



Today. Tomorrow. Together.



Dear

**I hope that you and your loved ones are coping well in these extraordinary times of self-isolation and physical distancing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Every crisis gives us the opportunity to reflect on what is most important to us in life, reassess our priorities, and discover new ways of loving God and our neighbour.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, calls us to respond to this crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic with ‘the universality of prayer, of compassion, and of tenderness’.

As never before, we are reminded of how closely we are all connected to, and dependant on, each other across God’s world. Pope Francis challenges us to ‘remain united’ in prayer and action. He goes on to say that far from abandoning those who are suffering, the Church is called by God to reach out to them in order to express the love God has especially for them.

*No doubt, this crisis will bring out the best and the worst in humanity. Our international Missio network, at one with the whole Church, will play its vital supporting role of care and spiritual support.*

We are reminded that however difficult our own suffering in this country may be, in those many countries of the world where there are inadequate health care facilities, life will be far more tragic.

The mystery of the Gospel of Jesus Christ does not speak of despair and hopelessness. On the contrary, it informs us, at the deepest level of our being, that God turns suffering into celebration, pain into joy, and death into life. The mystery of the Cross concludes with the Resurrection.

Around this time each year, I send you an appeal to renew your annual gift to support the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries throughout the world. It does not seem appropriate to do this in these days of uncertainty and so we are going to postpone this mailing to sometime later in the year.

However, I still wanted to contact you to assure you of my prayers for you and your loved ones. I will be celebrating Mass every day at 12 noon in our Missio Chapel of Ss Peter and Paul,

*praying for you and your intentions,  
for those who are suffering here and throughout the world,  
for those who are grieving,  
for those who are anxious,  
and for those who are working tirelessly to care for the sick.*

**If anyone you know would appreciate being held in prayer at Mass, please email their name to me at [director@missio.org.uk](mailto:director@missio.org.uk) or call us on 020 7821 9755.**

Our office in Eccleston Square is closed until further notice, but all calls will be answered in the normal way and you can also leave us a message.

Our website is fully operational and we will be updating it regularly with news, prayers and reflections. Please visit our website ([missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk)) and join us on our social media (see the box below).

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement. In our faith and through our prayer we stand united and we shall overcome.

*Father Tony.*

**Fr Anthony Chantry**  
Missio National Director

Please visit [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) and join us on social media:

