



**We cannot remain silent
about what we have seen
and heard**

Acts 4:20



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World Mission Sunday

24 October 2021

Mission
Month
October
2021



missio
Scotland



Despite the pandemic - perhaps even because of it - the Catholics of Scotland have been very generous in donating to Missio during the past year. On behalf of all those in Africa, Asia, South America, the Caribbean and Oceania who have benefitted from your kindness during the past 18 months, I would like to thank you.

One of the outcomes of us all having to face the same threat with Covid-19 is that we have begun to recognise that ultimately our human family and this small planet of ours are extremely vulnerable. Perhaps more than ever before, we now realise how much we need one another and how much we need God's help.

When we think of what lies ahead of us, our prayer is for a better life for all of humanity - especially for our young people - that they will have a future which is full of hope, love and faith. Their happiness is threatened by many things, but one of the most pressing is climate change.

What the Catholics of Scotland contribute to Missio during October will go to people in many different countries. In this October's Mission Month magazine, we wish to bring your attention to two projects we hope to fund which will help young people on the islands of Fiji and Papua New Guinea, two places in the world where poverty and environmental damage are most severe.

October is also the month of the Rosary so we would be grateful if you would pray for Missio's work of connecting the Catholics of Scotland with our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Fr. Vincent Lockhart
National Director
Missio Scotland



**Message from
Bishop Brian McGee
of
Argyll and the Isles**

Dear sisters and brothers,

As the bishop of a diocese which has many islands, 41 of which are inhabited, I am very conscious of the serious challenges facing some island communities in other parts of the world: isolation, access to education and healthcare, the unpredictable threats from nature. However, one of the great strengths of these communities is that they are often close-knit, and everyone tends to support one another. In some ways what we have all had to deal with during the past year mirrors what they experience every day.

Of all the places in the world suffering most from the growing impact of climate change are the islands of the Pacific. The exploitation of the environment by wealthy nations and the alarming rise of sea levels are not only destroying the very structure of the islands but creating widespread poverty. As Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Fiji put it, *"In Oceania we are victims of climate change and yet we contribute the least to it."* Ultimately it will be the young people on islands such as Fiji and Papua New Guinea who will have to bear the brunt of the consequences.

Next month, in November, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, will come to Scotland to address the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, in Glasgow. He will outline the vision he speaks of in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* and show that care for the earth, our common home, must go hand in hand with care for the poor of the world.

I would urge the Catholics of Scotland to add their voice to that of Pope Francis by supporting the work of Missio Scotland, his own charity to help the Church where it is young and poor. Among the projects which Missio hopes to fund this year are two which will educate and help children and young adults on the islands of Fiji and Papua New Guinea. I would ask you to please give generously on Mission Sunday.

May God bless you and your families,

+ Brian

Bishop Brian McGee for the Bishops of Scotland



we are mission



Pope Francis

**Dear brothers and sisters,
once we experience the power
of God's love,
and recognise His fatherly presence
in our personal and community life,
we cannot help but proclaim and share
what we have seen and heard.**

Like the Apostles and the first Christians,
we too can say with complete conviction:
“We cannot remain silent
about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)

Everything we have received from the Lord
is meant to be put to good use and freely shared
with others... we can find the courage to share
with everyone we meet a destiny of hope,
the sure knowledge that the Lord is ever at our side.

As Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves:
the Church's evangelising mission finds outward fulfilment
in the transformation of our world and in the care of creation.

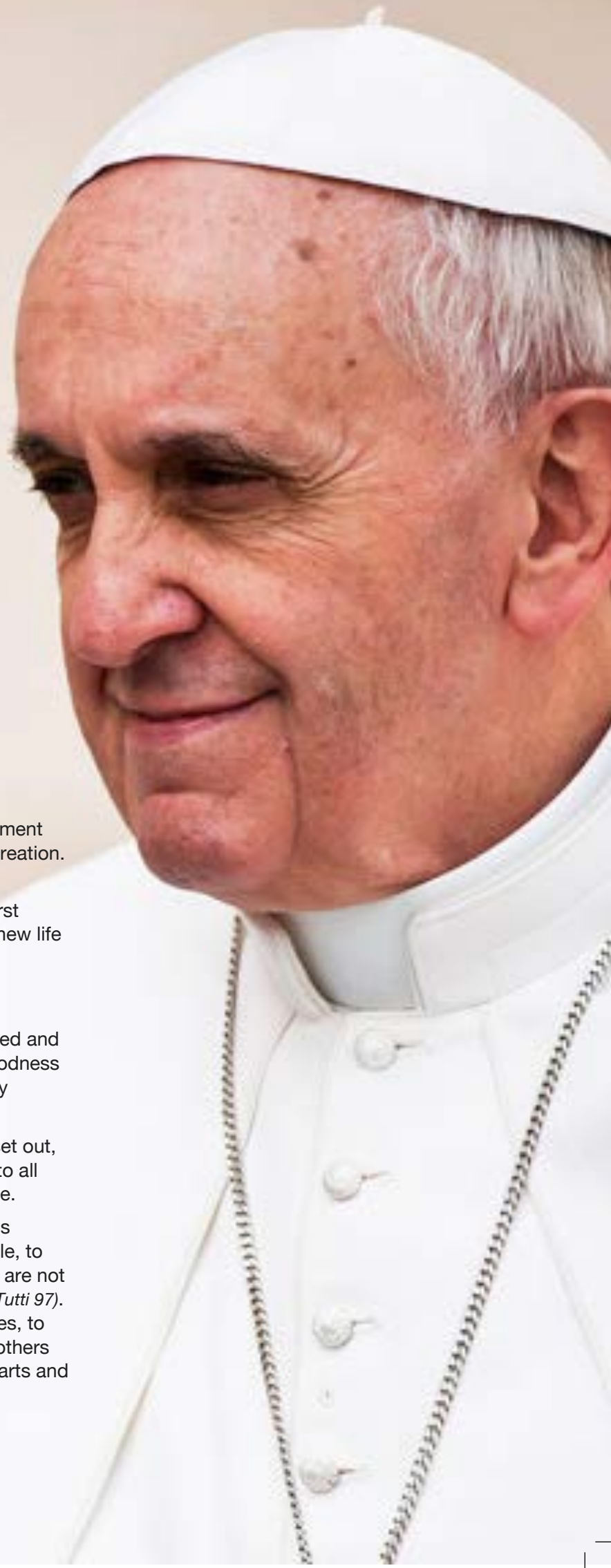
By its very nature, the life of faith calls for a growing
openness to embracing everyone, everywhere. The first
Christians were inspired by the Lord and His offer of new life
to go out among the nations and to bear witness
to what they had seen and heard: the Good News
that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

I like to think that 'even those who are most frail, limited and
troubled can be missionaries in their own way, for goodness
can always be shared, even if it exists alongside many
limitations.' (*Christus Vivit* 239)

Let us remember especially all those who resolutely set out,
leaving home and family behind, to bring the Gospel to all
those places and people athirst for its saving message.

Always, but especially in these times of pandemic, it is
important to grow in our daily ability to widen our circle, to
reach out to others who, albeit physically close to us, are not
immediately part of our 'circle of interests.' (cf *Fratelli Tutti* 97).
To be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does, to
believe with Him that those around us are also my brothers
and sisters. May His ompassionate love touch our hearts and
make us all true missionary disciples.

From Pope Francis' message for Mission Sunday



Forming the Faith among young people in



Gerard Gough

WITH Pope Francis due to attend the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, it's perhaps fitting that Missio Scotland's focus this year falls on Oceania, as many of the countries there are directly affected by climate change.

The Holy Father is also cognisant of the direct link between the Faith and care for the environment, which was most evident in his encyclical *Laudato Si*.

Faithful youth focus

Fiji, the focus country for the first of our supported projects, has suffered greatly as a result of climate change, with regular cyclones having caused death and destruction—both to buildings such as homes and schools and livelihoods due to the decimation of crops, for example. Facing such grave situations like this, it would, perhaps, be understandable for Fijians to encounter a crisis of faith, but Stephen Hall—the New Zealander leading the Missio Scotland supported project in the country—explained how they are working hard to grow the Faith in the country.

“The Archdiocesan Synod held in Suva in 2018-19 identified the need for a diversified youth ministry, which catered for the different needs of young people of different ages,” Stephen said. “The Archbishop, Peter Loy Chong, saw that a post-Confirmation programme was needed, as a large number of teenagers who had been Confirmed had fallen through the cracks afterwards and stopped their involvement with the Church. So Missio Scotland is funding the programme developers to create a programme which engages young people and helps them commit their life to the Church.”

The programme has been designed by consecrated members of the Focolare Movement—which Stephen is part of—and has been developed in collaboration with the Youth Commission of the Archdiocese of Suva. It aims to:

- Respond to the call and prayer of the Suva Archdiocesan Synod: “Connecting in Jesus, and with our neighbour, to be His heart, mind, eyes and ears, hands and feet to All Creation.”
- Help the youth to be formed and accompanied so they encounter Jesus; feel they belong to their parish as active members; and use their gifts to be Jesus’ disciples to serve him in their neighbours and in creation.
- Engage young people through a methodology of ‘Head, Hands, Heart,’ reflecting Pope Francis’ vision, where young people are enabled to explore and live out their faith in their local context, and where they can find relevance for their faith in the challenges that young people meet today.
- Build their confidence to bear witness to their faith by providing opportunities to contribute fully to the life of the Church and the growth of a just society.

The programme draws on Gospel based spirituality and the experience of the Focolare Movement in engaging with teenagers as well as the teachings of the Magisterium with the aim of training the young people to be youth leaders and Catechists.

Inspiring unity

Stephen—who works as a teacher—credits his involvement with the Focolare Movement for helping to revitalise his own faith. He also explained exactly what it

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is they do and pointed to some of the transferable skills he has developed as a result of being a Focolarino.

“A Focolarino is a consecrated layperson in the Focolare Movement. We live in community and usually have a daytime job, and often animate activities in the evenings and weekends. I have always loved sharing stories of faith with the children.

“The charism of the Focolare Movement is to promote unity inspired by Jesus’ prayer to the Father: ‘May they all be one.’ Our foundress, Chiara Lubich, said that we are to be children who believe in the love of the Father, and who trust Him in all their needs. Our life should be one spent building bonds of unity with the people around us.”

To that end, Stephen has always been keen to support the work of the universal Church—such as this most recent youth project in Fiji—and his time as a Focolarino has allowed him to have his faith enriched through time spent living and working overseas.

Living out our mission

Having previously experienced the young people’s love for Jesus in Fiji, Stephen spoke of the gifts that they possess and also the importance of this project in helping them, as lay people, to live out their mission.

“Fijian young people are capable of great generosity and youth group members visit orphanages and participate in regular visits to prisons,” he said. “They are very aware of ecological problems and participate in caring for their environment. Faith is a very precious component in Fijian culture and when the youth feel engaged, they are proud to take part in the life of the Church. Their qualities have been readily evident in visits we have made to Fiji in the past.

“For me, these qualities will help them to live out their mission, because they will be helping people experience God in their lives. There is a passage from *Gaudium et spes* (21) which I love. It speaks of almost making God ‘visible,’ which reads: ‘What most reveals God’s presence, however, is the brotherly charity of the faithful who are united in spirit as they work together for the faith of the Gospel and who prove themselves a sign of unity.’ When people experience the presence of God in their lives, development can happen in the most surprising ways.

“It’s important that lay people are missionaries too. I believe they have to be and there are so many ways to do this. A Catholic family which lives its faith joyfully and shares it through its friendship and practical love is a wonderful witness. I admire families who discern the possibility to leave their homes and be sent to mission in other lands, too. Lay people who reach out to the homeless and needy are a great witness of God’s love.”

“It’s wonderful that Missio Scotland have chosen to support this particular project,” Stephen added. “The Pontifical Mission Societies create so many positive ripples throughout the world. People who discover God with them can change situations of oppression and discover their dignity as God’s children. They can help many other people develop their capacities for good and be a blessing to their communities.”

Please help us to continue to support the Faith in Fiji and wherever our missionaries, both lay and religious are working throughout the world. ■



The four societies

which make up the work of Missio Scotland

Propagation of the Faith Continuing Jesus' Mission in the world



The Society for the Propagation of the Faith helps each and every one of the Catholic Church's 1100 mission dioceses to provide pastoral care and preach the Gospel effectively; building churches, training catechists and enabling local parishes to support their communities.

Missionary Children The Church's official charity for children



Under its original name of the Holy Childhood, Missionary Children has been active in Catholic schools for over 100 years. The contributions of children in Scotland are building schools, providing food, medicine and care for some of the poorest children of the world.

St Peter the Apostle Supporting seminarians and novices



With your help, mission dioceses throughout the world are able to fund the training of the priests, sisters and pastoral workers that they so urgently need. You can sponsor the training of a future priest in St. Paul's Seminary, Fort Portal, Uganda by donating to the Society of St. Peter the Apostle.

Missionary Union Raising awareness of the Church's mission



Part of the work of Missio is to raise people's awareness of the global Church and to encourage prayer for the missions. Missio Scotland helps young people from Catholic secondary schools by organising journeys to see and experience the Church in other parts of the world.





7 ways to share in the mission of the Church



Communion of Goods and Communion of Life

All we have is not our own - it has been given to us to use for the Kingdom of God.
We can share our material wealth with our Catholic brothers and sisters in other parts of the world where they are in need. Donate through Missio Scotland.
We can learn from their experience of being the Church in another country and culture.



Spread the Good News

Often in the media and elsewhere we only hear bad news about the Church.
The Church is a wonderful family throughout the world and does amazing things in the lives of its members and for the wider community.
Tell others about the good the Church has done and is doing.



Prayer

Prayer is one of the aspects of the Church's life which unites all us at a deep level.
We can pray for the Church throughout the world especially where it is being persecuted or suffering. The people in the Church elsewhere pray for us.
We should also pray for missionaries every day.



We are the Body of Christ

The Eucharist makes us one body - the Body of Christ.
The Church in mission countries desperately needs priests and religious sisters and brothers so that people can have Mass, the sacraments, education and healthcare. We can support seminarians studying for the priesthood and novices through Missio.



Building churches where Jesus can be among us

Our churches in Scotland are beautiful and help us to pray and be together as a parish.
Communities in some parts of the world struggle to have a church or even a little outstation chapel. By donating to Missio we can help parishioners in Africa, Asia, South America, the Caribbean and Oceania have somewhere they can be proud to meet and pray.



Knowledge of the worldwide Church and our Mission

In this age of instant information we can learn about and study the Church's work in different parts of the world. We can access news and information by going to www.missioscotland.com, the Missio Scotland Facebook page or Twitter account
For news of the Church visit: www.fides.org (*choosing the English language version*)



Communication

Like Blessed Pauline Jaricot, form a group of friends to get together to pray for the missions, either physically or via social media, by contributing something to help the Church in foreign lands and by sharing your experience of trying to live out the mission of the Church in your daily life.

**SPEAK ABOUT
EUROPE...**

...where parish communities are welcoming
migrants and refugees and giving them hope.





PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Sr. Mary Claude

Gerard Gough

LIKE many countries in the continent of Oceania, Papua New Guinea is not immune to environmental crises both natural and man-made.

In 2018, an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter Scale left 270,000 people—nearly half of them children—needing humanitarian assistance. Around 65 per cent of the country's schools had to close for a prolonged period as a result of the damage caused.

Meanwhile, Giorgio Bernadelli, the director of communications for the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME), has previously spoken out against the exploitation of the land and the depletion of natural resources.

"The environmental balance of the Pacific country has suffered a serious degradation in the last decade due to pollution and poor governance of the territory," he said.

"One of the most serious problems today is that of sand mining," he explained. "There are entire areas of the Papua New Guinea coast that risk being eroded precisely because of the exploitation of this material for export."

When the environment comes under threat, human beings do too, something Pope Francis noted in his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, when he said: "We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis

which is both social and environmental." (Para. 139)

Environmental problems often lead to societal problems such as violence throughout the country and also an increase in poverty, especially in rural areas. Education is pivotal in combatting both, but it remains an ongoing challenge with Papua New Guinea registering an illiteracy rate of more than 35 per cent.

"Education is important to form good citizens and to achieve this, greater investment is needed in young people," Dr Uke Kombre, the Education Secretary said. "Whoever has children always wants the best for them, we do not just want them to survive, but to grow and make a proactive contribution to society."

Sisters supporting schools

Following in the educational footsteps of Blessed Peter To Rot is 87-year-old Sister Mary Claude Gadd—a Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SSCJ)—who hails from San Antonio, Texas in the USA, but who has lived in Papua New Guinea for 36 years. During that time, she has been responsible for developing child protection programmes, as well as parenting programmes, but the programme most recently founded by the energetic sister is perhaps her most impressive to date and one that this year, Missio Scotland, is proud to give our support to.

"I developed a Universal Inclusive Early Childhood Programme (IECD), so that every child in rural and remote rural areas may have a chance to start out in



life with the hope of a brighter future,” Sr Mary Claude said. “Private Early Childhood Education has always been available in the urban areas for children whose parents could afford it. We piloted the IECD programme with UNICEF Papua New Guinea and it has been an immense success for us.”

Currently, there are 258 IECD centres throughout the Madang Province in all six districts. Each is connected to one of the 31 parishes there, with many of those having as many as 58 satellite smaller churches/Christian communities. The IECD centres take in children at the age of three and boast some 300 teachers, who are given further training while in post.

“Thus far, the government doesn’t financially contribute in any way to this programme,” Sr Mary Claude said. “It is all community and parish sponsored. Our partnership agreement with UNICEF ended almost two years ago and now we are on our own completely.”

However, we at Missio Scotland, through our support for Sr Mary Claude and her fellow sisters in Papua New Guinea, aim to show that they are not on their own completely and that they can rely on their brothers and sisters in Scotland as part of the universal Church. Sr Mary Claude explained exactly what the most pressing need is with regards to the IECD centres, which is where Missio Scotland’s funds will be directed.

“The IECD teachers are taught to produce their own teaching and learning materials,” she said. “They prepare all these during their training weeks and add to it as time goes on. What we need help with right now is suitable library material for little children. We encourage the children to learn English and they love it. It’s the first language of Papua New Guinea closely followed by Tok Pisin and Motu, but there are very little local publications that can speak to a child about their own culture and so on.

“A local author has recently published a set of books that would be most beneficial to this end and we would greatly appreciate if we could try and get a set of them for each of our IECD centres. I am in touch with the author of these books and she tells me that they can enlarge them to A4 size so that the teacher can read to the children and show them the pictures at the same time. A package of 10 A4 sized books will cost £72 (which includes transport and tax) and as I said, we’re looking to try and get a set for each of our IECD centres.

“We are most grateful for any way in which Missio Scotland might be able to help us purchase these books. May God continue to bless you, keep you well and safe.” ■



**SPEAK ABOUT THE
PACIFIC ISLANDS...**

...where 3,500 religious bring the Lord’s mercy
and peace to those in need.



Praying for an end to the pandemic and staying safe

Sr Stella Niwagira

St. Peter Claver Sister,

Sr. Stella spent some time in Bellshill with her fellow sisters and who has hosted two missionary trips from Scotland—gives us an insight into how people in her native Uganda have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

WHEN we first heard about the Covid-19 pandemic, we just thought of it as something that wouldn't directly affect us here in Uganda. It was thought of more as a strange flu—albeit deadly—that was affecting China. However, we soon became aware that the virus had arrived in Europe and was spreading fast.

The first cases in Africa were announced in our neighbouring countries of Kenya and Tanzania. As soon as that happened, we started panicking. Lots of stories, both accurate and misleading, began to spread at the same pace as the virus itself. However, one that was true was that Europe and America were going into lockdown. Before we knew it, Uganda decided to go into lockdown too, even before the first positive case was diagnosed in the country.

It was then that our struggles began, but there was precious little we could do about it. Originally, our lockdown was supposed to last for two weeks. However, when it became clear that it was going to be for longer, people became anxious.

That first lockdown ran from March to May 2020. As everyone in the UK will know, it was a very disheartening time for everyone having to live under lockdown.

No work means no food

Many people in the cities and towns here have to get by on what they earn on a given day. That means that if someone has not been able to go out to work, they will have nothing to eat. You can imagine then, that as soon as lockdown began, many people started going hungry.

Those who were brave enough opted to go back to their villages, even if they had to walk hundreds of kilometres to do so. This was seen as a better option because, in the villages, people grow their own food in their gardens. There is no need to buy food or pay rent when you're in your own house. The government did try to distribute some food, but this was like a drop in the ocean. Only a small percentage of those who needed the food received a small portion to last them a few weeks.

In the cities and towns, people were becoming restless. Some started joining gangs and it became dangerous to even go out for some shopping. The gangs were even attacking people in broad daylight. Fortunately, however, there was a curfew that ran from 7pm to

SPEAK ABOUT AFRICA...

...where 19,000 young men are preparing for the priesthood.



6.30am. If there hadn't been, there might have been more robberies and criminality at night.

Hardships closer to home

Life became difficult for families too. For majority of the couples, this was their first experience of being together all day every day, Monday to Sunday! Couples started fighting over trivial matters. For some, it was too much to take and some men just walked away and left their wives at home with the children.

Because the schools were closed all the children were at home too. Many teenagers who had been active before the pandemic started to become bored. Unfortunately, we saw a rise in the number of young girls becoming pregnant. In some districts, the numbers were alarming, in one instance an area saw more than 700 girls becoming pregnant during the lockdown.

'The new normal'

When the full lockdown finally ended, the struggle to live in the new-normal began. Many companies had to lay off some workers and those who were retained were paid half salaries. None of the learning Institutions have ever returned to fully functioning status, with students having to learn in shifts.

As I mentioned previously, when Uganda went into lockdown, there were no case of Covid-19 here. However, when full lockdown came to an end, there were hundreds of cases. Fortunately, despite all the trying times the country has gone through, Uganda has not been hit as badly by the pandemic as other neighbouring countries have. In any case let's all pray for an end to the pandemic and try to continue to stay safe. ■

**Lord, give me a heart that is open and warm,
from which your love can flow
to those around me.**

**Give me a spirit that embraces the whole world,
the earth and all its peoples.**

**Let me live in each moment today,
conscious of your call to give the Good News,
to be part of a Church which brings
justice, peace and hope
especially to those who are most in need.**

**Let my every word and gesture
contribute to healing, restoring and uniting
all your children everywhere.**

Missio Scotland prayer

Venerable Pauline Jaricot

Celebrating the Mother of Mission



Gerard Gough

Pauline Jaricot was a 19th century French laywoman who is often referred to as the 'Mother of Mission' due to her role in helping to establish the first of the Pontifical Mission Societies which are active all over the world.

Bringing faith to life

Pauline was born on July 22, 1799 and belonged to a family of silk workers from Lyon. Her family business boomed in the aftermath of the Revolution and they made their fortune in the trade. However, despite coming from this upper middle-class background, Pauline led a much simpler life, remaining celibate and taking a keen interest in the living conditions of those who worked in her family's factory. Although her brother, Phileas was a missionary in Vietnam, she chose not to enter religious life herself, instead she considered the world to be her cloister.

Inspired by her brother's missionary zeal, she became a member of an association founded by the Fathers of the Foreign Missions of Paris and sought support from the women in her family factory to whom she was close. She endeavoured to change the world for the better. Pauline asked people to pray for missionaries and those living in mission countries and territories and donate a penny a week for the missions. That simple notion spread throughout her native land and eventually further afield leading to the foundation of the first of the Pontifical Mission Societies, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which was declared Pontifical in 1822 by Pope Pius XI.

SPEAK ABOUT ASIA...

...where six million children receive an education from Religious Sisters in more than 15,000 Church-run primary schools.



Pauline also created the Living Rosary Association, whereby she invited Christians to recite the prayer in small groups. She expanded the organisation's work to include the distribution of prayer leaflets, holy pictures, medals and rosaries. The Living Rosary Association grew rapidly in France and spread to other countries. In 1832, Pope Gregory XVI gave Canonical status to the association.

She was aware that support for the missions and praying the Rosary went hand-in-hand and the Rosary has always been something that has been at the heart of the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies worldwide, most notably these days through our unique Mission Rosary, established in 1951 by Venerable Archbishop Fulton J Sheen, the then US National Director of Missio. However, it could be argued that the Living Rosary movement acted as a catalyst for establishing a stronger link between the Rosary and the missions.

Gaëtan Boucharlat de Chazotte, vice-president of the Friends of Pauline Jaricot, said, "Her entrepreneurial spirit and her interpersonal skills allowed her to bring together thousands of people and to bring the faith to life, just as she wished. She was passionate, had a very strong temperament and, as a result, she was supported very quickly in her work."

In 1831, Pauline acquired the Maison de Lorette and purchased land around it to install religious communities. She had a chapel dedicated to St Philomena as well as outbuildings and she also had the house re-modelled to host the main office of the Living Rosary Association. She died in that house in January 1862, leaving behind a legacy of love for her faith and for mission. The house was acquired by the Pontifical Mission Societies in 1975 and is now a museum.

Beatification process

The Archdiocese of Lyon initiated the Beatification process of Pauline Jaricot before the Holy See in 1930. In 1962, Pope John XXIII recognised her as venerable. All that was missing was the recognition of a miracle in order to achieve Beatification.

This would take place in 2012. A three-year-old girl, Mayline Tran, was choking on a piece of food. Hospitalised, she went into cardiac arrest and was considered lost by the doctors. In her school, a prayer chain to Pauline Jaricot—whose jubilee was celebrated that year—was set up. A few days later, the child showed signs of life and eventually recovered.

An inquiry into the presumed cure was investigated at the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Lyon,

before the case was examined in Rome. After a long scientific and Canonical procedure, the doctors concluded that the cure was 'unexplained.' After sharing their findings with the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Pope Francis authorised Cardinal Angelo Becciu—Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints—to promulgate the Decree on the 26th May 2020 which recognised the miracle as being attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God, Pauline Marie Jaricot, foundress of the Propagation of the Faith and the Living Rosary.

Commenting on the decree, Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso, President of the Pontifical Mission Societies, expressed his great joy upon hearing the news.

"This is a very important step. It means that her commitment to the missions, made of prayer and charity, speaks and is still significant today for the universal Church. We at the PMS are elated that in this way her charism of prayer and charity, that has governed all of our works, has also been recognised. Certainly, we can rely on her intercession."

Due to the global pandemic crisis, no date for the Beatification has been set.

"We welcome this Beatification with great joy and great enthusiasm," Gaëtan Boucharlat de Chazotte said. "Pauline's life and work has resonance even now, she breathed spirituality into society."

Next year, 2022, will mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith as well as the centenary of it—along with the Society of St Peter the Apostle and the Holy Childhood Association (Missionary Children)—being declared Pontifical by Pope Pius XI. It also marks the 160th anniversary of Pauline Jaricot's death. So, 2022 will be a special year in which to reflect and celebrate both her achievements and those of the Pontifical Mission Societies worldwide. ■

Lord, you inspired Pauline-Marie Jaricot
to found the Propagation of the Faith
and the Living Rosary,
as well as her total commitment
to the cause of the workers.
Hasten the day when the Church
will be able to celebrate the sanctity of her life.
May her example lead a large number of Christians
to dedicate themselves to spreading the Gospel,
so that the men and women of our time and all the
peoples of the world may discover your infinite love
manifested in Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever. Amen.

Fr. Tadeusz Novak OMI

**SPEAK ABOUT
LATIN AMERICA...**

...where catechists travel to remote areas
to bring the Good News of God's great
love to families.





St Kevin's PS Bargeddie raised £1,347.24

Well done the children!

Given that Missio Scotland is the official charity for the country's Catholic primary schools, it has been especially difficult not to have been able to interact with our school communities over the past 18 months as we would have done normally. However, it has been heartening to know that many of our schools have not forgotten the Pope's charity both in their prayers and fundraising efforts.



Missionary Children



Our Lady & St Francis PS Carfin

In Motherwell Diocese, Bishop Toal blessed the Missio Scotland Champion badges, which were then distributed to the children in recognition of their work for the Pontifical Mission Societies.



St Cadoc's PS Newton Mearns

Whether it be filling in Coin Maps, Caring Christmas Baubles, putting money in the Missio Scotland boxes, taking part in Miles for Mission, holding fun runs, sports days or fancy-dress days, many schools throughout the country have continued their excellent fundraising efforts for Missio Scotland during the pandemic.



St David's PS, Plains, Airdrie



Corpus Christi PS Calderbank

Schools have also availed of our wide and varied resources and learned more about the Mission Rosary, Missionary Saints, some of the countries where Missio Scotland has supported projects and have even taken part in our Mission Stations of the Cross.

Everyone at Missio Scotland would just like to thank our schools for their support during the most trying of times and we look forward to seeing you all in the rest of 2021-22 school year.

St Patrick's PS, Troon



Miles for Mission



Chris finds inspiration in families of faith

Missio Scotland recently caught up with Chris Furmage—a seminarian for Motherwell Diocese who is studying at the Scots College in Rome—to find out why he's embarking upon this very special, personal mission.

Gerard Gough

FAMILY is important to Chris Furmage—both in the traditional and wider sense—and a family with a strong faith focus is crucial to growing that faith, allowing us to use our God-given talents and carry out our mission of spreading the Good News.

Chris described himself as coming from a 'traditionally Catholic, Coatbridge family.' He attended St Bernard's Primary School and St Ambrose High School in the town, but it was his family's involvement in St Bernard's parish that helped light the fire of faith in him.

"My grandparents were very much into their faith and the traditions of the church," Chris said. "And whenever I stayed at my gran's we would pray together. As a family unit we were very much involved in the church. Myself and my sister were altar servers for years. My dad was in the SVDP and my mum also helped in various ways in the parish.

Lourdes and loving inspirations

Another family that added to Chris' desire to take up a vocation was the one found among the HCPT groups who travel to Lourdes on pilgrimage every year as volunteers, looking after those with disabilities or life-limiting conditions. People who participate in these trips often enjoy the experience so much that they go back multiple times, which underlines the transformative power of faith.

"My family all went on a pilgrimage with HCPT to Lourdes every summer from the time I was 16," Chris explained. "There has been many a happy time in Lourdes, but mostly with the group that I attended with as the people involved are just fantastic.

The opportunity to meet and speak with seminarians while on pilgrimage played its part in Chris' decision to enter the priesthood, as did some of priestly examples he had in Motherwell Diocese.

"For me, the catalyst was a bit of life experience combined with meeting seminarians whilst in Lourdes," he said. "I was able to speak to these guys who were currently going through the life that I was considering.

I didn't feel uncomfortable talking to them. I could ask all the questions my heart desired. At the time I was living in my own house in Bathgate with a reasonably paying job and settled in the lifestyle I would be accustomed to for the next 40 years, but it didn't provide me with the happiness that society says it should.

"Looking back too, I always remember the work of the Xaverian Missionaries based in the Conforti Institute in Coatbridge. They were inspiring priests. They would often provide cover in my parish and pay visits to the school to discuss their work abroad. Obviously, a few parish priests such as: Fr Damien Gilhooley, Fr Charles Dornan, Fr Bernard Zulu, Canon William Dunnachie, are some who both inspired and re-established that call of God too."

Belonging

Chris' decision to follow his vocation came as a bit of a shock to his mum and dad, but less so to his sister, who he described as 'excited and happy as she had been getting several people to pray for my vocation for many years.' After a propaedeutic period in the Royal Scots College in Salamanca, he began his studies in Rome and found that almost everything seemed to just click into place as he became part of another family.

"The first time I came to Rome for Holy Week and the Triduum, to see all the sights and meet all the guys who were in formation was quite something," Chris said. "The Liturgy was so meticulously planned out too, to make it so much more special and different. It was also my first time experiencing silent retreat, which was difficult, but also amazing.

"Then, in my first year when I arrived, I was told that I had to quickly run out to buy a collar for a cassock as we would be attending a private audience with the Scottish Bishops and Pope Francis. I remember it so vividly. When he walked in the room I just couldn't stop smiling as I thought to myself 'what am I doing here and how did I get here?'

"From the application weekends to my time in Salamanca and now to my time here in Rome I just feel extremely happy as I feel this is where I need to be right now. The experiences I get to have living in these places is incomparable."

Shaping a seminarian

While study, celebration of Mass and prayer are key to the life of a seminarian, Chris is quick to challenge some of the misconceptions of seminary life, while at the same time describing the most important characteristics that a seminarian must possess.

"I would have to say honesty," he said. "Not simply in terms of what we say, but seminarians must be honest with ourselves, our formation staff and the bishop. It helps you in every way possible. It helps with spiritual direction, confession and formation meetings.

"It's important to be open to change as well. You are given an early insight into the different aspects of priestly life. One of the key components of it is the hundreds of different people you meet; from those you live with, to the students at the different universities who come from all over the world, from different backgrounds and with different life experiences."

Indeed, Chris spoke of drawing strength from his time in seminary from many of the people around him, stating that he loved 'spending time with people, whether that was simply out walking, having a laugh or in prayer.' He also mentioned prayer as something that also emboldens his faith, but admits that one of the most common misconceptions about seminarians is that they instantly have a fantastic prayer life.

"Don't expect to enter into seminary and suddenly have an amazing prayer life," he said. "It takes time. And in growing in prayer, you can't compare yourself to others because it's a process that is all about the individual. I appreciate prayer even more now and always make space for it in my daily life, as it's an important thing that needs to be developed in your life as an inspiring priest."

Sharing our faith with the world

While Chris' experiences so far in Salamanca and Rome have no doubt shaped his outlook and also his faith, when he mentioned that once ordained, he'd perhaps like to work with the sick in some capacity, it's clear that family of faith formed in trips to Lourdes has had a long-lasting, positive impact on him.

"I think I'd like to work in hospitals or with the disabled," he said. "Part of my vocation came from a bi-annual trip to Lourdes with HCPT and working with the kids and adults that went with my group. It was great and something I look back on fondly. In all my placements thus far, I've found nothing more moving than visiting the sick—especially in hospital—as there always just seems to be an atmosphere that is indescribable. God is truly there for those people."

This personal mission, so to speak, is symbolic of the term in a wider sense, something that Chris was aware of and spoke in depth about. He is cognisant of the need to reflect Christ's mission in our own lives, but also to support the work of Missio Scotland in enabling priests and religious throughout the world who provide excellent examples of witness.

**"Everything
we do and say
is our mission,
to reflect
that of Christ"**

"Everything we do and say is our mission, to reflect that of Christ," he said. "We should do as the concluding prayers of Mass suggest: 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord' and 'Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life'. The joy and hope that we experience in our daily lives as Christians can easily be shared with those around us. In a personal way then it's how we share our faith with the world.

"If we look to the traditional examples of missionaries, we think of these men who went to somewhere that had no idea of who Jesus was and how important He was to the world and all the people in it. We can use these examples today and look at how we can share the Good News—most importantly by the way we act and how we treat others."















"Having spent time with those involved with Missio Scotland and seeing what they do, I think it's important and necessary work for those less fortunate," he added. "And it's a relatively easy way for people to get involved with missionary work. Supporting Missio Scotland is one way in which people can participate and completely transform people's lives who are thousands of miles away.

"One thing I love is the aid that they provide to foreign seminarians and religious. It can be quite a costly thing and I absolutely love the fact that Missio Scotland is helping these men and women follow their vocation." ■





October 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 <p>Part of the global network of Pontifical Mission Societies</p>		<p>October is Mission Month, and also the Month of the Rosary. Take a few minutes each day to pray with children all over the world. Try the World Mission Rosary and pray a decade for each continent.</p>		 <p>1 Feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux: Why not practise her Little Way?</p>	<p>Pray for the missionaries who serve in Europe</p>  <p>2</p>	<p>Pray that the scars of conflict of children in Syria can be healed</p>  <p>3</p>
<p>Pray for lay missionaries, wherever they may be, that God will continue to bless their work</p> <p>4</p>  <p>Feast of St Francis of Assisi: Pray for peace in the world</p>	<p>Pray for your teachers, some of our most important missionaries, that they continue to help us learn and grow</p> <p>13</p>	<p>Pray for families in the missions who struggle with sickness—especially from Covid-19—that they may find the medical help they need</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Ask Our Lady of the Rosary to watch over the babies of the world</p>  <p>7</p>	<p>Pray for all religious men and women who serve as missionaries across all five continents</p> <p>8</p>	<p>Pray for the missionaries who serve in the Americas</p>  <p>9</p>	<p>Pray that the children of Papua New Guinea receive a good education</p>  <p>10</p>
<p>Pray for children living throughout the world who have to go to work instead of going to school</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Pray for the Pontifical Mission Societies all over the world that their work may be supported both spiritually and financially</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life both here in Scotland and in the missions</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Say this prayer: Dear God, tell me what you want me to do today and I will do it. Amen</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Feast of St Teresa of Avila: Be silent and listen to God's message</p>  <p>15</p>	<p>Pray for the missionaries who serve in Asia</p>  <p>16</p>	<p>Pray that children in Peru are provided with enough food</p>  <p>17</p>
<p>Pray for refugees, wherever they may be, that they find a safe home</p> <p>18</p>	<p>Pray for Pope Francis, the main missionary in our Church</p>  <p>26</p>	<p>Pray for the whole world, that the Holy Spirit will guide us in love</p> <p>28</p>	<p>Feast of St Pope John Paul II: Pray for children around the world</p>  <p>22</p>	<p>Pray for the missionaries who serve in Africa</p>  <p>23</p>	<p>Today, on World Mission Sunday, pray for all the boys and girls, our brothers and sisters in faith, throughout the world</p> <p>24</p>	<p>Pray for all your loved ones and those of your family and friends who have died</p> <p>31</p>
<p>Pray for world leaders, that they are committed to peace, justice, freedom of religion and care for the environment</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Pray for the Holy Spirit</p>  <p>11</p>	<p>Pray for world leaders, that they are committed to peace, justice, freedom of religion and care for the environment</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Pray for the children who have no parents, that they find a safe place in which to grow up</p> <p>29</p>	<p>Pray for the missionaries who serve in Oceania</p>  <p>30</p>		