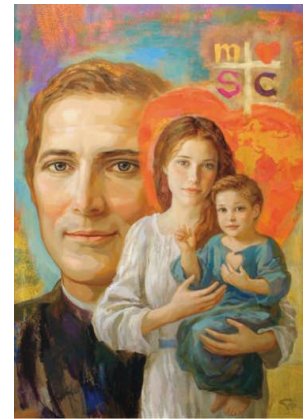


## **Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Ireland: 1909 – 2009**

### **An Historical Glance at the origins of the Irish Province**

The Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart was founded in France in 1854. Fr Jules Chevalier, the founder, was a young priest in the town of Issoudun in central France where he lived for most of his life as parish priest until his death in 1907. Our Society is one branch of a family that eventually included two societies of religious sisters, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, together with a third order made up of lay people, as well as a worldwide body of supporters who share in the spirit and work of the missionary family. The religious and lay members of the Chevalier Family now share in a spirituality and mission that reaches out into more than fifty countries.



Our spirituality is based on a particular way of contemplating Jesus and following him. We call it the Way of the Heart. We are inspired to emphasise the humanity of Jesus, his gentleness, courage, humility, compassion and powerful love that is inclusive of everybody, but especially of all who suffer in spirit or in body. He is the Good Shepherd, who gathers us into the family of a merciful, compassionate and loving God. Out of his heart flow rivers of living water, the life-giving Spirit who fills our hearts with love, joy and peace. In Jesus, we find healing and strength to live a meaningful and purposeful life.

In 1876, a highly regarded pious young priest from the Diocese of Cloyne, John Mary Neenan, wrote to the Fathers at Issoudun, expressing his desire to join their society and to help in establishing a house of the society in Ireland. He completed his novitiate in France and was professed in 1877. He was then appointed to a newly founded community in Watertown, in the State of New York, USA, where he died not long afterwards. The cross over his grave bears an impressive testimony to his zeal and enthusiasm: “Sacred to the memory of John Mary Neenan, Missionary of the Sacred Heart. Remarkable for his unostentatious learning, his angelic piety and his burning zeal for God’s greater glory, he died on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1879, in the twenty sixth year of his life and the second of his religious profession.” His dream of a foundation in Ireland was to be taken up by those who came after him.

Before Fr Neenan's departure for Watertown, he went home to visit his family in the parish of Castlemagner in north Cork. His brother, William, was already in France, studying in the minor seminary of the Society. John Mary now availed of the opportunity to do some further recruiting. Five youngsters, including his brother Daniel and a sturdy young man called Michael Tierney, returned with him to France.



Fr Michael Tierney, born on September, 29<sup>th</sup> 1860 at Churchtown, Mallow, Co. Cork, was the man who pioneered the first foundation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Ireland at the Western Road, Cork, in 1909. He entered the novitiate of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at St Gerard-le-Puy near Issoudun and was professed on November 21<sup>st</sup> 1879. He pursued his philosophical and theological studies at Chezal-Benoit near Bourges in central France and was ordained a priest at Bourges on

March 29<sup>th</sup> 1884. The following year he went to Australia where in a short time he became superior of the Randwick community which was the headquarters of the society in Australia. Indeed it was he who built the church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Randwick.

In 1898 Fr Tierney moved to England where Fr Chevalier had established the first MSC foundation at Madeley in Shropshire in 1882. Four years later they transferred to Glastonbury in Somerset where they opened a minor seminary. It was from Glastonbury in 1899 that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart took charge of the parish of Saints Alban and Stephen in St Albans, Hertfordshire, where Fr Tierney was named the first rector. The MSCs continue to minister in St Albans to this day, our oldest existing foundation in this Province.

Ten years later, early in 1909, Fr Tierney returned to his native county of Cork with the intention of acquiring a house for the Society in Ireland. Having heard

that the "Dyke House" in Cork city was for sale, he sought permission from the bishop of Cork, Dr Thomas O'Callaghan, to establish a foundation in the diocese. Having received the approval of the bishop he purchased the property that



was to become known as Sacred Heart College, Western Road. Fr Tierney and three others, namely, Frs James Fitzgibbon, John Power and Ludovicus Kopp,

formed the first MSC community in September 1909. In the same month the apostolic school was opened at Sacred Heart College, with twelve students.

With his outgoing personality and considerable missionary experience, Fr Tierney very quickly established a missionary community and set about making preparations for the building of a public church in which our spirituality and devotion to the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart could be promoted.

Despite the hardships caused by World War One and the War of Independence in Ireland, this new foundation enabled the community to grow and extend its presence to other parts of the country. Training houses for our students were established in Carraig na bhFear near Cork City, Myross Wood in West Cork and Moyne Park in Co. Galway. These houses provided the opportunities and resources for the training of great missionaries, some of them truly heroic. Beginning in 1926, they played their part with other European MSCs in the evangelization of Papua New Guinea. Among those great men of the early days we note in particular Frs Bill Culhane, Bill Barrow and Michael Murphy, all of whom lost their lives in the service of the people of Papua New Guinea during the Second World War. Our Irish missionaries continued to work there until 2004.

The significant increase in vocations in Ireland in the late 1940s and early 1950s made it possible for the Irish MSCs to establish their own mission territory in South Africa. In 1950 our first missionaries set sail for that troubled country. Some of the missionaries who survived the ordeal of prison camps in Papua New Guinea were later to serve this new mission. One of them, Fr John Durkin, became bishop of Louis Trichardt/Tzaneen Diocese in the Northern Transvaal.

The growth in vocations in the 1940s and 1950s, with its subsequent missionary expansion and an increasing financial autonomy, led the MSC Congregation to establish the Irish Province as a separate entity in June, 1952.

Other missionaries returning from New Guinea joined a small group of Irish MSCs who had settled in the Southern States of the USA in the mid 1960s. They consolidated our presence there, taking responsibility for parishes and

engaging in much needed fundraising activity to support the fledgling missions of the young Irish Province.

During these decades of growth we also witnessed a significant expansion of our missionary activity in England in both parish and education ministries. These were also flourishing years for MSC ministries in Ireland, where we were involved in parish missions, retreats and education, both at secondary and third level. From 1961 until 1966, following the Indonesian War of Independence, some of our members served in that part of the world, where they assisted missionaries from the Dutch Province in their work there.

It was in 1967 that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart responded to the call of Pope John XXIII at the Second Vatican Council by sending the first Irish MSCs to work in Maracaibo, Venezuela, where we continue to minister to the present day. In keeping with the missionary tradition of the early days, in August 1995, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart decided to undertake a new mission in the Caucasus area of Russia. Two members remain in that particularly difficult mission where two MSCs from the South German/Austrian Province work with them.

All the achievements described above could not have been possible without the support and prayers of our many faithful and loyal benefactors. We pray in gratitude for the thousands of wonderful people who, year after year, contribute to our missionary endeavours. Through their generosity and personal sacrifice our benefactors and friends ensure that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are always well resourced as they continue to preach the Gospel and make a difference in those places in the world where the Lord invites them to be present.

As a religious and missionary society, we have been privileged to work with many other religious, both men and women, with diocesan bishops and priests, and with lay people, in the mission entrusted to us in the service of the peoples of the world. The Irish Province of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has been especially supportive to the MSCs particularly in the early days of our missionary work. The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are very grateful to the sisters for their loyalty and dedicated service. In this centenary year we give thanks for all the blessings received on our journey and

we pray with confidence that our loving God who “began this good work in each one of us will bring it to fulfilment”.

Our mission of making the Heart of Jesus known and loved everywhere remains as relevant today as it was one hundred years ago. Our particular vision of Jesus enables us to continue to be bearers of the Good News for the world. It is a vision born of faith in the goodness and kindness of God communicated to the world in the humanity of Jesus. Father Chevalier saw in the Heart of Jesus a “remedy” for all that afflicts our world today, a remedy for sin in all its manifestations. The Heart of Jesus is the “real symbol” of God’s compassion, kindness and forgiveness revealed to the world.

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the MSC Congregation Pope John Paul II said:

***“Father Chevalier saw the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the meeting place between God and humankind. Indeed, it is from Jesus’ Heart that God’s love is lavished upon men and women; it is in Jesus’ Heart that humanity is reconciled to God. Jesus invites us to a “spirituality of the heart” in imitation of his own surrender, obedience, courage, fidelity and love. It is my fervent hope that you, dear Brothers, will continue to draw inspiration and strength from this spirituality and from your Founder’s Charism as you fulfil your vocation in the Church and the world. You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things.”***



In 1942 the Japanese made a surprise landing at Tabor, New Guinea, and escorted Fr Michael Murphy off the Island. Fr Murphy was never seen again and it is believed that he may very well have suffered a martyr’s death at the hands of the Japanese. Four years later, when the German Bishop Sharmach MSC came to the island, the local people brought him to Fr Murphy’s church where on opening the tabernacle the Blessed Eucharist was found to be intact and incorrupt. The Lord had not deserted his people.

## **A Word of Welcome**

**On behalf of the Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart I extend a very warm welcome to you as you join us today in our special pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine here at Knock. This is the centenary of our first foundation in Ireland, in Cork, 1909. It is a blessed and graced time for us.**

**As we look back over the century we gather to give thanks to God for the many graces and blessings we have received. Our Blessed Lady, to whom our Founder, Fr Jules Chevalier, had a profound devotion and honoured her with the title of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, has always shown herself to be our mother. She, who accompanied her son Jesus throughout his earthly life, likewise accompanies us on our journey of faith and leads us to the Heart of her Son. Many miracles have been worked in this hallowed place of prayer and faith through Mary's intercession. Each one of us has our own individual story of Mary's response to our prayers and petitions. She has done great things for us. Through the example of her own "Fiat" at the Annunciation she invites us likewise to say yes to the Lord's will for us in the joys and sorrows of life.**



**As we give thanks for our missionary achievements and successes in the past hundred years we are immensely grateful for the kindness and generosity of thousands of people throughout the length and breadth of our country and beyond; our many benefactors and friends who share in our mission through their prayers and financial support. We are blessed to have such people.**

**I pray that through the intercession of Our Lady your prayers will be answered and that the Lord will bless you and your families with his peace.**

**Fr Patrick Courtney MSC  
Provincial Superior**



## **MSC Mission Support Centre Reaching Out**

**I join with all Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in welcoming you to this day of pilgrimage here at our national shrine of Our Lady. This is indeed a very special place of thanksgiving and intercession and we are delighted that so many of you have taken the trouble to be with us today.**



**Our Benefactors throughout Ireland and Britain play an essential role in ensuring that the Word of God and Devotion to the Sacred Heart are spread amongst peoples in many lands. Without our benefactors, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart would not have the resources to spread the Word of God, to build churches, or set up schools, training centres, clinics, hospices and feeding centres in the mission fields. As our benefactors you are our partners in mission and we thank you sincerely for your generosity particularly in today's difficult economic climate.**

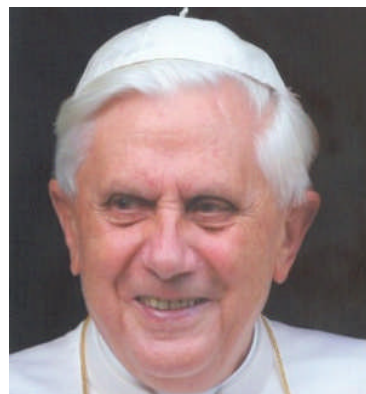
**People of all ages write to me at our Mission Support Centre requesting the prayers of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart for their various needs and concerns. Prayers are requested for personal intentions, for a loved one recovering from an accident or from a serious illness; for students taking exams; for employment or family difficulties, or for individuals in time of personal crisis. Prayers of thanksgiving for graces and favours received are also frequently requested. Through our letters I believe I have friends in many households around the country. I assure you that each Missionary of the Sacred Heart is conscious of the generosity of our benefactors and of our commitment to pray for your intentions.**

***May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Pray for us.***

**Fr Michael O'Connell MSC  
MSC Mission Support Centre**

## Message from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

As part of our Centenary celebrations on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2009, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Anne in Cork. At the conclusion of this Mass, his Excellency, Most Rev. Archbishop Giuseppe Leanza, Papal Nuncio to Ireland, read a special message on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI in which His Holiness imparted his Apostolic Blessing:



***“His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI was pleased to learn of the celebrations taking place to mark the centenary of the Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and he sends his warm greetings to you and to all members of the Province on this joyful occasion. His Holiness gives thanks to Almighty God for the many graces received by the members of the Congregation and the souls to whom they have ministered. The Holy Father prays that this commemoration will be for all the religious of the Province a time of grace and light so that, renewed in their ardent love of the Lord, and imitating his meekness and humility, they may always be intrepid heralds of his gospel in today’s world. As a pledge of strength and joy in the Lord, His Holiness cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.”***



## Service of Reconciliation

Fr Kevin Shanahan MSC

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation, “in a profound sense is called the *sacrament of confession* – acknowledgement and praise – of the holiness of God and of his mercy towards us”.**

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

**Music led by Una Nolan and James Kilbane**

**Create in me a Clean Heart**

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And put a new and right spirit within me.”*

Psalm 51:10

**Create in me a clean heart**, open and receptive, so that I may embrace the many ways you choose to visit my life.

**Create in me a clean heart**, free from the memory of old battles with others and opposition with myself.

**Create in me a clean heart**, purified through life encounters that take me beyond my grasping control and ego-centeredness.

**Create in me a clean heart**, free to enjoy the beauty of life’s simple things and relish the gifts I easily take for granted.

**Create in me a clean heart**, cleansed from harsh thoughts, shame, and perfectionist tendencies, and free to warmly welcomes others.

**Create in me a clean heart**, free of frantic busyness, so that I have time to dwell with you in silence.

**Create in me a clean heart that** enables me to recognize my own inner goodness.

**Create in me a clean heart**, with an enduring faith in your abiding presence and unconditional love.

**Create in me a clean heart**, free of racism and prejudice, drawing me toward all as my sisters and brothers.

**Create in me a clean heart**, washed with your mercy and strengthened by your love.

## ***Leaning on the Heart of God***

**“Accept the strength that comes  
from the grace of Christ Jesus.”**

**2 Timothy 2:1**

**I am leaning on the heart of God.  
I am resting there in silence.  
All the turmoil that exhausts me  
is brought to bear on this great love.**

**No resistance or complaint is heard  
as I lean upon God’s welcome.  
There is gladness for my coming.  
There is comfort for my pain.**

**I lean, and lean, and lean  
upon this heart that hurts with me.  
Strength lifts the weight of my distress.  
Courage wraps around my troubles.**

**No miracle of instant recovery.  
No taking away of life’s burdens.  
Yet, there is solace for my soul,  
and refuge for my exiled tears.**

**It is enough for me to know  
the heart of God is with me,  
full of mercy and compassion,  
tending to the wounds I bear.**

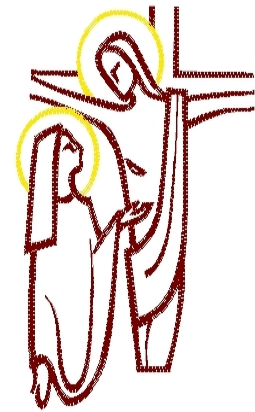
Taken from “Out of the Ordinary” by Joyce Rupp. Used by permission of Ave Maria Press.

## **Stations of the Cross**

### **Fr Des Farren MSC**

The Way of the cross is every person’s journey. Every life has suffering, falls, hurts, rejections, condemnations, death, burial and resurrection. Mary the mother of Jesus, made that first way of the cross with her son. Our reflections today attempt to present her viewpoint of what Jesus goes through on the way to Calvary. As we walk with Mary we reflect on what that says to us in our life’s journey.

Praying the stations with Mary, the mother of Jesus by Richard Furey.

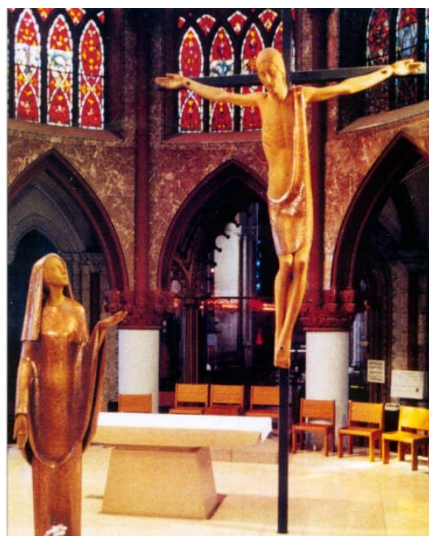


**We adore you O Christ and we  
praise you, because by your holy  
cross you have redeemed the  
world.**

## Opening Commentary Before Mass Begins

**Fr Michael O'Connell MSC**

Before Mass begins friends of the Sacred Heart Parish Western Road will bring to the altar a picture of Fr Jules Chevalier, founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart together with the Constitutions of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the guidelines which govern the life and mission of every MSC. The Golden Book and the Blue Book containing the names and prayer intentions of our benefactors will also be presented. The image of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart standing at the foot of the Cross will also be carried in this procession. Interspersed throughout the procession is a collection of flags representing the different countries where members of the Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have ministered through the years.



**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,  
MSC Basilica Issoudun, France**

**Mass of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**  
**Principal Celebrant**  
**His Eminence Cardinal Seán Brady Archbishop of Armagh**  
**Primate of All Ireland**

**Opening Hymn**

**Faithful is The Lord**

*Tune: Mo Ghile Mear*

God of life and God of seed, God of nations, lands and creeds,  
God of heaven, God of earth, God made man in lowly birth.

***Faithful is the Lord our King, let us all in glory sing***  
***Ever praise in song and word: Holy, holy, holy Lord!***

God of wisdom, God of truth, God of mystery, age and youth,  
God of silence, God of quiet, God of darkness, God of light.

God of stars and God of seas, God of harvest, God of wheat,  
God of hillside, God of field, God of love in Christ revealed.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, three in one,  
God who dwells in every heart, God ever faithful be not far.

**Welcome**

**Fr Patrick Courtney MSC**

**Provincial Superior, Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart**

**Gloria**

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Opening Prayer**

O God, in Christ you have revealed the immense riches of your love and have willed to join the Blessed Virgin Mary to the mystery of his heart under the title of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Grant that we too might merit to share in your love and always be witnesses of it in your church. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading: Isaiah 66: 10-14

*“Like a son comforted by his mother will I comfort you ... At the sight your heart will rejoice, and your bones flourish like the grass. To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand.”*

This is the Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

*All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God. All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God.*



### Second Reading: Galatians 4: 4-7

*“When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the law, to redeem the subjects of the law and to enable us to be adopted as sons and daughters.”*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### Gospel: John 19: 25-37

*“Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, ‘Woman, this is your son’. Then to the disciple he said, ‘This is your mother’. And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home ..... When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water.”*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### Homily

Fr Mark McDonald MSC, Superior General, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

## The Anointing of the Sick

“We believe in the life giving presence of Christ, the physician of souls and bodies. This presence is particularly active through the sacraments ... The sacred Anointing of the Sick was instituted by Christ our Lord, and is recommended to the faithful by James the apostle who says, ‘If anyone among you is sick, call for the priests of the church and let them pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord and the prayer of faith will save the sick person and if you have committed any sins you will be forgiven’.”

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church.



As the priest approaches you for the anointing of the sick, please give him your name as he is about to anoint you on your forehead and hands. The priest will say the following:

***Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up.***

**Music led by Una Nolan and James Kilbane**

### Prayers of the Faithful

Reader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

## **Memorare to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.**

Remember, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,  
the great things the Lord has done for you.  
He chose you for his mother.  
He wanted you close to his cross.  
He gives you a share in his glory.  
He listens to your prayer.  
Offer him our prayers of praise and thanksgiving.  
Present our petitions to him.  
Let us live like you in the love of your Son  
that his Kingdom may come.  
Lead us to the source of living water  
that flows from his heart, spreading over the world  
hope and salvation, justice and peace.  
See our trust in you; answer our prayer.  
Show yourself always our Mother. Amen.



**Golden Book of the Sacred Heart**



**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.  
Pray for us.**

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

**Offertory Hymn: We come to your Feast**

(Michael Joncas)

We place upon your table a gleaming cloth of white:  
the weaving of our stories, the fabric of our lives;  
the dreams of those before us, the ancient hopeful cries,  
the promise of our future: our needing and our nurture  
lie here before our eyes.

**All: We come to your feast; we come to your feast:  
the young and the old, the frightened, the bold,  
the greatest and the least.  
We come to your feast; we come to your feast:  
with the fruit of our lands and the work of our hands,  
we come to your feast.**

We place upon your table a humble loaf of bread:  
the gift of field and hillside, the grain by which we're fed;  
we come to taste the presence of him on whom we feed,  
to strengthen and connect us, to challenge and correct us,  
to love in word and deed.

**All: We come to your feast ...**

We place upon your table a simple cup of wine:  
the fruit of human labour, the gift of sun and vine;  
we come to taste the presence, of him we claim as Lord,  
his dying and his living, his leading and his giving,  
his love in cup outpoured.

**All: We come to your feast ...**

We gather 'round your table, we pause within our quest,  
we stand beside our neighbours; we name the stranger "guest."  
The feast is spread before us; you bid us come and dine:  
in blessing we'll uncover, in sharing we'll discover  
your substance and your sign.

**All: We come to your feast ...**

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers and gifts which we offer you in honour of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Grant that through this holy rite we might come to experience, as she did, the sentiments of your Son, Christ Jesus. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

### **Hymns During Holy Communion**

Soloists: James Kilbane and Una Nolan

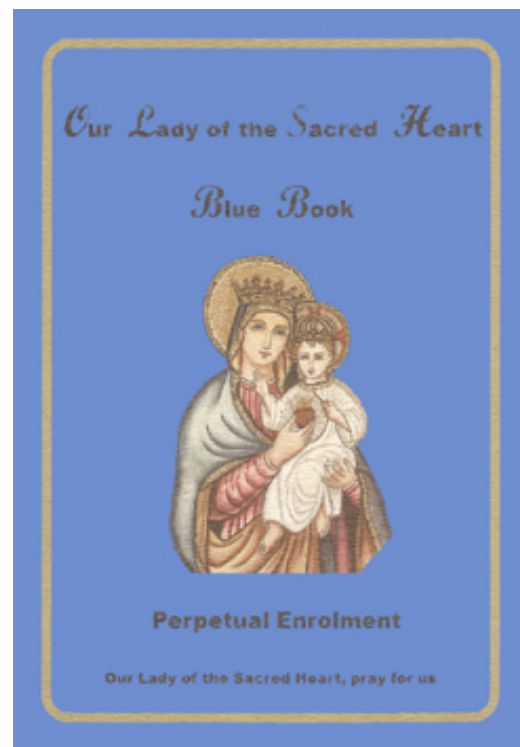
Knock Parish Choir

### **Woman of the Sacred Heart**

In you our flesh, he had to come.  
You grounded him upon our earth.  
Your feet that walked, your womb that held  
your pain that brought this love to birth.  
The Sacred Heart of him you held  
can grieve and grow within the space  
of patient love and listening  
a mother's choice, a mystic's grace.

In your delight, in your despair,  
the smallest choices of each day;  
the cost to you, your hope filled yes,  
your courage lived shows us the way.  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,  
eternal sign of God's surprise,  
in you we know the poor are blessed,  
this world transformed before our eyes.

O woman of the Sacred Heart  
you heard the words of Gabriel.  
Pray we may hear the call of God  
and come to meet Emmanuel.  
His truth is witnessed in your face,  
that he became and was and is  
the Sacred Heart, the resting place;  
our hearts forever held in his.



## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray: Lord, may we who celebrate this sacrament of salvation be led to the glory of heaven by the prayers of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. May we always do what is pleasing to you and serve our brothers and sisters in love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Final Blessing

Born of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
the Son of God redeemed humankind.  
May he enrich you with his blessings. **Amen.**

You received the author of life through Mary.  
May you always rejoice in her loving care.  
**Amen.**

You have come to rejoice at Our Lady's Shrine.  
May you be filled with the joys of the Spirit  
and the gifts of your eternal home. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you ...



**Fr Mark McDonald MSC  
Superior General**

## Recessional Hymn

Sweet heart of Jesus, fount of love and mercy,  
today we come, thy blessings to implore.  
O touch our hearts, so cold and so ungrateful,  
and make them, Lord, thine own for  
evermore.

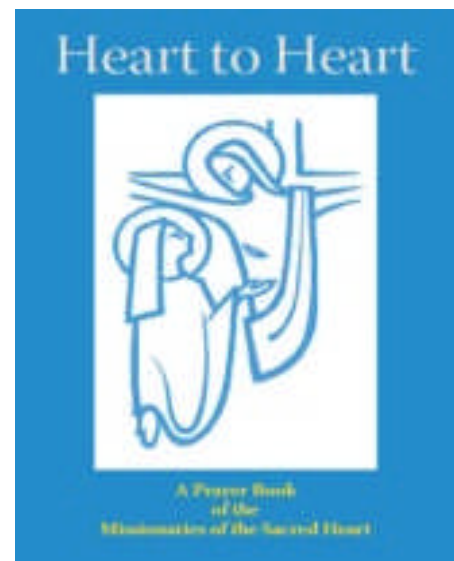
***Sweet heart of Jesus, we implore,  
O make us love thee more and more.***

Sweet heart of Jesus, make us know and  
love thee,  
unfold to us the treasures of thy grace;  
that so our hearts, from things of earth  
uplifted,  
may long alone to gaze upon thy face.

Sweet heart of Jesus, make us pure and  
gentle,  
and teach us how to do thy blessed will;  
to follow close the print of thy dear  
footsteps,  
and when we fall – sweet heart, oh, love us still.

Sweet heart of Jesus, bless all hearts that  
love thee,  
and may thine own heart ever blessed be,  
bless us, dear Lord, and bless the friends  
we cherish,  
and keep us true to Mary and to thee.

***Sweet heart of Jesus, we implore,  
O make us love thee more and more.***



**The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart express sincere thanks to all our friends and benefactors who made such a special effort to join us for this celebration at Our Lady's Shrine in Knock.**

**Sincere thanks to all who have made our celebration possible.**

His Eminence Cardinal Seán Brady, Archbishop of Armagh  
Most Rev. Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam  
Most Rev. Colm O'Reilly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois  
Most Rev. John Kirby, Bishop of Clonfert  
Most Rev. Hugh Slattery MSC, Bishop of Tzaneen, South Africa  
Monsignor Joseph Quinn, Parish Priest and Administrator of Knock Shrine  
Fr Mark McDonald MSC, Superior General Missionaries of the Sacred Heart  
Fr Andre Claessens MSC, Provincial Superior, MSC Belgian Province  
Fr Richard Gibbons and all the staff of Knock Basilica and Shrine  
Una Nolan Musical Director Knock Shrine  
The Knock Parish Choir  
John Aldridge, Organist  
James Kilbane, Guest Soloist  
All who helped with our liturgies today  
All ushers and helpers who volunteered to assist at today's event  
All stewards and handmaids from the Shrine

**Sincere thanks to others too numerous to mention who contributed not only to this special occasion but who constantly give voluntarily of their time and abilities in support of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.**

If you wish to know more about the life and work of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart please visit our website at [www.msccireland.com](http://www.msccireland.com) . For further information about vocations to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart visit [www.msccvocations.com](http://www.msccvocations.com) .



**Our Lady of Knock. Pray for us.**

