



# Message



## The Good works of MSC Missionary Priests

The Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart is active in Ireland, England, Wales, South Africa, Russia, Southern USA and Venezuela. Beyond the Irish Province, MSCs are also working in 54 countries in all five continents.

Through the Spirituality of the Heart, we work to serve the global community and to help others experience God's healing and compassionate love by:

- Spreading the Gospel
- Responding to the needs of those who are poor, isolated, marginalized or without hope
- Promoting human development and compassion, building and modelling healthy relationships and promoting Catholic social teaching
- Encouraging lay leadership in the Church and involvement in our missions and spirituality

The ways in which we carry out our mission vary depending on location and circumstances. Some of our members work to deepen appreciation for God's love here



at home by serving parishes, hospitals, and prisons. Others conduct special retreat programs that help people find healing, love, and joy by releasing past hurts, losses and disappointments and more fully accepting God's love. Still others proclaim and live the compassion of the Sacred Heart by going to missions overseas.

Your wonderful support of our Missions is a blessing to us. We are grateful that you are part of our Mission

Family. For most of us hunger and despair can seem very remote, but for millions upon millions of people it's a fact of life, a constant pain, a daily struggle just to stay alive.

As Missionaries of the Sacred Heart we painfully realize that we will never be able to alleviate ALL of this suffering and misery. With your help, though, we can bring relief to some of the impoverished and starving people we are called to serve.

**MSCs reaching out to others with the Love of the Sacred Heart**



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## A Sincere Thank You from Russia

Dear Friends,

I am Bishop of the Southern half of European Russia, a territory eleven times the size of Ireland. I want to recognise a special thank you to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart for their work in Russia over the past sixteen years. I admire their generosity and pastoral heart as they work in one of the most complex areas in Russia today, in the Caucasus region.



They continually tell me it is you their benefactors, their friends, who make their work possible and I wish to thank you for your sharing in our work here. I am particularly thankful to you for your very generous response to their recent Summer Appeal for special projects in the diocese. I send you my blessing and assure you of my prayer and the prayer of all who come to know Christ through your generosity.

We are most thankful for all your help towards our projects and I ask you to continue to pray for our work in Russia because we need your prayerful support as well as finance.

Sincerely Yours in Christ

Clement Pickel, Bishop

*From the Director*



Dear Friend,

Winter is about to arrive. I hope you have enjoyed the summer months and have had a chance for some relaxation with your family and friends. As I write this letter to you, I am keenly aware that Advent – one of the most beautiful times of the year – is nearly upon us.

In many parts of the world there is a lot of unhappiness, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas 2011. Yet your kindness and your donations have made a little of that unhappiness disappear, especially among some children and their families whom we serve in different parts of the world.

Thank God that you think about others and are indeed sensitive to the poor. Your goodness to our MSC Missions helps us to provide food, clothing, medicine, housing and education through our projects that are specifically intended to improve the lives of the desperately poor people whom we serve in many other parts of the underdeveloped world.

On a recent visit to the MSC Mission Support Centre, Fr. Pat McGlanaghy MSC who is based in our mission in South Africa spoke to the staff of the many struggles that they encounter daily, but a story that really touched their hearts was that of a young orphan child now living in an MSC Care Centre, who asked "Could I get a new mother who isn't sick?"

We often hear it said, "Christmas is for children". That is true in so many ways but unfortunately this poor child will not get her wish for a new mother but through your continued support she will get good loving care and support for the future.

May the celebration of Jesus' Birth bring you a joyful and peace-filled Christmas!

God Bless

*Michael O'Bonnell MSC*

Director of the MSC Mission Support Centre



**Pilgrims Raise Funds for Fiji**

During the recent MSC pilgrimage to Lourdes participants raised €3000 which will be used to support the Chevalier Trade School in Wainadoi, Suva, where MSCs have a two year program to up skill young men ages 17 – 24 from poor rural areas in different islands in Fiji.

These men train to become carpenters, mechanics or electricians and with such expertise return to enhance development for the community ensuring sustainability for the future.

While most of the people in the Pacific live a rural and subsistent way of life having little or no money and surviving on the fruits of the land and the fish from the sea, each country is unique and has its own language, culture and government.

Suva, the capital of Fiji has a more urban way of life where people come for work and education and it is here most of the MSC priests and brothers are living and working. Rotuma, a small island belonging to the Republic of Fiji is where Sean Og O hAlpin the great Cork hurler, and his family comes from.

Fr. Anthony Horgan MSC former parish priest of Samabula, Suva, thanked everyone for their generous donation on behalf of Fr Simon Mani Superior of the MSC Pacific Union.

*Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Blue Book*



A copy of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Blue Book on display at the altar during the Novena in the Sacred Heart Church, Western Road, Cork.

Those enrolled are prayed for during Masses, especially during the Novena. Enrolments can be made for the living and the deceased, and are a nice spiritual gift.

## "Home from Home" - Foster Care for Orphans

Home from Home was set up in 2005 with the aim of providing supported and supervised community based foster care for orphans, abandoned and vulnerable children who would otherwise be placed in institutional care.

The key is to keep the children in small homes, with no more than six children being cared for by a Foster Mother, in their own environment where they attend local schools and

churches and are embraced by the local community.

The 'Home from Home Network' has grown from a very simple idea - there are now a number of 'Home from Homes' dotted throughout South Africa providing a family setting for many very young abandoned or vulnerable children.

The 'Home from Home Network' set up one such home in the parish of Goodwood/Ruyterwacht in Cape Town. Over a very short time the children and house mother, Patricia, have become part and parcel of the local community.

Fr. Hugh Hanlon MSC and the Goodwood/Ruyterwacht Parish are delighted to welcome and assist Patricia and the children in any way they can. Thankfully the 'Home from Home Network' sees to all the essentials and provides ongoing support to each home.



Foster Mother Patricia pictured with her new family of six children

All communities in South Africa are touched by the growing problem of orphaned and vulnerable children and they can benefit from the Home from Home model of care as it provides a nurturing, viable, cost efficient alternative to institutional child-care and can be implemented in any community setting.



Fr Hugh Hanlon MSC welcomes Patricia and the children to their new home

### Learn More Visit our Website

Learn about the many challenges the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart encounter each day by visiting our website  
[www.msccireland.com](http://www.msccireland.com)

Find out how you can help make a difference in someone's life.  
**We need your support!**

Please forward the MSC website to one of your friends who might also be interested in knowing more about the MSC and our projects.  
**We can't do it on our own!**

**Help Us  
Send a Link  
[www.msccireland.com](http://www.msccireland.com)**

## Living my Life... With Your Affectionate Care

When school transport fails to turn up in the morning you would expect cheers and a hasty retreat home. But not so for the students at Carmel School. The bad news is greeted with utter disappointment and even the odd tantrum. Such is the passion that these mentally challenged children have for their school.

The school, now in its fifth year, has grown from a handful of students to an enrolment of 30 special children from the many villages around the Madombidzha (Makhado, Limpopo) area.

The Carmelite Sisters, trained in this very special area of education, have managed despite many setbacks and hardships, to establish 'Carmel School'. Sr. Cicilia cmc (principal) assisted by Sr. Kusumam cmc have maintained a wonderful family spirit.

The children have an exciting range of craft work and sports throughout the week. Class work is given over to small group work, giving each child the chance of help with reading and writing skills.

The third member of staff is Elizabeth and all are under the very watchful eyes of Ms. Masindi, the most senior student at Carmel School!

The children badly need a more reliable and safer means of transport. Another area of concern is the ever increasing costs of school dinners. One good meal a day is extremely important for the children's well being and balance.



All children enjoy working the sewing machines. They can do repairs on clothing and the Sisters teach them what other possibilities they can stitch together.

## Missionaries Celebrate 450 Years of Priesthood

Eleven priests from Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are celebrating their Diamond, Golden, Ruby, and Silver Jubilees of their ordinations and between them they have devoted four hundred and fifty years to their vocations – many of them serving in the foreign missions in South Africa and South America.

Celebrations took place recently, with family and friends with a celebrated Mass at the MSC community at Western Road, Cork.



Back L to R:

Fr. Liam O'Brien MSC, Fr. Kevin Shanahan MSC, Fr. Joseph McGee MSC, Fr. James Stubbs MSC, Fr. Patrick Coakley MSC, Fr. Anthony Nolan MSC.

Front L to R:

Fr. Patrick Sheehan MSC, Fr. Michael Symth MSC, Fr. Augustine O'Brien MSC, Fr. Pat Courtney MSC Provincial, Fr. Patrick Breen MSC, Fr. Sean Laffan MSC.

## Fr Tim Gleeson MSC Returning to his roots

Fr. Tim Gleeson MSC has done wonderful work throughout South Africa and Namibia.

He has undertaken a variety of tasks and responsibilities during his years in South Africa. While based at Chevalier House in Midrand he has given much of his time to the people in the Olifantsfontein and Tembisa communities. Fr. Tim also spent time working among the people of Plumstead and Goodwood in Cape Town.

Fr. Tim was later to lecture and work at the MSC Sisters' Formation House at Otjiwarongo, Namibia. He returned to South Africa and took up a shared role of leadership within South Africa.

Fr. Tim has spent the last five years completing the work of transforming the MSC House in Makhado into a Retreat Centre and meeting area. He also gave generously to the many projects and programs in the area. He was also well liked and very much appreciated by the prisoners at Makhado prison.

As a young 76 year old, Fr. Tim would like to use his time to catch up with family and friends in Ireland.



## Yonys Mendoza MSC ordained to the priesthood

The Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, and especially its Region of Venezuela, has great joy in announcing the ordination to the priesthood of Yonys Mendoza MSC on 16th June, the Feast of Jesus, Eternal High Priest.



Yonys was ordained by Monsignor Castor Oswaldo Azuaje, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Maracaibo in the MSC Parish of Our Lady of Peace in La Victoria, Maracaibo.

Yonys (or Johnny as he is called) is a native of a small village called Villa Nueva. Many of his family, friends and parishioners from home came to share in the ordination ceremony, together with MSC priests and students, diocesan priests and seminarians from the Maracaibo area. Fr Michael O'Connell MSC, Director of the Mission Support Centre, represented the Irish Provincial at the Ordination.

Yonys celebrated his First Mass on Saturday 20th June in his home parish of Villa Nueva. We wish Yonys every blessing as he begins his priestly ministry among the people of Venezuela and with his fellow MSC brothers

### Sacred Heart Mission Box in your Home or Office



Please support us  
by collecting loose coins in  
your home or office

This is an invaluable  
source of funding  
for us annually

If you wish to help and  
want to receive a Mission Box  
simply contact us at

Tel: 021 454 5704  
Email: [info@mscmisioncentre.ie](mailto:info@mscmisioncentre.ie)

## Why would any young man want to be a priest?

Here are some challenging facts. 156 priests died last year according to the Irish Catholic Directory. Ten men were ordained. We have some 4,500 priests in Ireland. At least 650 of the diocesan priests are retired. It is estimated that there are probably at least another 400 retired order priests. That means we have about 3,500 active priests some of which are elderly and long past retirement age.

If the current death rate is sustained, in 10 years we will have lost at least 1,500 priests. In 20 years about 3,000. Unless there is a rapid increase in ordinations, Ireland will have fewer than 1,500 priests instead of 4,500.

Parishes are already being 'clustered'. Arrangements are now being made to provide for situations in which one man labours where once three or four may have worked.

In the context in which the church finds itself today, why would any young man want to be a priest?

The answer, of course, lies in the same great love and courage, in the same commitment and generosity which inspired men in the past. It lies in the richness of ministry, in the joy and peace of the liturgy, in the endless inspiration of the teaching of Christ. Above all, it lies in the desire to bring people closer to God.

History has shown that the Church does not die. What we need so much now in Ireland are men who have a calling to priesthood and who can see that, at the end of the day, there is nothing more precious that a man can do with his life than to give it up to God for those whom he is called to serve.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Religious Brother or Religious Priest, please check out our website [www.mscvocations.com](http://www.mscvocations.com) for information on the different Provinces, Unions and Regions or contact our Vocations Director in person.



**Vocations God's Calling**



To find out more contact

Fr Alan Neville MSC (IRE)      Fr Dave Nixon MSC (UK)  
(Tel. 086 785 7955)                      (Tel. 079 1863 8013)

[www.mscvocations.com](http://www.mscvocations.com)

A Searcher's Prayer

*Jesus, light of the world,  
Shine your truth into my  
confused heart.  
So many choices lie before me:  
things I'd like to do and ways  
I'd like to go.  
Give me courage to follow  
my dreams,  
and the wisdom to be realistic.  
As the years unfold,  
I look to you  
to guide my searching,  
bless my working,  
deepen my loving and keep me safe.*

Amen

PLEASE CUT HERE ✂

A Burse is a sum of money which is set up in honour of God, His Blessed Mother, or one of His servants. We have several Burses from which people can choose – list available on request. The most popular ones in recent years have been the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and St. Padre Pio. The money is invested and the interest from this goes towards the education of our Students to the priesthood. Needless to say, nowadays, it takes the proceeds of a number of Burses to cover the cost of educating a student for a year. Any donation, large or small, is appreciated and is of great help in ensuring that our students are well prepared for the work that lies ahead on the Mission fields. You are part of the great work they will do, in future years, in many lands. May God reward you.

### Burses help to train our Student Missionaries

Enclosed is my donation of ..... towards ..... Burse.

MR / MRS / MISS (Please use block capitals)

Please subscribe to the Burse of your choice for the training of missionaries.

Name: .....

SEND TO:-

Fr. Michael O'Connell

MSC Mission Support Centre

P.O. Box 23 Western Road Cork

Address: .....

..... Tel No: .....



## Fr Mark McDonald re-elected as Superior General

At the General Chapter in El Escorial, Spain, Fr Mark McDonald MSC from the USA Province was re-elected as Superior General of the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, to serve a second mandate for a period of six years.



After an opportunity for all 78 Chapter members and the accompanying Chapter staff to congratulate Fr Mark the Chapter celebrated a thanksgiving Mass led by the members from Papua New Guinea and Australia.

After the evening meal there was a celebratory gathering where entertainment was provided by members from Indonesia, The Netherlands, Brazil and Peru.

A new General Leadership Team was also elected, four members were chosen as General Assistants and as members of the General Council. The four members of the General Council, which includes Fr Carl Tranter MSC from the Irish Province, will serve a term of six years and will take up residence in Rome over the coming months.



Fr Mark McDonald Superior General with the new General Council, Fr Carl Tranter, Fr Chris McPhee, Fr Franciscus Wahyudi and Fr Rafael Rodriguez

## MSCs Farewell to St Albert's & Tamworth Parishes

On Sunday 8th May the parishioners of St Albert's parish, Stockbridge Village, Liverpool, gathered together with their Parish Priest, Fr Manus Ferry MSC, the then Irish Provincial Superior, Fr Patrick Courtney MSC, Bishop Vincent Malone and a good number of MSC priests and clergy from the Liverpool Diocese, to celebrate 45 years of MSC ministry in St Albert's since the beginnings of the parish.

The celebrations and fond memories were matched in equal measure by the sadness of the recent decision of the Irish Province to hand over responsibility for the Parish to the Archdiocese. The MSC have ministered in the parish since its foundation in 1966.

Present at the Mass were several MSCs who had worked in the parish over the years, including Fr Richard O'Rourke MSC who was the first curate in the parish (assistant to Fr Richard Scriven MSC, deceased), and three former parish priests: Fr Patrick Courtney MSC, Fr Joseph Faloon MSC and Fr Fintan O'Driscoll MSC.

After 33 years of ministry, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart bid farewell to the parish of St John the Baptist in Tamworth, Staffordshire on the last weekend of August 2011.

A special Mass was celebrated on Saturday 16th July by the Archbishop of Birmingham, Bernard Longley, and his Assistant

Bishop, David McGough. The mass was concelebrated by the then Provincial, Fr Pat Courtney, the members of the present Parish Team (Frs John Finn and Con O'Connell and Bro. Donie Hallissey) and many of the 24 MSC priests who have ministered in the parish since 1978. It was a great celebration with more than a tinge of sadness, but also with great hope for the continuing life of this great parish community.

The MSC took over administration of the parish from the Archdiocese of Birmingham in 1978. Since then much has changed: a second Church and second Catholic Primary School were built, the population of the town multiplied four-fold, and the parish has become a thriving community of faith and service in which many parishioners are actively involved in a variety of ministries.

The withdrawal from both parishes, is part of a larger phased plan of discerned prioritising of ministries this year and next as the Irish Province of the MSC seek to realistically rebalance its ministry commitments with fewer members.

At the recent Tamworth Community Awards the people of Tamworth paid a special tribute to Bro. Donie Hallissey MSC and made a presentation to him in honour of his friendship and acts of kindness for which he will be fondly remembered and he will leave a mark forever on the parish as he bids farewell to them.



MSCs celebrate a special Mass to bid farewell to Tamworth Parish



Bro. Donie Hallissey MSC pictured with family members at the Tamworth Community Awards



MSCs celebrate a special Mass to bid farewell to St Albert's Parish

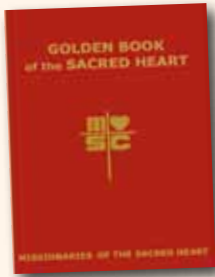
## MSC Cards and Enrolments

The MSC Mission Support Centre offers our benefactors the opportunity to have their loved ones, living and deceased, enrolled in the Golden Book, the Blue Book of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, as well as in special prayers of intercession to the Holy Family.

Enrolled persons are specially remembered in the Masses and the

prayers of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. These enrolment cards are a source of comfort for bereaved families and for the sick. They also provide a means of conveying good wishes for a wide variety of personal and family occasions.

Further information contact:  
 MSC Mission Support Centre,  
 P.O. Box 23, Western Road, Cork.  
[www.msccireland.com](http://www.msccireland.com).



*Thank you again for supporting our cards and enrolments.*

### MSC Mission Support Centre

#### Christmas Opening Times



Closed at  
 4.30pm Fri 23rd December  
 re-open at  
 9.00am Tues 3rd January.

Normal Opening Hours  
 9.00am - 5.00pm  
 Open during Lunch

Please note our telephone is only answered during these hours.

Cards & Enrolments Orders from  
 9.00am - 4.50pm



### Do you have a Will to give?

*Leaving your loved ones with an outline of your special wishes could be a real gift to your family. Your Will could be a gesture of a positive and loving act, an expression of your wishes and desires. Think of a Will as a prayer, because it gathers together the material fruits of your life and distributes them according to what you really appreciate.*

**... and help those less well off than ourselves.**



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

*Please remember us when you write your will.*

### The Catholic Diary & Prayer Book

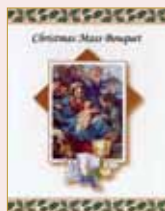
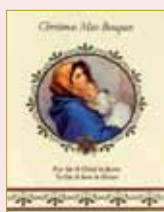
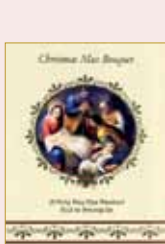
*With Daily Scripture References*  
 2012



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Donation incl postage is €3 or £2 each.

## MSC Christmas Mass Remembrance Cards 2011



**Suggested Donation €25 or £20 per Pack of 5**

#### How To Order

**Post:** MSC Mission Support Centre PO Box 23 Western Road Cork  
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**Email:** [info@mscmmissioncentre.ie](mailto:info@mscmmissioncentre.ie)

