

**You helped raise  
over €57,000**

**For children's  
projects in 2021**

***Thank You!***



**FEATURED INSIDE**  
**Projects in Benin,**  
**Pope Francis' Emergency Fund,**  
**Ar Fud na Tíre,**  
**Competition Winners and Runners-up!**



# YOU GAVE BRIGHTER DAYS TO SO MANY CHILDREN!

A big **thank you** for supporting Children Helping Children in 2021. You helped raise a superb €11,901. This money was used to support children's projects in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the world. You gave brighter days to so many girls and boys!

Your prayers and generosity meant we could help children in Benin during 2021. Benin may not be as well known to you as other African countries - so we marked it on the map!



**Benin** (officially called the Republic of Benin) is a small narrow country in West Africa. The capital of Benin is Porto-Novo. Most people live on the small southern coastline of the country. This coastline is known as the "Bight of Benin" but sadly it is also known as the slave coast. The official language of Benin is French. Other languages such as Fon and Yoruba are also commonly spoken.

Benin's climate is hot and humid. Yearly rainfall in the coastal area averages 130 cm. It has two rainy and two dry seasons per year. The main rainy season is from April to late July and the main dry season is from December to April.

Benin is known for its agriculture which is the country's primary economic activity. Its main agricultural products are cotton, cashews, and butter from the dairy industry. Fish is also a natural resource of Benin and the country exports a lot of seafood.



The W National Park is a major national park in West Africa. It is called the W National Park because it is shaped like a W and follows the meandering river Niger through Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The other major national park in Benin is the Pendjari National Park. Both of these parks attract tourists who want to see elephants, lions, antelopes, hippos, and monkeys!



The National Flag of Benin has three coloured bands. The green vertical band on the flag represents the hope of a new democracy after the country was declared a republic. The red horizontal band represents the courage of the ancestors of Benin, and the yellow horizontal band represents the treasures of the nation.

# WHAT YOUR *Prayers & Donations* SUPPORTED!



## Protecting Young Lives

Sister Marie in the *Orphelinat Les Saints Innoncents de Natitingou* (the Holy Innocents Orphanage of Natitingou) looks after many children who have been abandoned, rejected or who have ran away from difficult situations. But Sr Marie and the other sisters working there needed some financial support to provide food, healthcare, and education for the 52 children in their care. Funds raised by children in Ireland helped the Little Servants of the Poor religious sisters to continue providing this much needed care especially during the pandemic.



## Support for Blind and Visually Impaired Children

Father Achille in the parish of *Les Saints Martyrs de L'Ouganda* needed some financial support to help a local school for visually impaired and blind children. This school welcomes, accommodates and educates blind and visually impaired children from across the diocese of Natitingou and elsewhere. Father Achille says, "it offers the children the opportunity to be educated without discrimination." Children in Ireland have helped to provide food, education and health supports for the children attending this school.

## Message from the National Secretary of Children Helping Children

*Dear Friends,*

I would like to thank you for your continued engagement and support of **Children Helping Children** throughout 2021. This cannot have been easy when you had so many other challenges to overcome in your classrooms. I hope you enjoyed all the activities we invited your school to take part in during the year? These included our colouring competitions, our prayers and activities during the Mission Month of October, our Lent and Advent Activity Calendars, and much more. Personally, I was delighted to receive so many entries to both our Easter and Christmas colouring competitions when you were under so much pressure.

With your support and fundraising efforts, we did so much for children in the developing world in 2021. You provided spiritual and physical support, helping children in some of the most remote parts of the world. The prayers and generosity of the children you work with really brought our motto **Children Helping Children** to life!

Thank you once again for all your support. I hope you, your staff, and the pupils of your schools had a summer filled with family moments to cherish, fun activities, sunshine and safety.

Yours in missionary spirit,

**Julieann Moran**

National Secretary for Missionary Children



# COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUNDS

We also received an amazing donation of €45,000 Towards Pope Francis' Covid Emergency Fund which supported thousands of children in need in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, and Mali. You can find all these countries marked with a circle around them on our map!



## **Burkina Faso**

More than 5,000 children were supported in the Archdiocese of Ouagadougou and the Diocese of Tenkodogo in Burkina Faso when funds from Ireland provided them with protective equipment like masks and gloves, as well as hand washing materials and sanitising tools. This made children much more aware of the reality of the disease and the protective measures they could use to avoid getting sick. The extra protection also allowed them to continue taking part in their sacramental preparation and faith formation classes in their parishes.



## **Cameroon**

Over 10,000 children in the Diocese of Ngaoundere in Cameroon were provided with greater health care and monitoring equipment during the pandemic. Irish funds provided medicine boxes, hygiene materials, and personal protective equipment to a region that was very affected by Covid-19, particularly in the more rural areas. These funds allowed children to attend school in a much healthier environment and helped them to learn more about the prevention of Covid-19 and other contagious diseases.



## **Côte d'Ivoire**

The Saint Francis of Assisi Nursery School in Grand-Bassam in Côte d'Ivoire was in much need of supplies and food for the more disadvantaged children in their care. Many parents lost



their jobs during the pandemic and had no means to keep their children in education. Thanks to donations here in Ireland, they were able to keep their children in school and know that they were getting a meal each day.

## **Chad**

In the Diocese of Doba in Chad, food, health supplies, and training was provided to 500 children from families that were struggling to look after themselves during the pandemic. These children were coming together to learn more about their faith as Christians and to prepare for their First Holy Communion so it was important that they could do this safely each time together.



## **The Republic of Congo**

The Sisters of Notre Dame in Nkayi in the Congo were trying their very best to keep the children of their school safe during Covid-19. Their school had more than 500 children attending and the measures put in place meant that a maximum of 50 children was allowed in each classroom. Many of the children attending the school travel great distances each day so the sisters did not want to have to turn anyone away because of the restrictions. They urgently asked for help to build an extension to the school so all of the children could remain. Irish funding helped with this very important project.



## **Mali**

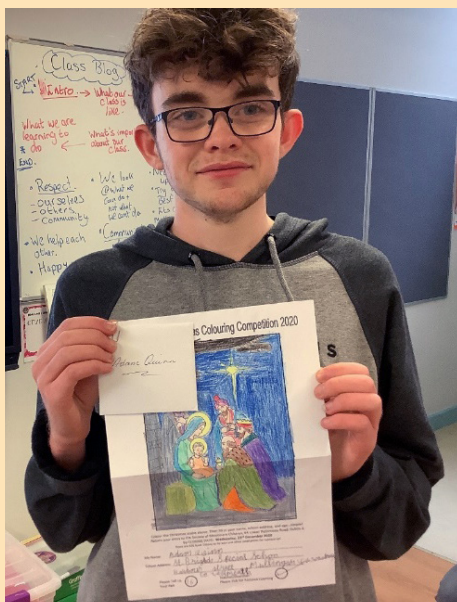
Many children were at risk from Covid-19 in the Diocese of San in Mali. To help spread information about the virus and how children could protect each other, special funds were used to prepare radio programmes and broadcasts, including interviews. Father Frederic Kone and Irenne Diarra at Radio Parana knew the value of radio communication for children who do not have TVs so they used this important service to help save lives.



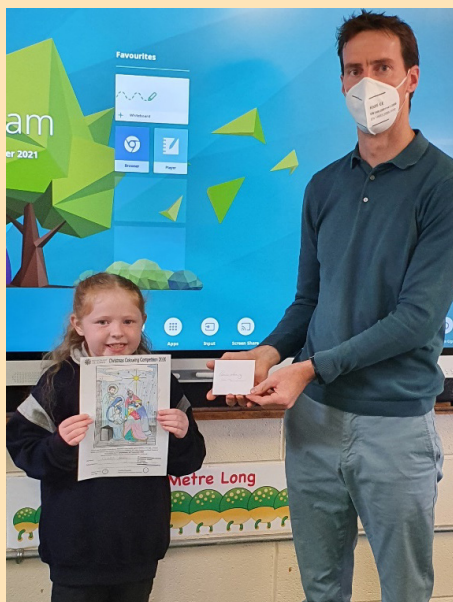


# COLOURING COMPETITIONS!

We love to receive the photos from the winners and runners-up in our colouring competitions. Can you spot yourself?



Adam, St Brigid's Special School,  
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath



Clara, 2nd Class, St Joseph's NS,  
Clarina, Co. Limerick



Darragh and Ms Egan, Portroe NS,  
Co. Tipperary



Ellie Mae and Ms Casey, Our Lady  
Queen of Peace NS, Janesboro,  
Co. Limerick



Eloise, The Teresian School,  
Dublin



Emily, Corals town NS,  
Co. Westmeath





Erin, Rampark NS, Dundalk,  
Co. Louth



Kaidah, 2nd Class, and Mrs Sharkey,  
St Bride's NS, Ballintubber,  
Co. Roscommon



Karolina, Scoil Eanna, Montenotte,  
Co. Cork



Kinga, Ballyleague NS,  
Co. Roscommon



Letisha, Cliffrerna NS, Stadone,  
Co. Cavan



Levi, Home-schooled, Co. Sligo



Maria, Scoil Leanbh Íosa,  
Prosperous, Co. Kildare



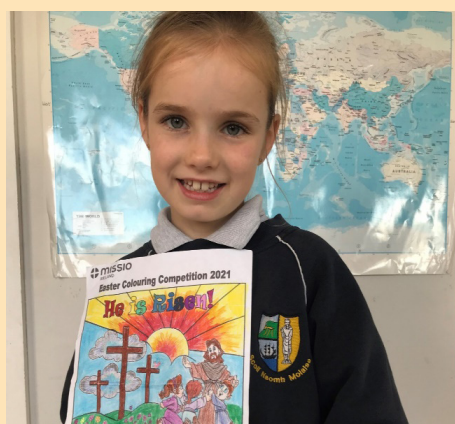
Matthew, Scoil Naomh Eanna,  
Carraroe, Co. Sligo



Nicole, St Eoghan's PS, Derry,  
Co. Derry



Olan, Newcestown NS, Co. Cork



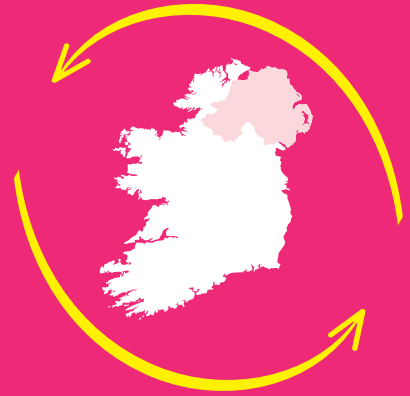
Therese-Anne, Scoil Naomh  
Molaise, Co. Sligo



Tommy, Kilmore NS, Ballinasloe,  
Co. Galway



# Ar Fud na Tíre

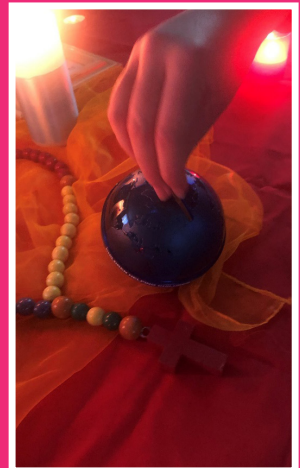


Thank you to all the pupils of 6<sup>th</sup> Class in St Joseph's National School, Miltown Malbay, Co.Clare. You raised funds while having fun on your crepe, waffle and popcorn day for **Children Helping Children**. You all look so smart here in your class graduation photo.

## Children's Day of Mission Prayer and the Mission Month of October

Again, celebrations for Mission Month were very different in 2021. Sadly, with COVID-19, we could not hold a physical celebration on Children's Day of Mission Prayer anywhere, but many schools and parishes held prayer services on the day – Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Thank you to Athleague NS for sending us some photos from your lovely day.



## Our Mission Prayer

Lord,  
May all children  
In the world  
Share love  
Share friendship and live  
In the peace  
Of your love  
Now and forever.  
Amen.



# Do you have a Blue Mission Globe in your classroom?

We want to continue making a difference each year so, please continue to support us whatever way you can!

If you need help returning funds, call us on +353 (0)1 497 2035 or email [schools@missio.ie](mailto:schools@missio.ie)



**On behalf of the Society of Missionary Children, we would like to thank the many children, teachers, parents, and parishes who support us. Your generosity is both humbling and appreciated. Your prayers and donations really make a difference!**

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*Children Helping Children*