

The Young Woman Who Always Knew Her Life Was Destined to Serve Others

Growing up in Kosovo, Croatia, Ivana knew by the age of fifteen that her life was destined for something greater. From that young age, she decided she wanted to dedicate her life to those who are suffering and in need. This decision was Ivana's first step in becoming the woman she is today - Sister Veronika. A confident, strong, determined Sisters of Charity missionary.

Now, at the age of 28, Sr Veronika sits with World Missions Ireland in a sunlit room in the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Beaumont, Dublin. What brought her to Ireland was a need to improve her English, as in weeks she'll fly to the edge of the world, to join her fellow sisters on the Solomon Islands.

Sr Veronika brings us back to when she was known as Ivana (Ivana is her baptismal name, Veronika her religious). Back then, as a young girl in Croatia, Ivana was so inspired by the energy and joy the Sisters of Charity brought, she knew that this was her



Sr Veronika, with a smile as warm as her heart!

calling in life to join them. So she too could bring hope and love.

From the very beginning the Sisters of Charity have answered the missionary call, with St Vincent de Paul being one of their spiritual founders. The sisters work in some of the most remote and impoverished communities in the world. Often facing many dangers and challenges, this never stops them from reaching out to those most in need.

At the time of joining the Sisters of Charity, Veronika did not realise their deep-rooted history in missionary

Data Protection Laws are Changing

On May 25th 2018, EU data protection laws will change under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In World Missions Ireland we want to keep you up to date on the vital work your support makes possible.

However, if for any reason you no longer wish to receive our updates via post, please contact: Fiona Walsh on **01 497 2035** and she will remove you from our lists. Alternatively you can use the self addressed envelope found with this newsletter to notify us of your wish to opt out.

We never share your data with third parties, and we promise to keep your data safe and secure

in line with the Data Protection Act 1988 and the Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003.

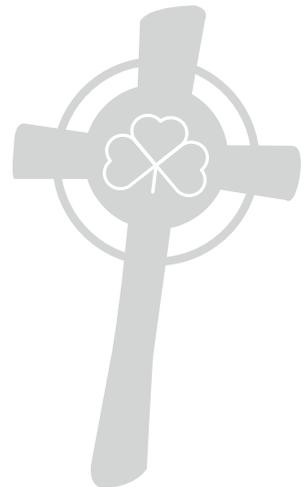
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A Prayer at Pentecost

Christ is born, the Spirit is His forerunner.
He is baptised, the Spirit bears witness.
He is tempted, the Spirit leads Him up.
He ascends, the Spirit takes His place.

Gregory Nazianzen





From all of us in World Missions Ireland we send a heartfelt

Thank You!

Because of you in 2017 we sent over €1.8 million to some of the most marginalised, disadvantaged communities in the developing world.

Your kindness made, and will continue to make,
a lasting difference in the lives of these people.

Your ongoing support for the missionaries & the communities they serve,
through your prayers and generosity, is greatly appreciated.

To make a gift please ring us on 01 497 2035.

Or feel free to use the self addressed envelope enclosed.

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We respect everyone we help.
So while stories are true, names & images may be changed to protect peoples privacy. Thank you for understanding.

Spreading Hope, Love and Joy - Because of You!

World Missions Ireland is part of a worldwide network of 120 charities chosen by the Church to share the hope, love, and joy of the Gospel.

We are Pope Francis' official charity for overseas mission, and through your

ongoing support, we help struggling communities to work in solidarity to form sustainable communities of faith.

Because of you, the four societies that make up World Missions Ireland achieves so much!

Propagation of the Faith (POF)

Caring for our Church Family & Sending Missionaries

POF supports 1,069 mission dioceses throughout the world. It's responsible for the building of new churches. POF also supports communities where the church is young & poverty is severe. Because of you we're helping to empower local people to form sustainable communities of faith.

Society of Missionary Children (SMC)

Supporting the physical, spiritual & educational wellbeing of children around the world.

Active in Ireland since 1853, SMC provides healthcare and education for some of the world's poorest children - regardless of their background or belief. Because of you SMC can support these vulnerable children with educational, medical & welfare programmes that fulfil their practical and spiritual needs.

St Peter Apostle (SPA)

Training priests & sisters overseas

SPA supports the training of future brothers, priests & sisters in mission dioceses overseas. Many of the dioceses you help to support struggle to provide basic facilities and resources to students. The SPA currently supports students from over 150 countries.

Missionary Union of Priests, Religious & Laity (PMU)

Nurturing a worldwide missionary spirit

PMU promotes an awareness of mission & a spirit of unity. Each February we publish a Prayers & Reflections booklet. The booklet encourages prayer & spiritual reflection, while also providing comfort to the sick & elderly. We also encourage users of the booklet to pray for missionaries throughout the world.





Director of WMI, Fr Martin Kelly CSSp.

It's a privilege as the new Director of World Missions Ireland to write to you in our first Newsletter. It's providential that it's being sent to you around the feast of Pentecost - because it was at Pentecost that the Church's mission got off the ground!

When Jesus was arrested most of the apostles ran. One young man didn't. He continued following Jesus wearing only a linen cloth, but when they grabbed him he left the cloth in their hands and ran away. Peter was a little braver and followed Jesus into the courtyard where he was being questioned. When Peter was twice accused by a servant girl, and then by the others he denied Jesus three times and fled.

Seven weeks later the disciples are gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem, behind locked doors when the Holy Spirit descends in the form

of tongues of fire. The transformation was remarkable!

Gone are the fears and hesitations. They preached the Good News boldly, surprising all who realised they were ordinary men of no education. Arrested and brought before the religious authorities, the very people who had Jesus killed, they were unafraid. Peter said, 'you must judge whether in God's eyes it is right to listen to you and not to God. We cannot stop proclaiming what we have seen and heard.'

Across the globe Irish missionaries continue the work started by Peter. On their behalf and the thousands who went before them, I thank you for your continued financial, material, moral and spiritual support.



The Holy Spirit window, St Peter's Basilica.

May the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit - wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord - be yours in abundance.

Happy Pentecost!

life. But she always had a great respect for missionaries, 'I thought that missionaries were special people, I admire them. Nothing is easy, every job, every vocation is difficult. To be a mother, to be a father. But to be a missionary, to leave your family, your friends, your way of living, everything. It is a big challenge.'

And so her calling to religious life became an even greater calling, she was to become a missionary. As she puts it, it was her, 'vocation within a vocation.'

Her destination in The Solomon Islands is the village of Buma, where there are already four sisters.



The people there are in desperate need of help. Natural disasters and political unrest have made poverty a serious issue. Only one in every three islanders has access to clean water. To add to this, the most basic of medicines are not available.

Veronika shared a story of a boy who

was brought to the sisters. The child was covered in dirt and getting weaker before their eyes. In an attempt to save him the local people had performed healing rituals on him. However, he was not far from death.

The sisters knew that all he needed was medicine to reduce his temperature. Just basic healthcare would save his life. A week later, under the care of the sisters, the child was in full health. If the sisters had not been there, the child would surely have died.



A small boy that the sisters have worked with.

Please join us in keeping Sr Veronika and the people of The Solomon Islands in your thoughts and prayers, and thank you for your generosity.

We say a special prayer for Sr. Veronika - wishing her a safe journey and every success in the next chapter of her missionary life!