

Mission Under the Shadow of COVID-19

Summary of reflections from Local Secretaries at the online meetings, July 2020



- We are moving to a **cashless society** and young people especially don't use cash/cheques. We need to move with times.
 - Missio are aware of the trend towards a more cash-less society. It has and continues to be part of our planning and strategy.
 - Some responded with the need to keep the 'iconic Red Box' in our homes and parishes.
 - Suggestions of how to keep in Red Box image alive:
 - **Virtual Red box App** that can take easy donations on smart phones.
 - **QR codes on the side of Red Boxes** and on posters to lead people to Missio donation page.
 - **Big Red boxes in parishes** that can be used to deposit donations and encourage ad-hoc giving.
 - **Fridge magnets.**
 - Reminder and prayer **cards in wallets/purses.**
 - Please see the '**Think Outside the Box**' postcard for some alternative ways in which people can give towards the Red Box. Available at missio.org.uk/LS
- There is a need to further understand the **journey of a coin in the Red Box** to it getting to an overseas mission, including the role of Mill Hill Missionaries and the Pontifical Mission Societies. How long does it take for money donated (Red Box and emergency appeal) to be distributed?
- What lessons have we learned in our parishes and as Missio as a whole from this pandemic and the Holy Father's appeal?
- **Sharing and discussion with Missio staff and other Local Secretaries is beneficial** – more of this definitely worthwhile.
- **Banking of money definitely a challenge** for many Local Secretaries – ongoing evaluation of this important.
- **The Local Secretaries Facebook page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RedBoxLS/> is becoming more of a forum and Local Secretaries should be encouraged to visit it and comment.
- **A resources page will be developed for Local Secretaries** on the Missio website.
- **What takes place at an appeal?** Some new Local Secretaries may need guidance and clear expectations when an appeal takes place.
 - The Regional Community Fundraisers will support Local Secretaries when an Appeal comes to their parish with additional resources and suggestions.

If you have any further questions or ideas, please contact Dave and Theresa on redbox@missio.org.uk