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The Irish Catholic World Mission Sunday

October 16th 2025

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**Supporting the
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Photo: Nyokabi Kahura



Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

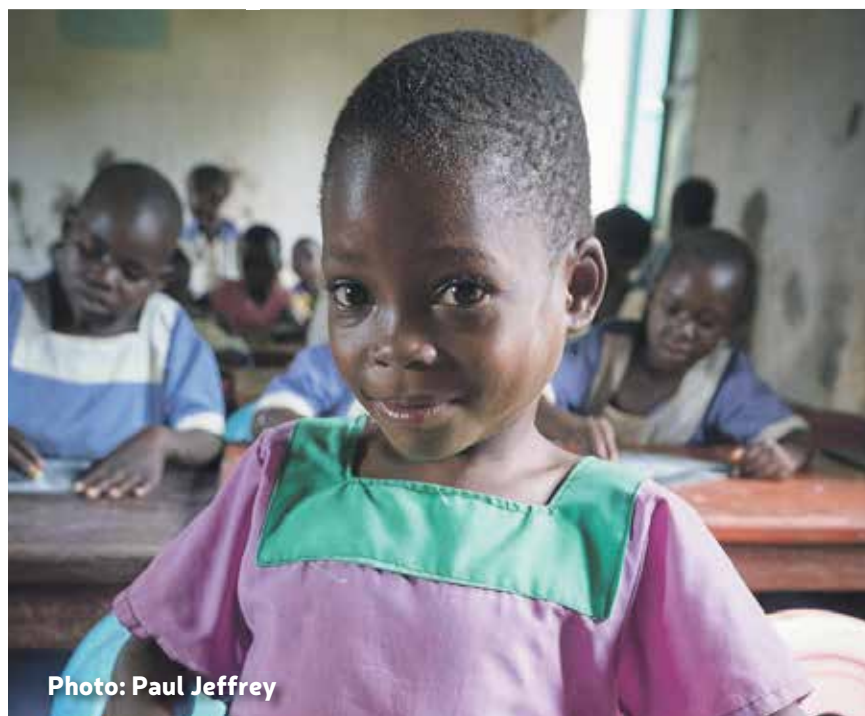


Photo: Paul Jeffrey

Misean Cara: Carrying the mission forward into the next chapter



Pedro Esteva

The morning sun beats down on the city of Wau, South Sudan. In a modest classroom with yellow concrete walls at the Catholic Health Sciences Institute (CHSI), rows of smiling nursing students await the day's lesson. They are studying anatomy and midwifery, gaining the skills to serve their country, where maternal mortality rates remain among the highest in the world.

Sitting among them is a visitor — John Moffett, CEO of Misean Cara — smiling as he listens to their stories and hears about the work being done to strengthen local healthcare.

Since 2010, the CHSI, run by Solidarity with South Sudan, has trained nurses and midwives who now serve in hospitals and NGOs across the country, with 92% of its graduates currently employed. For Mr Moffett, scenes like this embody the new face of the Irish missionary tradition.

"There's a real evolution," he told *The Irish Catholic*. "Sometimes it's presented as awful that there are no more Irish people joining missionary organisations, that they're all getting old, that the whole movement is going to die out. I think that's the wrong way to look at it."

From Ireland to the world

For the past five years, Mr Moffett has led Misean Cara and visited numerous mission projects — seven in total, with South Sudan being the most recent. He believes the missionary story is far from over.

"Anywhere Irish missionaries have gone," he said, "their intention has always been to set up a congregational base that will draw people in, not exclude them. They've left behind really strong structures embedded in communities that can continue to carry on the charism of the congregation and build on that positive legacy."

Founded in 2004 with the support of Irish Aid,

Misean Cara was created to connect the experience and networks of Irish missionaries with public funding. Two decades later, it supports 77 member organisations across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

"It won't be white people with Irish voices doing the development in the future," Mr Moffett said. "It'll be the people they've worked with over a long period of time, the people they've built up trust and engagement with. That strong charism and desire to do development work based on their faith continues."

The change is sometimes cast, as in *RTE's* recent two-part documentary *The Last Irish Missionaries*, as the sunset of a heroic era. The programmes honoured that tradition but asked: who will carry the mission forward?

What Mr Moffett makes clear is that this evolution is not a clean break but a renewal. "In some ways it is sad," he said, "but this is not an ending — it's a new chapter."

Snapshots of hope

On his various visits, Mr Moffett has been able to witness the ongoing arc of missionary impact.

"Yeah, I mean, there are examples of that, even from South Sudan," he said. "Girls who've gone through the Loreto School in Rumbek and have then been able to go to Kenya, which, if you're in South Sudan, is like getting into Cambridge. They come back and teach in the same programme. It's that cycle of receiving something of benefit and giving it back to others. That's ingrained in the missionary approach."

Such stories are common across the Misean Cara network — former students becoming teachers, patients becoming nurses, communities rebuilding themselves. Mr Moffett described this as the "pastoral approach" at the heart of mission.

"The evidence that we have seen over that evolution over a number of years," he said, "is that same spirit and desire to do development work based on their faith continues. We see really well-qualified, professional people who have taken up religious orders continuing to do very strong, positive work across Africa. The only difference is they're from Africa, Asia, or Latin America, and



John Moffett (right) observes an organic root propagation demo at the Multi-Educational Agricultural Jesuit Institute (MAJIS) in South Sudan, funded through Misean Cara.



John Moffett visits students at St Peter Faber Primary School in Akol Jal, South Sudan, supported by Misean Cara via Irish Jesuits International.



John Moffett meets nursing and midwifery students at the Catholic Health Sciences Institute in Wau, run by Solidarity with South Sudan. Photos: Courtesy of Misean Cara.

they're continuing to work in the places they're from."

“When funding gets cut to missionary groups, they don't have a choice either, they have to stay. They'll continue to do their best”

He added: "It's those shared values that inform Irish society today that have come from a Catholic social justice teaching

tradition, which we would hold to very clearly as a society, that kind of create that opportunity for us to continue to find resonance with the work that our friends and colleagues in their missionary organisations or congregations continue to do."

In contrast to short-term projects, missionary-founded initiatives often endure through uncertainty.

"When funding gets cut," Mr Moffett explained, "NGOs don't have a choice, they have to leave. But when funding gets cut to missionary groups, they don't have a choice either, they have to stay. They'll con-

tinue to do their best with the resources they have. They're incredibly efficient, incredible value for money, and they work for and on behalf of the community. That's their driver, not the funding."

Looking forward

As Mission Sunday (October 19) approaches, Mr Moffett reflects on how the organisation continues to evolve after marking its 20th anniversary last year. It is not nostalgia that drives this reflection, but conviction, a belief that the Irish missionary spirit endures through transformation.

"Good practice in development is that you're look-

ing to the future," he said. "You have to be constantly flexible and adaptable. The context changes, and the way our members work changes. We have to evolve to meet the needs of the time."

This adaptability, he believes, is the legacy Irish missionaries handed down to the global Church, a faith that acts, stays, and serves.

As Misean Cara looks to the years ahead, it does so not to look back, but to recognise the living legacy that continues to grow. The missionaries of today may no longer come from Ireland, but they carry forward the same flame.

Salesians in Northeast India

Memoirs of Fr. Dominic Pendanathu SDB, an Indian Salesian Missionary now working in Milford Salesian community Limerick Ireland



Fr. Dominic
Pendanathu SDB

“Go, make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) is the great call of Jesus that led the Salesian Congregation to India, where their mission began in 1906 with Fr. George Tomatis SDB and his companions. By 1922, the mission had reached Northeast India, where Fr. Louis Mathias SDB and his team laid the foundation for a ministry particularly among the tribal communities.

Since then, the mission has grown in northeast India, from Shillong to Guwahati, and from Tezpur to Dimapur, where the Salesians engage in direct evangelization, build schools, train catechists, and nurture indigenous vocations.

St. Francis De Sales, Don Bosco Province, Dimapur, INDIA

The Salesian Province of Dimapur was established in 1981, and serves Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and parts of Assam. Rooted in Don Bosco's charism, it focuses on youth ministry, education, and evangelization. It empowers marginalized communities and nurtures vocations, becoming a beacon of hope and transformation across Northeast India.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the Salesian mission faced a unique challenge with the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act of 1978, which restricted religious conversions and delayed the Church's outreach until the 1990s.

Despite these obstacles, pioneers like Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menamparambil SDB, Bishop George Palliparambil SDB, Fr. Job Kallarackal SDB (a sort of a legend in some parts of Ireland with more than 600 Irish benefactors at one time), and Fr. Jose Chempar-

athy SDB, brought the gospel, healing, education, and dignity to remote villages. Their work helped Christianity take root not as a foreign imposition, but as a source of hope and renewal.

So, to my mission story in this region of India

Palin

- I was ordained on January 6, 1999, and soon after, I was sent to Palin, the farthest mission station of the Dimapur Province in Arunachal Pradesh—a place that would shape me more deeply than I ever imagined. Though I longed to be a missionary, what I experienced there was far beyond my asking: a crucible, could I call it of grace, grit, and Gospel.

The terrain was unforgiving—mountainous paths, dense forests, and 12-hour treks between villages, often along narrow foot trails carved by generations. I remember yearning for just an inch of level ground, where both my feet could rest evenly. Leeches, biting cold, and the haunting beauty of landscapes that felt untouched were daily companions.

“Palin became not just a mission station, but a sacred ground of transformation—for them, and for me”

The very thought of how I navigated around tree roots, with gorges right beneath my legs, or how I walked on a single cable way across a roaring river, still send shivers down my spine. Walking across the rivers in that manner, I was scared to death and looking back now, even for the sake of Gospel, it appears reckless.

Yet amid hardship, there was joy. The people welcomed the Word of God with open hearts. Their eagerness to hear about Jesus made every step worthwhile. I was there for three years, and Palin became not just a mission station, but a sacred ground of transformation—for them, and for me.

The parish priest and I organized a three-month-long medical camp, spread across many centres of the mission station. With support from the



Fr. Manuel at
Christmas time,
with children in
front of a traditional
Nyishi House

Arunachal Pradesh Government, we were able to provide free medicines to over 15,000 people. The rainy season of 1999–2000 brought floods, disease, and suffering—but also miracles of healing. Lives were saved, wounds were tended, and hearts were opened—not just to medicine, but to the Gospel of love. That season remains etched in my soul as a reminder of what faith, service, and solidarity can achieve.

It was here in Palin that we also worked against girl child marriage. It was a reality then that girls as young as eight years of age, were being forcefully given in marriage to men who were many times their age. This disrupted what was culturally and socially accepted at the time, but the government eventually acknowledged our courage to stand against this evil practice of child marriage. Looking back, the Salesian community took a great risk in taking this stand, but it bore fruit.

Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

After three rugged years in Palin, I was transferred to Doimukh, a more comfortable station nestled in the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh. Here I launched an innovative educational programme for children aged 5 to 15, drawn from the

remotest tribal villages. Many had never held a pencil, yet their eyes sparkled with curiosity. We offered them free education in the form of an abridged curriculum tailored to their needs, along with food, and accommodation.

The Salesian Congregation, central mission office, generously funded the initiative. Over the course of five years, we provided free education to more than 400 children, planting seeds of hope in lives long untouched by opportunity.

Fifteen years later, one of the naughtiest boys—now a devout Catholic and successful professional—came searching for me with his family. “If I am what I am today,” he said, “it’s because of those three years.” A girl from the same cohort recently shared that our programme gave her the courage to dream, proving that even the poor can aspire and achieve.

Most of these children have flourished in life through becoming teachers, nurses, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Their lives are living testaments to what faith, education, and generosity can accomplish.

Charismatic revival

One of the greatest challenges the Church faced in Arunachal Pradesh was the lack of catechesis. Missionaries were not allowed into the state until the early 1990s. As a result, many people had faith in Jesus and were baptized—but had little more. In his article *Bring Men to Match My Mountains*, Joseph Pulianthanathu described the people as those who “celebrated Easter Sunday before Good Friday”. They did not know that Good Friday pre-



Salesian missionary Fr.
Manuel Paikada SDB, from
the Dimapur Province at his
mission station in Chambang,
Arunachal Pradesh, India

ceeded Easter Sunday, but they had faith in Jesus Christ. Experiences such as this, has helped me to cultivate a pastoral heart.

When I reached Doimukh, this spiritual vacuum was palpable, and Catholics were being drawn to other Christian groups offering prayer, fasting, and healing ministries. In response, I invited a group of enthusiastic youth from Kerala, known then as Divine Youth to offer a catechesis. They lived in hunger and hardship yet preached the Gospel and taught with zeal. Their teaching and witness laid the foundation for a Christian charismatic revival. The youth preached Christ to more than 50,000 people during the four years that they were in Doimukh.

“We were able to bring together more than a thousand families under this umbrella of development”

The turning point came when we brought Fr. Mathew Naikomparambil VC, the patriarch of the Kerala Charismatic Movement, to Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh. His retreat drew over 1,000 participants, creating a wave of renewal. From this humble beginning, Vincentian preachers established a foothold in Gumto, and today, there are over 15 Vincentian retreat centres across Northeast India.

These centres have become sanctuaries of spiritual and physical consolation. What

began as a response to catechetical poverty has blossomed into a vibrant movement of faith, rooted in suffering yet radiant with resurrection.

Side by side with the faith development there was the formation of self-help groups, adult literacy programmes and skill training opportunities. We were able to bring together more than a thousand families under this umbrella of development.

A Journey Shared

What I have shared of the three pivotal moments in Palin, Doimukh, and the charismatic revival is but a thread in the vast tapestry of missionary life in Arunachal Pradesh. Behind every retreat, every classroom, and every healing touch stands the selfless sacrifice of hundreds of Salesians and other missionaries, who walked, wept, and witnessed in silence and service. I share my own missionary journey, to honour them.

The great commission of Jesus belongs to all. All are called to pray, volunteer, support financially, and dare to believe that the Gospel can transform even the most forgotten corners of the earth. Whether through a whispered prayer in Ireland or a donation from afar, each act of solidarity becomes part of this living mission—a mission of hope, healing, and resurrection.

i If you wish to give financial support to the Salesian mission, please contact:

Don Bosco Aid, Salesian House, 45 St Teresa's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12XK52, Telephone 01 4650717, email dba@salesiansireland.ie.

“What began as a response to catechetical poverty has blossomed into a vibrant movement of faith, rooted in suffering yet radiant with resurrection”



SALESIAN MISSIONARY WORK: 1875 - 2025

150 YEARS BRINGING HOPE WHERE THERE IS THE GREATEST NEED

The Salesian missionary story began in 1875 when St John Bosco, the founder of the Salesians sent the first group of ten missionaries to Argentina. From this small beginning Salesians now work and live in 137 countries worldwide serving communities that are often forgotten by the rest of society.

The call of the missionary is to live and practice charity in a very radical way. They leave their own communities and travel to new cultures to proclaim God's Word of salvation, freedom, hope and joy and to care for people in greatest need. Through their Salesian way of life missionaries witness to God's love through feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for and healing the sick, welcoming refugees, consoling those in prison, and offering hope to the most vulnerable.

The 11th November 2025 is a very significant day for Salesians everywhere as it marks 150 years of Salesian missionary ministry. This milestone is not only a moment of thanksgiving to God for all that has been accomplished but it is also an invitation to look forward—to reflect on how we will continue in the present day to respond to the Salesian missionary call.

Education has always been at the heart of the Salesian mission. Today, the Salesian Congregation has established 3,643 primary and post-primary schools around the globe. These schools offer young people the skills and knowledge they need to lift themselves out of poverty. However, many of these students face the enormous challenge of trying to concentrate on their studies while hungry, and they often rely on meals provided at school just to get by.

To celebrate 150 years of missionary service and to continue this vital work, the **Irish Salesian Province** is launching a special initiative: **Seeds of Hope**. This project is a partnership with several Salesian provinces worldwide. Through Seeds of Hope, we hope to:

- Provide nutritious meals for children in Salesian schools who would otherwise go hungry.
- Offer food and care to children and young people living on the streets.

We invite you to join us in this mission of hope and solidarity. Your support can make a real difference in the lives of children and young people who are longing for a better future.

Please consider donating to the **Seeds of Hope** project, enabling us to continue the Salesian tradition of bringing God's love to the most vulnerable.



For more information or to offer your support, please contact:
Don Bosco Aid, Salesian House, 45 St Teresa's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12 XK52



Tel: 01 4650717



Email: dba@salesiansireland.ie



Website: salesiansireland.ie

Bank details:

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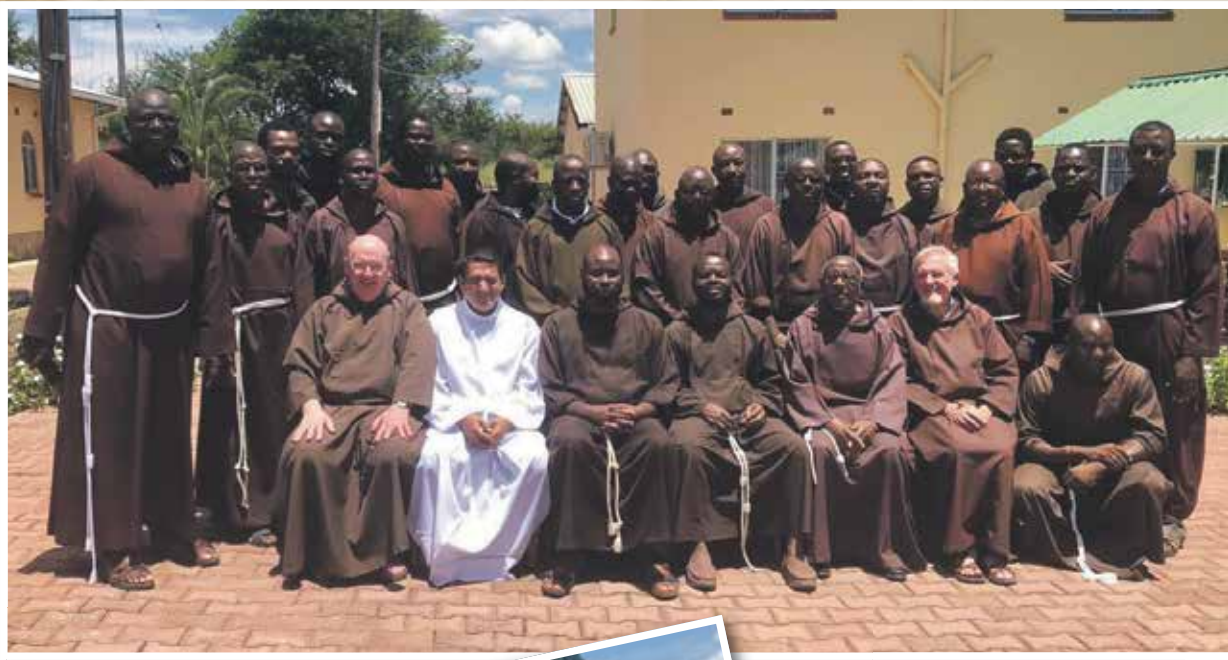
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The Capuchin Way of Life



800 years ago, St Francis had a dream to live life centred on the Gospel of Jesus. In doing this he began to see everyone, all living creatures, and all created things, as brothers and sisters. This kind of connectivity linked St Francis and his followers to Christ in a way that leads us, even today, to desire to follow this transformative path of peace and reconciliation. As we celebrate the Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life we pray in thanksgiving for our call to be followers of Francis and followers of Christ.

What path has the Lord prepared for you?

**To find out more about life as a Capuchin Franciscan Friar,
contact our Vocation Director by emailing: vocations@capuchins.ie**

Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi



Today's world often tends towards short term rewards - 'I want it', 'I get it' and soon it's gone. Consecrated life stands as an antidote to this way of being. As consecrated religious we forsake much now in order to connect with the bigger picture. Is this a challenge? Of course it is. However, it is always a way of life blessed in so many ways. As Capuchin Franciscan Friars we are part of an international brotherhood of over 11,000 Friars spread throughout the world. Each Capuchin community, no matter where it is in the world or no matter what language is spoken, has the same spirit and desire: the spirit of St Francis of Assisi and the desire to be brothers to all.

Our communities in Ireland are made up of men young and old. Men who have each in their own way, responded to a call to connect with the bigger picture. Some did this straight from school, others after some years of work. No matter what path each of us took to the Capuchins, we are sustained in our mission and life together by our deep belief in Christ's command to love God and neighbour. This is what keeps us together and what keeps us going. What we do, our ministry, flows from this.

As we celebrate the Jubilee of Hope, let us always remember the words of Jesus to his Apostles: "I am with you always even to the end of time." In the words of Capuchin Friar, Padre Pio, this is summarised as: "Pray, Hope and Don't Worry."

**If you feel God is urging you to life as a Capuchin Brother or Priest
Friar, please contact our Vocations Director at: vocations@capuchins.ie**



Misean Cara – Supporting Irish Missionaries to Transform Lives Worldwide

Irish missionaries have a proud tradition of walking alongside the world's most vulnerable communities—bringing dignity, opportunity, and hope where it is needed most.

Misean Cara supports 77 Irish missionary organisations so they can continue this life-changing work. By providing funding, training, and resources, we help missionaries extend their reach and deepen their impact in education, healthcare, human rights, emergency relief, and sustainable livelihoods.

In 2024, our members reached 1.9 million people across 43 countries.

Behind every number is a life transformed:

Livelihoods

36,000 families improved their food security and incomes through sustainable farming, skills training, and climate adaptation.

Education

127,519 learners—over half of them girls—gained access to quality education, opening the door to brighter futures.

Healthcare

Over 1 million people accessed vital health services, from maternal care and HIV support to clean water and nutrition.

Human Rights

1.4 million people learned to defend their rights, while 1,300 received direct support in their pursuit of justice.

Emergency Assistance

In times of crisis, missionaries responded to 43 emergencies across 17 countries—delivering urgent aid and assistance with long-term recovery.

Irish missionaries continue to stand in solidarity with those furthest behind, and Misean Cara is privileged to stand with them.

Together, we are transforming lives.

Learn more at
www.miseancara.ie



Photo: Nyokabi Kahura



Photo: Paul Jeffrey



Photo: Nyokabi Kahura



Photo: Salesians Don Bosco Ireland



Photo: Paul Jeffrey



Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

Be a part of the Legacy



Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

For centuries, Irish missionaries have brought hope and support to the most vulnerable communities overseas. Remember **Misean Cara** with a gift in your Will and help support the living legacy of Irish missionaries for decades to come.

In 2024, we helped Irish missionary organisations reach 1.9 million people in more than 40 countries with training for decent livelihoods, quality education, access to healthcare, protection of human rights and emergency humanitarian response.

Contact Jennifer at **01 405 5028** to learn more about leaving a gift to **Misean Cara**, or email **info@miseancara.ie**

www.miseancara.ie/legacy



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Mission Support from Ireland

Misean Cara - Meet Our Members!

Building on Ireland's proud missionary tradition of compassion and service, **Misean Cara** supports 77 Irish missionary organisations working with communities in some of the world's poorest communities. Together, they bring lasting change through education, healthcare, human rights and sustainable livelihoods.

Augustinian Fathers
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Church Mission Society Ireland
Cistercians
Columban Fathers
Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans)
Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Daughters of the Holy Spirit
De La Salle Brothers
Divine Word Missionaries
Dominican Sisters
Edmund Rice Development
Faithful Companions of Jesus
Franciscan Brothers
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Franciscan Missionaries of Saint Joseph
Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood
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Holy Faith Sisters
Holy Family Sisters of Bordeaux

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto)
Irish Jesuits International
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Marist Brothers
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Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
Religious Sisters of Charity (RSC)
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Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles
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Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chambery
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Cluny
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Sisters of the Cross and Passion
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sisters of the Infant Jesus
Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Chigwell)
Society of African Missions
Society of the Divine Saviour
Society of the Sacred Heart
Viatores Christi
Vincentian Fathers



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Mission Support from Ireland

Tribute to a great Missionary

**Fr Michael Kelly SPS,
Missio Ireland National
Director**

I met Sr Miriam Duggan at the Divine Mercy Conference last February. Subsequently, I invited her to share something of her missionary story in Uganda and Kenya. She readily agreed and we were in touch regularly until the first of the articles was published in Missio Ireland's summer newsletter, which was dispatched to our donors and other interested parties in early August. Sadly, only days after the newsletter was sent out, Sr Miriam passed on to her eternal reward on the 9th August last. May she rest in peace.

Sr Miriam was born in Limerick and went to Laurel Hill Secondary School. During her last year in school, she felt the call to become a sister. By the time she finished school, she had a job and a salary, and those thoughts had disappeared. About a year later, she felt a stronger call and she joined the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa [FMSA]. After formation, she was asked to study medicine, which was a big surprise to her as she had never considered it before.

“When Sr Miriam moved to Uganda, she was one of the first qualified obstetricians in the country. She spent the next 30 years working at St Francis Hospital Nsambya”

She studied medicine for six years at University College Cork [UCC]. When

she thought of working in Africa, she was asked to study obstetrics and gynaecology in England, the reason being her congregation wanted to upgrade the training schools in these areas in Uganda.

When Sr Miriam moved to Uganda, she was one of the first qualified obstetricians in the country. She spent the next 30 years working at St Francis Hospital Nsambya, in the capital, Kampala. As a newly qualified medic in Uganda, she faced many challenges due to limited medical supplies, precarious power sources and unfamiliar medical conditions, illnesses and viruses. During her time there, Sr Miriam was instrumental in training midwives and doctors in Uganda and she handed over the running of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology to a Ugandan doctor, whom she had mentored.

Civil war

As the only referral hospital, she was responsible for complicated obstetric cases during a time when Uganda was experiencing civil war. Sr Miriam's main work was in obstetrics and gynaecology. Because of the situation in the country and senior doctors leaving, she found herself having to cope with many traumatic cases and war injuries. There was a lot of turmoil in the country during those years with coups and counter coups.

Sr Miriam always had a keen eye to see where the need was greatest. She responded to the HIV & AIDS pandemic, she supported the establishment of local clinics to care for patients with HIV & AIDS, as well as the rising number of AIDS

orphans. She founded Youth Alive to support young people in making responsible choices and to provide support programmes to help prevent the spread of HIV & AIDS. The Youth Alive programme continues today and has been extended to 21 African countries.

Sr Miriam was Superior General of her congregation for 12 years. She was elected to this post initially in 2001, and she was re-elected for a second term in 2007. This sent her on a journey of visiting FMSA sisters in many African countries. Currently there are FMSA Sisters serving in Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, America, Ireland and Scotland.

“The target group for the programme were young people, who were idle in the community, school drop outs, those on drugs and those experiencing a feeling of hopelessness”

After her time as Superior General, Sr Miriam relocated to Kenya. Her main occupation was working with marginalised youths in the slums, motivating them and empowering them with vocational skills so that they were able to secure a job. In these slum areas, life is harsh, with families struggling to put food on the table. The target group for the programme were young people, who were idle in the



Sr Miriam Duggan

community, school drop outs, those on drugs and those experiencing a feeling of hopelessness.

Successful

The Out of School Youth Project is very successful as most of the young people who participate find employment and became successful in life. Sr Miriam found it very rewarding to work with the young people and see them succeed. The Programme has helped reduce the risk of young people engaging in harmful activities, such as substance abuse, or criminal behaviour, by providing constructive alternatives. Feedback

from families reported improved living standards, due to the increased income and positive behaviour of the young people involved in the programme.

“In 2015, she was awarded the Irish Presidential Distinguished Service Award by President Michael D Higgins”

Sr Miriam received many awards in recognition of the work she carried out. In 2006, she was honoured

by Harvard University, the Church of Uganda and the Templeton Foundation for her pioneering work with home based HIV prevention. In 2008, she was presented with a recognition award from the President and Parliament of Uganda for her pioneering work in HIV and AIDS. In 2015, she was awarded the Irish Presidential Distinguished Service Award by President Michael D Higgins.

May Sr Miriam rest in peace and enjoy her eternal reward in heaven.

i Missio Ireland supported Sr Miriam's project and continues to support similar projects.

“Sr Miriam received many awards in recognition of the work she carried out. In 2006, she was honoured by Harvard University, the Church of Uganda and the Templeton Foundation for her pioneering work with home based HIV prevention

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among all people



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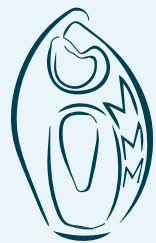
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The Medical Missionaries of Mary are an international congregation of religious women. We serve in 12 countries around the world.

Sisters are trained in a variety of health-related professions. We go to peoples of different cultures where human needs are greatest. Our special concern is the care of mother and child and the fostering of family life. To find out more about MMM please visit our website or listen to our MMM Sister's stories on our Podcast.

Our 2025 MMM Yearbook and the 2026 MMM Calendar are out now! If you would like a FREE copy of these and our upcoming supplements, please fill in the form underneath with your details, so we know where to send them and mail it to the address below.*

*Please do not fill this form in if you are already receiving our calendars and yearbooks in the post. We appreciate that you are already on our mailing list and thank you for your continued support!

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Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles En Route Towards 2026 – 150 Years of Mission

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When Mission Comes Home

For many, mission still conjures images of remote places – red dust and distant horizons. That's part of the story. But mission has never been about distance. It's about encounter. It's the moment one life meets another and something of God passes between them, wordlessly.

As we approach the 150th anniversary of our congregation, many of our Irish Sisters have returned home after a lifetime of service across Africa. The stories, friendships, and faith that shaped their years of mission remain with them, deeply embedded in who they are.

The Gospel moves through the ordinary hours.

Today, these Sisters continue to witness daily to that same spirit of presence, welcome, and care that has guided our congregation since its founding. In the stillness of prayer, in the gentle attention given to those who come seeking comfort or conversation, through the ordinary hours, the Gospel moves. Even as the profile of the Irish District changes and many of our Sisters grow older, the mission remains alive and visible in quiet,

faithful ways. It is a lifelong call, expressed through prayer, companionship, hospitality, and the willingness to be a listening ear.

Ireland itself has changed. The country that once sent missionaries to every corner of the world now welcomes people from those same places. Across the street or down the road, new languages are spoken, new customs celebrated.

For many who arrive here, the sense of displacement runs deep. And yet, within that, there are Sisters who understand what it means to leave home for love of others. Their welcome carries a rare empathy, one earned through their own decades of living far from home. It says: you belong.

Mission has never been a matter of geography.

Mission Sunday isn't about nostalgia for what once was. It's about recognising what still is – and what continues quietly. The OLA presence in Ireland reminds us that mission has never been a matter of geography. It's a way of seeing. A way of meeting the world with compassion, who ever stands before you.

We are an international group of Religious sisters, apostles rooted in faith and hope, ready to risk it all for the Lord. As 'Women in Communion,' we live in international communities, passionately fulfilling the intense missionary dream of our founder, Father Augustine Planque.

Be part of our mission! Explore ways to get involved by visiting our website. Join us as we witness to the presence of God in our lives and strive to make a difference in the world.

So perhaps this Mission Sunday we look not outward, but around us. At the Sisters who continue to hold open spaces of prayer and listening. At communities learning again what welcome means. At our own capacity to live with open hands and attentive hearts. Here, where we stand.

Mission begins in the ordinary, the overlooked, the quiet. It begins where we are.



Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20004576 | Charity Name: Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles (OLA)

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WHAT YOU
LOVE,
YOU
INSPIRE
& AWAKEN THE
HEARTS
OF OTHERS.”

Being an Oblate
Missionary Priest or
Brother is a Call.
A challenge to live a more
meaningful life.
An invitation to bring the
Good News to the poor.

Say YES and in the
process discover yourself
through Christ.

If you or a young man you know wants to consider becoming a
Priest or a Brother, please speak to our Vocations Director:

Fr Irvin Morastil OMI
t: (+44) 020 7702 0270 | e: i.morastil@oblates.co.uk
De Mazenod House Retreat & Spirituality Centre
62 Chamber Street, London E1 8BL



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Your Legacy Can Build Homes and Strengthen Communities with Respond

Across Ireland, Respond is working every day to deliver homes, support families and strengthen communities. We are an Approved Housing Body, an evolution of what would have been called a housing association. Our purpose is to provide high quality, affordable homes in places that people want to live. Today, Respond provides more than 7,700 homes to over 19,500 people across all 26 counties. Our vision is simple but ambitious – that every individual and family in Ireland should have a secure home within a vibrant, caring community.

A Legacy of Faith in Action

Respond's roots are in faith inspired services. Founded in Waterford in 1982 by Father Patrick Cogan (Order of the Friars Minor), Respond set out to provide meaningful solutions to housing insecurity and homelessness, guided by a Franciscan spirit of compassion and community development. Those values continue to shape our work today.

Over four decades, we worked hand in hand with religious orders to address Ireland's housing needs, developing land and, where suitable, repurposing former religious buildings into homes and community spaces. A powerful example is St John's College in Waterford, once a

seminary and training college, now transformed into 57 social homes that meet specific needs, including age friendly housing. The site now also hosts an onsite cafe, conference facilities and offices used by Respond and other local community groups, preserving a faith legacy while meeting a very modern need. Two of our Family Homeless Services in Dublin are also based in former convent buildings, extending the mission of service in a new way.

Building Homes and Improving Lives

Homes are at the heart of Respond's mission but we know that a home alone is not always enough. That's why, alongside our building and management of homes, we provide a network of community services that support people through life's different stages.

Early Learning and School Aged Care (ELSAC) 17 services providing affordable early years education and after school support to over 630 children across 17 communities. These centres are often located in areas of high socio-economic need and increasingly serve neurodiverse children. Our goal is to offer personalised support in environments designed to be accessible and inclusive so that every

child gets the best possible start.

Day Care Services for Older People: 3 centres that provide a social outlet, meals and vital links to supports for 144 older people currently. These services support people to live independently at homes and stay connected in their community for as long as possible. As needs evolve – including growing numbers of people living with dementia – we are focused on enhanced staff training, expanded activities and upgraded equipment to make our services even more accessible and effective.

Family Support: Our dedicated team provides needs-led one-to-one support, group programmes, and community activities that promote social wellbeing and help people to sustain their tenancies with us. These range from walking groups, parent and toddler groups, parenting support groups, and cookery classes. As we deliver more homes, expanding Family Support will be central to community wellbeing and integration.

These services sit alongside our housing work, ensuring Respond tenants and local residents alike can access practical, person centred supports close to home.

When families face crisis, we are there

Ireland's record levels of homelessness have put extraordinary pressure on services nationwide. In July 2025, more than 15,915 people – including many families and children – were in emergency accommodation across Ireland (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2025). Respond plays a vital role in that emergency response through 6 Family Homeless Services, providing



Family Support Services



Older Persons Daycare Services, Cork

24/7 accommodation and support to 161 families (220 adults and 224 children) in 2024. Our services are trauma-informed, and our teams provide wraparound supports to help families access long-term housing, healthcare, and parenting supports.

The housing crisis means families are spending longer in emergency accommodation. In 2022, families remained in our care for just over 11 months on average; by 2024,

that had risen to 14.7 months. Particularly worrying is the number of children born into homelessness. In 2023 alone, 59 newborn babies and their parents were discharged from maternity hospitals directly into a Respond service. Right now, 70 children under one are living in our homeless services. With your help, we can reduce the trauma associated with early life in emergency accommodation and offer children a better start.



Griffin Point Housing Development, Dublin 13



Family Homeless Services



ELSAC Service

A legacy gift to Respond is a practical, thoughtful way to extend your care to future generations. Your gift – of any size – strengthens our ability to meet growing need and ensures our work remains both comprehensive and compassionate. Here's what your legacy can help achieve:

More affordable homes: We will continue to build and manage high-quality homes where people want to live—because a secure home is the foundation for health, education, and employment.

Children who can thrive: Your support helps our ELSAC services provide inclusive, personalised support – especially as we meet

the needs of more children with additional needs – and enables funding for learning materials, educational trips, and family supports.

Dignity for older people: Legacy gifts can enhance our Day Care Services for Older People with improved training, activities, and equipment so older people, including those living with dementia, can stay independent and connected for longer.

Stronger, integrated communities: As we deliver large, mixed-tenure developments, expanding our Housing team will help neighbours build connection, inclusion, and resilience – creating the strong

communities that are central to our mission.

Compassionate crisis support: Your legacy helps families experiencing homelessness move from trauma to stability with care, dignity, and practical help – reducing time spent in emergency accommodation and improving outcomes for children.

Respond has a long legacy of providing high-quality housing and practical, person centred supports in strong communities. By including a gift in your Will to Respond, you can help us build homes, support families, care for older people, walk alongside those in crisis – and keep faith in action for generations to come. Be part of this legacy.

Including a gift in your Will to Respond is very straightforward.

It is helpful to have the following information to hand when you are speaking with your solicitor

Our Registered Office Address: Airmount, Dominick Place, Waterford. X91 A397

Registered Charity Numbers: 20012625. CHY6629.

Cliona Maughan our dedicated Legacy Officer is here to help if you would like to talk about leaving a gift or simply ask a question. You can contact her confidentially at legacy@respond.ie or 087 355 6341



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improving lives

Please Remember Respond in Your Will

Your legacy will ensure
that future generations
can access affordable
homes and Support
Services



Cliona Maughan our
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