

# Annual Review 2024

including Mission Sunday  
income 2023



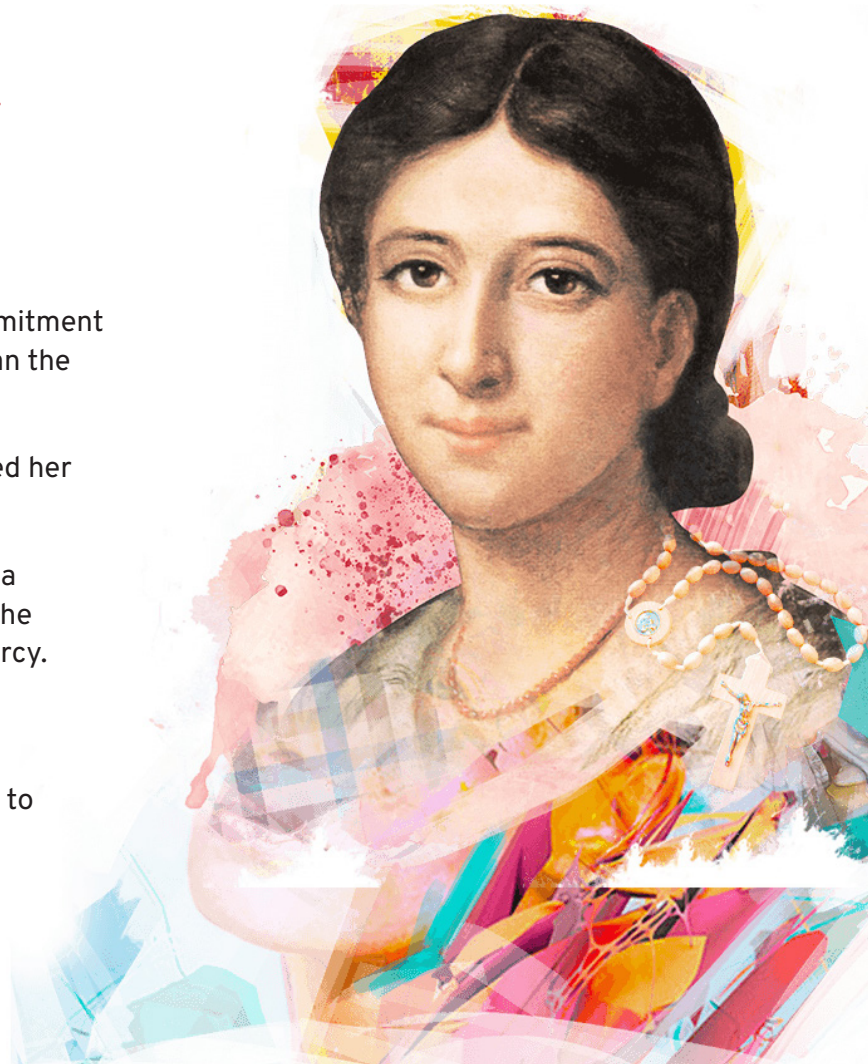
# Prayer to Blessed Pauline Jaricot

God our Father,  
we give you thanks for your servant,  
Blessed Pauline Jaricot, who, through her commitment  
to the Gospel and her passion for mission, began the  
work of Missio.

Despite carrying many crosses, she never closed her  
heart to the needs of the poor.

Following the example of your Son, fortified by a  
life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist, she  
helped to build your Kingdom of justice and mercy.

May we, like Blessed Pauline, share our faith  
humbly and charitably, and through prayer and  
action, work together to make your love known to  
all of creation.



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Picture from Uganda



# From the National Director

I am writing to thank you once again for your continued support of the work of Missio, which is deeply appreciated.

Missio Ireland is an organisation that is driven to promote and support the life giving work of our overseas missionaries. It is a privilege for me to work with Missio Ireland, the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission. Having given many years as a missionary, working with the poor and marginalised people of our world, I am only too aware of their needs.

It is very reassuring for me to know that even today, Ireland continues to stay true to its

proud missionary legacy by supporting missions overseas. Missio Ireland can only continue to serve those in need, in some of the poorest areas of the world because of your ongoing support and prayers. You make so much possible and for this, I sincerely thank you.

You are allowing the Church to thrive overseas by helping local communities to build churches, chapels, schools, clinics and parish halls. You are preparing the future leaders, teachers and carers of our Church by supporting the training of sisters, priests, religious brothers and catechists.



Today, we can see the fruits of this work, as some bishops have priests from mission countries working in their dioceses. Your support also protects vulnerable boys and girls by supporting programmes that offer them safe shelter, healthcare and education, as well as hope for the future.

*Fr. Michael Kelly*

# The Story of the Image on the Front Cover

The Parish of Dakawa, Morogoro Diocese, Tanzania, was founded on 2 February 2004. This is one of the areas in northern Tanzania where the Maasai tribe live. They are also to be found living in Kenya. Local children can be seen carrying water on their heads in this picture.

The Pallottine Missionary Sisters opened a mission in Magogo Village, Dakawa Parish in 2017. It is in the Bush about 9 kms from the main Morogoro Road. The people of this area are mainly from the Maasai Nomadic Pastoralists, who live in the forest of Mvomero. To help the Maasai children to obtain an education, the Sisters opened a Day and Boarding School. They began in 2018 with 21 pupils with numbers increasing ever since. Boarding is

expensive, so the majority of the pupils are day pupils. Children from other areas outside the locality, whose families can afford to pay the school fees, are accepted into the school. These fees are needed to pay the teachers' salaries. The aim is to make the school viable and self sustaining.

Initially, a second hand Hiace minibus was purchased with a capacity of carrying 16 pupils to the school. The number of pupils continued to increase, so a larger bus was needed to take them to and from school. Though fundraising efforts and financial support from individuals outside Tanzania, a new 34 seater Tata minibus was purchased. Before



the purchase of this new minibus, the Sisters struggled to collect the children using the Hiace minibus and their landrover, as they were so overcrowded. It is quite dangerous driving through the Bush. A second minibus was subsequently purchased, and 76 pupils are now being transported to and from school each day.

Missio Ireland is proud to support projects like the one described above. I extend a very special thank you to our donors and supporters, whose generosity makes so much possible.

# Organisational Structure



## Staff

National Director **Fr Michael Kelly SPS**  
PA & Office Manager **Fiona Walsh**  
Finance Officer **Regina Daly**

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## Diocesan Directors

Achonry.....	Fr Peter Gallagher	Ferns.....	Fr Paddy Cushen
Ardagh & Clonmacnois.....	Fr P J Hughes	Galway.....	Fr Declan Lohan
Armagh.....	Mgr Colum Curry	Kerry.....	Fr Ger Godley
Cashel & Emlly.....	Fr Celsus Tierney	Kildare & Leighlin.....	Fr George Augustine
Clogher.....	Fr Brian Early	Killala.....	<i>Appointment pending</i>
Clonfert.....	Fr Declan Lohan	Killaloe.....	Fr John Molloy
Cloyne.....	Fr Mícheál Leader	Kilmore.....	Fr John McMahon
Cork & Ross.....	Fr Pat Fogarty	Limerick.....	Fr Derek Leonard
Derry.....	Fr Kevin Mulhern	Meath.....	Fr Tony Gavin
Down & Connor.....	<i>Appointment pending</i>	Ossory.....	Fr Seán O'Connor
Dromore.....	<i>Appointment pending</i>	Raphoe.....	Fr Damien Nejad
Dublin.....	Fr John Greene	Tuam.....	Fr Chris Brennan
Elphin.....	Mr Wando Araujo	Waterford & Lismore.....	Mr Robert Duggan

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## Board of Directors

Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly (Chair)	Sr Liz Murphy
Mr Niall Kennedy	Mr Seamus McDonald
Fr John Greene	Ms Shauna Rose Pickering
Fr Tim Lehane	



On behalf of the  
Missio Ireland,

## Thank You

for your support on Mission Sunday. The Mission Sunday Collection in 2023 amounted to €1,496,607.

Thank you for your great generosity in difficult financial times.

*Hands on Fire, Feet on the Move* was the theme for Mission Month 2023. Your support for missionaries and the communities they serve, through your prayers and generosity, is deeply appreciated.

# Mission Sunday Collections

## Comparing 2022 and 2003

Diocese	2022	2023
Achonry	€24,163	€22,714
Ardagh & Clonmacnois	€26,000	€38,470
Armagh	€43,025	€45,689
Cashel & Emly	€46,455	€43,390
Clogher	€57,303	€56,294
Clonfert	€19,726	€18,306
Cloyne	€32,999	€31,848
Cork & Ross	€65,677	€70,254
Derry	€96,528	€105,371
Down & Connor	€71,197	€102,081
Dromore	€20,311	€13,657
Dublin	€229,791	€221,280
Elphin	€43,371	€31,230
Ferns	€27,627	€30,830

Diocese	2022	2023
Galway	€26,000	€35,693
Kerry	€39,670	€45,065
Kildare & Leighlin	€78,956	€74,146
Killala	€35,020	€26,817
Killaloe	€46,720	€57,896
Kilmore	€38,370	€39,522
Limerick	€27,673	€39,218
Meath	€74,469	€84,464
Ossory	€22,931	€23,457
Raphoe	€17,050	€29,675
Tuam	€72,500	€100,000
Waterford & Lismore	€22,547	€50,129
Individuals	€55,657	€59,102
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€1,386,832</b>	<b>€1,496,607</b>





# Growing and Building

Missio helps missionaries share the love of Jesus overseas and enriches today's global Catholic community. Missio shares the Good News of the Gospel by striving to be a channel of God's love for all people, inviting them to meet and know Jesus Christ and embrace the freedom that comes from being a child of God. We can only achieve this together.

For more than 200 years, Missio has been supporting the work of missionaries by providing them with the spiritual and material support they need to enable local people to build and sustain their own faith communities.

Today, we continue to empower the Catholic Church globally, sharing the love of Christ with everyone, and especially to those in greatest need.

Some of the funding received goes towards the salaries of catechists. The work of catechists is vital, particularly in large dioceses, where the local priest only reaches remote communities infrequently. Funding received is used in the construction and renovation of churches, chapels, presbyteries and convents.

# Training and Educating

Missio supports the training of over 25,000 future priests and 11,000 religious sisters each year by providing young Churches in developing countries with funding to train their own future Church leaders.

Today, these priests and sisters are building the vibrant Catholic Church of tomorrow, ensuring the gift of faith is passed on to future generations worldwide.

In mission dioceses in Africa and Asia, it costs at least €700 a year to train a student for the priesthood. Even though their families and parish communities try to support them, and the seminaries do their best to grow their own food, it is a struggle to cover the full costs of seminary training.

Missio believes no vocation should be turned away through lack of funds. This is why the Holy Father asks us to channel help from our supporters to build the future of our Church. With your help, Missio can support the next generation of leaders for our global Church.



# Children Helping Children



Missio gives hope to the world's poorest children by supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable children globally. We help provide education, faith formation, orphanages, health clinics, children's homes, and nutrition programmes.

Thanks to young people living out our motto Children Helping Children, the Missio family can support millions of the world's poorest children every year. This is done when girls and boys in over 120 countries, including Ireland, offer solidarity and hope through their prayers and donations. As a result, thousands of children's projects, led by missionaries, are supported.

These missionaries, who are living out their faith through action, know the value of every donation they receive as they try to help everyone they can regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs.



The image above is of children praying the rosary for the missions at Knock Shrine.

100% of donations received from children in Ireland are sent to projects overseas.

# Prayer & Mission

Prayer is at the centre of all our work. For many struggling communities overseas, and the missionaries working there, knowing that people in Ireland are praying for them, brings them hope. Not only do we ask people to pray for the missions overseas, but we also ask them to explore and develop their own understanding of mission.

When we pray together, we share in God's love and are inspired to make the world a better place. We ask you to pray with us, so that the missionaries we support can find the strength to continue to ignite God's love around the world.

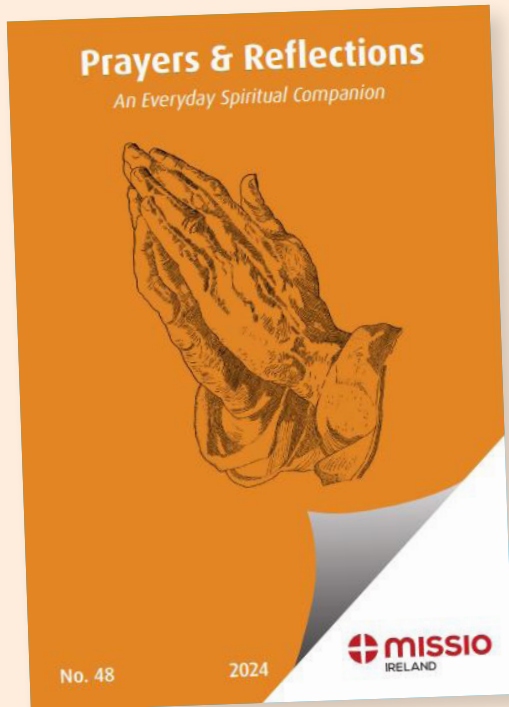
Many missionaries work in difficult and dangerous situations. In 2023, twenty missionaries met violent deaths, two more than in 2022. Fr William Banda, a member of St Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers) was shot dead while preparing for morning Mass



on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at the Cathedral Church of Tzaneen Diocese, South Africa. Fr William was ordained in 2016.

We have a supply of Rosary Beads and *Prayers & Reflections* booklets about the Rosary. If you would like a supply of either, please contact the Missio Ireland office on (01) 497 2035 or [info@missio.ie](mailto:info@missio.ie).

# Prayers & Reflections



Each year in February, we publish our *Prayers & Reflections* booklet. The date coincides with the annual World Day of the Sick, which is celebrated on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, feast day of our Lady of Lourdes.

*Prayers & Reflections* encourages prayer and spiritual reflection, whilst also providing comfort to the sick and the housebound. These booklets are also used by priests, brothers, sisters and Eucharistic ministers in parish visitation of the sick and elderly. We also encourage users of the booklet to pray for missionaries.

This prayer booklet is distributed to individuals as well as to hospitals and nursing homes. If you would like to order a copy of our 48<sup>th</sup> *Prayers & Reflections* Booklet, please contact our office directly and we will be happy to send you a supply.

The office can be contacted on either (01) 497 2035 or [info@missio.ie](mailto:info@missio.ie)

# Missio Ireland Allocations from income received in 2023



Over **€364,00** sent to support bishops in the running of their dioceses.

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Over **€265,000** was sent to mission parishes to support catechists in the work of evangelisation.

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**13 buildings** renovated or built: churches, chapels, presbyteries, convents and parish offices.

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Over **€1.4 million** collected on Mission Sunday last year.

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**3 child related projects** assisted in Togo.



**2 seminaries** assisted in Benin.



## Where donations were sent recently

Young people shared hope and solidarity with the world's poorest children. €20,615 was distributed recently to child related projects abroad. The projects assisted were located in Togo.

€1,120,128 was distributed recently to support missionaries and fund church projects abroad. The projects funded were located in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire.

Through your generosity, the next generation of priests, sisters, brothers and lay catechists are supported financially. €19,949 was sent recently to Benin. This was for a seminary and for the training of seminary formators.

€189,406 was sent to support colleges in Rome that accommodate women religious and priests from mission countries for their ongoing formation. These will return to their home dioceses to continue handing on the faith.



Mass stipends were sent to the following countries last year: Malawi, Ethiopia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Uganda, China and Zambia. €83,954 was distributed in Mass Stipends to these countries in 2023.

**Please continue to send Mass Stipends to Missio Ireland.**

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Charity no. CHY 22544  
CRA no. 20205153

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