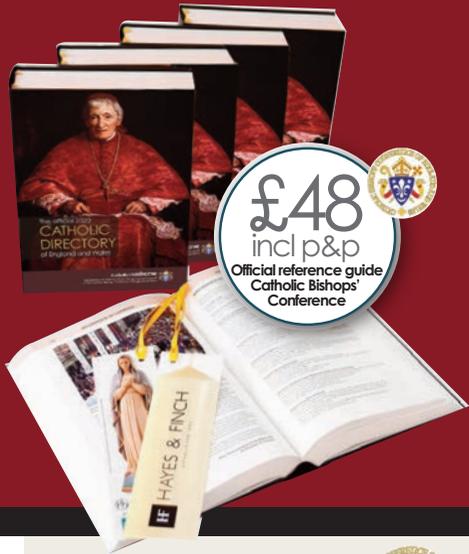


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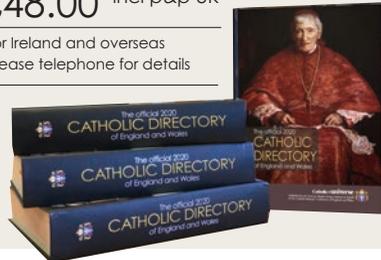
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