MISSIONS TODAY















WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



SHARING THE FAITH

In the Gospel of Mark, the Gospel for Liturgical Year (B), Jesus gives his disciples a share in his own mission (Mark 6:7-13).

They were sent out to preach and to heal. They were not, however, to rely on their own resources, but on the authority that was given to them and on the hospitality offered them. Should the audience prove unwelcoming or unreceptive, they were to move on without delay.

Jesus sent them out as apostles because Christianity is never something to be kept for oneself alone. It is primarily a spiritual message, to invite people to repent so as to allow God into their lives. This corresponds to our deepest needs and desires - it gives a meaning and a sense of direction to our lives, a reason to live and a reason to die. But Christianity is concerned not only with the spiritual, but also with emotional and physical healing. Its scope even now extends to the wellbeing of the whole person: "The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them" (v.13).

Pope Francis in his message for World Mission Day 2015 has this to say: "Every baptized person is called to bear witness to the Lord Jesus by proclaiming the faith received as a gift. Since Christ's entire existence had a missionary character, so too, all who follow him closely must possess this missionary quality. As Vatican II stated: 'The laity should cooperate in the Church's missionary work of evangelisation, as witnesses and at the same time as



living instruments, they share in her saving mission' (Ad Gentes, 41)." The first to whom the Gospel message must be preached are: "the poor, the little ones and the sick, those who are often looked down upon and forgotten, those who cannot repay us (cf. Luke 14:13-14)."

The duty of the Church is to help those in need. However, if the purpose of the Church is solely to care for the poor. to further justice and peace, then it becomes a human institution oriented to temporal goals. The primary mission of the Church is to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ so that all people will be brought into communion with the living God and into the fullness of the kingdom. Caring for the poor is an important aspect of the Church's ultimate mission, that is, to invite "all people, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of God's family, the Church... to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs to his blessed life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1).

Speaking to leaders of the apostolate of the laity in Korea, Pope Francis said: "Your gifts as lay men and women are manifold and your apostolate varied, yet all that you do is meant to advance the Church's mission by ensuring that the temporal order is permeated and perfected by Christ's Spirit and ordered to the coming of his Kingdom." The Church's mission is concerned with both the temporal and eternal needs of people, an "integral

development open to the Absolute." For Christ has brought ABUNDANT LIFE: "I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance" (John 10:10).

In his message, the Pope refers to the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS): "The Missionary Societies of the Successor of Peter have a universal apostolic horizon to facilitate the spread of the Gospel which is 'the source of joy, liberation and salvation for all men and women.' In the full range of the Church's missionary activity, all the faithful are called to live their baptismal commitment to the fullest, in accordance with the personal situation of each."

Last June, two members of World Missions Ireland staff, Jackie Pallas and Sally McEllistrim, together with Charlie Bird, the well-known broadcaster, set out for the Far East to capture on film the work of missionaries in South Korea and the Philippines, especially amongst the socially marginalised, the exploited and the forgotten. Missionaries work to enable them to live a life in keeping with their Godgiven dignity as a first step towards evangelization. A short DVD will be available for Mass-going congregations on Mission Sunday, while lengthier ones will be produced for schools, retreats and various groupings of clergy, religious and laity.

Fr Maurice Hogan SSC National Director, WMI

Quotes from Pope Francis



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Photo: Servizio Fotografico de L'OR

THE STORY BEHIND WORLD MISSIONS IRELAND POSTER

Mission Sunday

"I have come so that you can have life and live it to the full". 'Abundant' life is the theme for our Mission Sunday Poster this year.

What does an abundant life mean? Like everything else it means different things to different people. For the thousands of desperate migrants, many of whom paid the ultimate price with their lives this year as they desperately tried to reach European shores, it means a chance for a better life. For the Christians persecuted for their faith, it means the freedom to live and profess that faith openly. For the people living on the margins it means inclusion as opposed to exclusion. At the very least it means dignity, hope and light. It means having something to eat, somewhere to sleep and something to believe in. It is at the core of mission and missionary work.

This year, two of our staff in World Missions Ireland, Jackie Pallas and Sally McEllistrim travelled to the Philippines and South Korea on a mission trip, accompanied by Journalist Charlie Bird. We decided on those two very different countries to show the vibrancy of our Church in Asia. The Catholic Church is growing rapidly in South Korea, it now numbers 5 million people and it is the second largest missionary sending country in the world. The Philippines has a long and proud tradition of Catholicism but for most of its people, poverty is a constant companion.

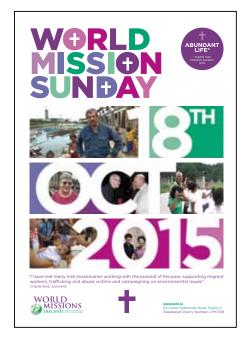
Our first photo is that of veteran Journalist Charlie Bird. He is pictured in Cebu in the Philippines amongst the dirt and the debris that the Badjao people have to endure. The Badjaos are amongst the most downtrodden in the country but are being championed by Presentation Missionary Sister Evelyn Flanagan who is lifting them up through education, hard work and her tireless missionary spirit. Evelyn herself is pictured in our next photo, just underneath Charlie. She is a happy, enthusiastic and hard working missionary and is doing trojan work to bring joy and hope to the Badjao people. They have huge respect for her and we were touched when one lady

said to us "Sr Evelyn is kind and fun; she is like a mother to us but above all she has stayed with us and has not abandoned us". That is the true essence of missionaries. Sr Evelyn says that she is "Happy to be serving at the sharp end of missionary work; this is my true vocation".

Our next picture is that of Pope Francis meeting our National Director, Fr Maurice Hogan in Rome. Fr Maurice savs "Mission has to be outward looking and has to offer abundance; we are a presence, a witness and people relate to living witness more so than they do to learning about it in the traditional sense. Offering hope and dignity to the most cast aside and marginalised is at the core of what missionary priests and sisters give to people. The faith of missionaries drives them on; it is this faith that is their driving force which in turn helps to provide abundance in the lives of those they serve".

Columban Fr. Shay Cullen has been a vocal and fearless crusader for the most exploited in the Philippines for over 45 years. He continues to rescue children and young adults from the clutches of abusers in all their guises and has built a haven for these vulnerable people. Without him their lives would be bleak and hopeless.

Next is where it all begins; an image of a baptism in the city of Manila. It was a truly special occasion to witness; families bringing their beautiful little children into the Church, recognising the graces and gifts that the sacrament of baptism bestows. Pope Francis has urged us not to forget the great gift we receive when we are christened "Our baptism has changed us, given us a new and glorious hope, and empowered us to bring God's redeeming love to all, particularly the poor, in whom we see the face of Christ. Our baptism has also given us a share in the Church's mission of evangelisation; as disciples, we are also missionaries".



Korean sisters Julie and Bella certainly share their baptism and missionary gifts as they go amongst the people who live with the dead. Yes, you read that correctly. In Manila, 2,000 living souls have nothing and nowhere to live and have set up home in one of the biggest cemeteries in the teeming city. They are born, live and die in the graveyard. Sr Julie relates how she asks the people "What is the colour of your God, and they say yellow, the colour of hope". She and Sr Bella are offering hope in abundance.

So, as you look through our World Missions Ireland poster please think and pray for all these missionaries and the many more who are a beacon of hope to those on the margins and to those people who have yet to hear the word of God. Please think and pray for those people who are suffering in so many ways in so many parts of the world. Mission Sunday is the one day when we are asked to give a financial offering, whatever we can, to show that we are standing with the people and the Younger Churches who are in constant need of our help. In 2014, over €1,781.000 was raised during our Mission Sunday collection and this money is making a huge difference to the lives of those who need it most. Your continuing help and prayers make this possible.

Sally McEllistrim is the PR Manager with World Missions Ireland, the official Mission Charity of the Catholic Church in Ireland. It supports missionaries and mission projects in up to 80 mission countries abroad, both spiritually and financially. World Missions Ireland, 64 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. (01) 4972035. www.wmi.ie

HOLY FATHER'S MISSIONARY PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2016

JANUARY

CHRISTIAN UNITY:

That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

FEBRUARY

ASIA:

That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia

MARCH PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS:

That those Christians who, on account of their faith, are discriminated against or are being persecuted, may remain strong and faithful to the Gospel, thanks to the incessant prayer of the Church.

APRIL

AFRICAN CHRISTIANS:

That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.

MAY

HOLY ROSARY:

That families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelisation and peace.

JUNE

SEMINARIANS AND NOVICES:

That seminarians and men and women entering religious life may have mentors who live the joy of the Gospel and prepare them wisely for their mission.

JULY

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:

That the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, by means of her mission to the continent, may announce the Gospel with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.

AUGUST

LIVING THE GOSPEL:

That Christians may live the Gospel, giving witness to faith, honesty, and love of neighbour.

SEPTEMBER

MISSION TO EVANGELISE:

That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelise.

OCTOBER

WORLD MISSION DAY:

That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.

NOVEMBER

COLLABORATION OF PRIESTS & LAITY:

That within parishes, priests and lay people may collaborate in service to the community without giving in to the temptation of discouragement.

DECEMBER

EUROPE:

That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

















MASS FOR MISSION SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2015

"ABUNDANT LIFE"

[29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples, for the Lord is great and highly to be praised. [Ps. 95:3-4]

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people, Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST ...

COLLECT

O God, whose will it is that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, look upon your abundant harvest and be pleased to send workers to gather it, that the Gospel may be preached to all creation and that your people, gathered by the word of life and sustained by the power of the Sacraments, may advance in the path of salvation and love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

[Readings: Lectionary 1:814]

MASS FOR MISSION SUNDAY

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah [53:10-11]

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done. His soul's anguish over, he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM [Ps 32: 4-5, 18-20, 22; R/. v 22]

R/. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

- The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.
 The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. R/.
- The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. R/.
- 3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. R/.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews [4:14-16]

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION [Mark 10:45]

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Son of Man came to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Alleluia!

MASS FOR MISSION SUNDAY

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [10:42-45]

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus, 'Master,' they said to him, 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit, one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory'. 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptised, you will be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.' When the other ten heard this they began to be indignant at James and John so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest Celebrant: The love of Christ gathers us together in communion this Mission Sunday so that we might be renewed through this celebration of our faith and in our commitment to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth and so we make our prayer to our loving Father:

- 1. We pray for all the communities throughout the world who gather to celebrate the Eucharist today. Nourished by God's Word and by Christ's Body and Blood, may we be joyful ministers of your saving presence to all we meet. Lord, hear us.
- 2. We pray for those who are suffering today. Lord Jesus, you know our weaknesses and our temptations and were no stranger to suffering. Be merciful to all who are struggling with heavy burdens. Lord, hear us.
- 3. In our journey of faith, let us have no ambition other than to be servants to one another in the spirit of Jesus. Let us bear one another's burdens, bringing the gifts of healing, peace and justice to our troubled world. Lord, hear us.
- 4. We thank God for our missionaries and for the peoples among whom they work. In the spirit of Pauline Jaricot, may we reach out in love to all missionaries throughout the world and to the communities they serve, especially to those in most need. Lord, hear us.
- 5. We pray for the sick, the lonely, the elderly and for all who are bereaved. May they be comforted as they unite their suffering with the Risen Christ. Lord, hear us.
- 6. We ask God's every blessing on our community gathered here and on Christian Communities everywhere. May the offering of our prayers, sufferings and the support we give World Mission Sunday help us to fill the earth with God's love. Lord, hear us.

Priest Celebrant: Father, you sent your Son among us as a missionary to reveal your wonderful plan of salvation. Through our sharing of the gifts you give us, may we continue to grow in communion with our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

MASS FOR MISSION SUNDAY

LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, O Lord, upon the face of your Christ, who handed himself over as a ransom for all, so that through him, from the rising of the sun to its setting, your name may be exalted among the nations and in every place a single offering may be presented to your majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE VII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME [p 452]

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. Lift up vour hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just. It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer. to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience. And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, We, too, give thanks, as in exultation we acclaim ...

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON [Mark 16:15]

Go into all the world, and proclaim the Gospel, says the Lord. I am with you always.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we pray, O Lord, that through this help to eternal salvation true faith may ever increase. Through Christ our Lord.

SOLEMN BLESSING [10, Ordinary Time II, p 553]

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

COMFORT THE AFFLICTED, AFFLICT THE COMFORTABLE

We could come back to our 'comfortable' lives. That was the overriding thought in my mind as we stood in the baking heat in Manila and watched children naked and crawling with lice and sores run about the cemetery where they live. Yes, the cemetery where they live.

Takes a while to sink in doesn't it?

We were three for our 'World Missions Ireland' trip to the Philippines and South Korea; Jackie Pallas and myself from WMI and we were joined by Journalist Charlie Bird. We have all seen some sights over our lives but none of us could really get our heads around the idea of people living in a cemetery. The reality of finally seeing it was shocking. Almost 2,000 people are born, live and die amongst the grey tombs. They have nowhere else to go. They scratch out a living looking after the tombs and are particularly busy during November, the month of the Holy Souls. Just one public toilet caters for all these living souls, they have no running water; they have no electricity bar those who 'jump' it illegally putting themselves in mortal danger of electrocution. They are not on any tourist guide; they are invisible to most people, most of them don't even have a birth certificate. It is a shocking inditement of their society to think that they are only acceptable to the dead.

They have hope however and that hope takes the form of two Korean Columban Sisters, Sr Julie and Sr Bella. The two missionary sisters began helping them and working with them in 2011. Sr Julie says "When I first saw



them they were like animals; eating and drinking from the ground, it was shocking and sad. We have done a lot of work with them: we have feeding programmes, we have taught them about hygiene and personal health, we have taught them about respect for others and themselves but it is an uphill battle. Their lives are a constant daily struggle. I say to them "what colour is your God and they say yellow, the colour of hope".

Offering hope and dignity to the most cast aside and marginalised is at the core of what missionary priests and sisters do. We saw plenty of examples of their sterling work both in the Philippines and South Korea during our mission visit. We saw it in the eyes of the children rescued from paedophiles and other abusers by Fr. Shay Cullen in Olangapo. His 40 odd years in the Philippines have not dimmed his fervour for the rights of children to a happy, innocent and risk free childhood; we wondered what would have happened to the Badjao people, sea gypsies, whose very name means 'of no value' were it not for the passion of Presentation Sister Evelyn Flanagan, a vocal and tireless defender of their rights; Limerick Columban Noel O'Neill would put any business magnate to shame such is his success in building factories which employ

people with intellectual disabilities, all of whom now have the dignity of work and enjoy such commercial success that they now number Incheon Airport in Korea as one of their clients. Staying in Korea, we had the privilege of standing with the people of Ceju who are opposing the construction of a massive naval base. We only stood with them for one day but Pat Cunningham from Westmeath is there day after day. He passionately believes in their right to protest and as peace and justice coordinator for the Columbans in Korea he walks the walk. He is at the peace camp where he stares down the Police and tries his best to stop the juggernaughts intent on constructing this blight on the landscape. Of course if it was just a blight on the landscape that would be bad enough but we all know the far more serious consequences of a massive naval base in Korea Fr Moon, a local Jesuit who also maintains a presence at the peace camp told me "We are in agony here with this development but the Columbans reached out to us and are standing with us. like the Good Samitarian". Back in Seoul, Frs. Donal O'Keefe, Sean Conneely and Liam O' Keefe are just some who concelebrate the weekly open air mass for the people drowned in the ferry disaster last year. The families of the deceased are still waiting for justice.

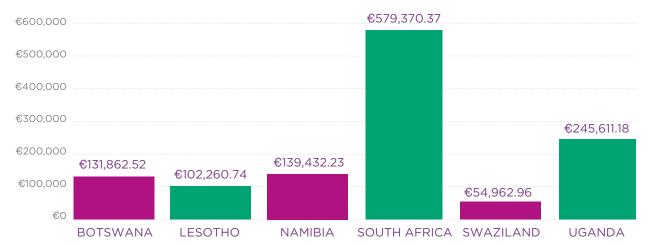
Sr Nora Wiseman from Cork is larger than life and has created a lovely old people's home in Chuncheon where the residents are cherished, loved and valued. One of the most touching and surreal moments there was listening to one of the residents, a tiny little Korean lady of about 90 singing Danny Boy! Cherished loved and valued too are the people living with Aids in Seoul in a welcoming haven provided by Sr. Miriam Cousins. Rejected and ostracised by their families, Miriam has brought them into the wider 'missionary family' who take care of them and treat them as people not as objects of derision.

This is but a very short overview of our World Missions Ireland mission trip and just a tiny glimpse into the worlds and work of our missionaries abroad. For me, one of the Columbans in Seoul, Denis Monaghan, summed it up better than I ever could. "Missionary work is like shovelling light into a dark hole".

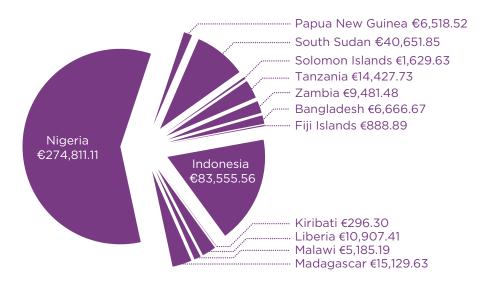
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HOW MONEY COLLECTED IN 2013 WAS DISTRIBUTED IN 2014

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH [€1,253,500]



SOCIETY OF ST PETER APOSTLE [€470,150]



Society of Missionary Children [€55,000]



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MISSION SUNDAY 2014

Achonry	€24,752	
Ardagh & Clonmacnois	€28,895	
Armagh	€104,203	
Cashel & Emly	€69,500	
Clogher	€87,991	
Clonfert	€22,000	
Cloyne	€40,060	
Cork & Ross	€90,686	
Derry	€122,480	
Down & Connor	€93,243	
Dromore	€19,960	
Dublin	€343,952	
Elphin	€29,291	
Ferns	€33,611	
Galway	€18,721	

€64,642 €53,850 €41,911 €105,679 €30,509 €38,000 €88,462 €56,237 €1,725,196 €33,099
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€53,850
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€64,642
€34,217
€41,700
€40,644

TOTAL €1,758,295



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www.wmi.le 64 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6 Registered Charity Number: CHY2318



On behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

In 2014, the Mission Sunday Collection amounted to €1,758,295.

Thank you for your great generosity in difficult times.

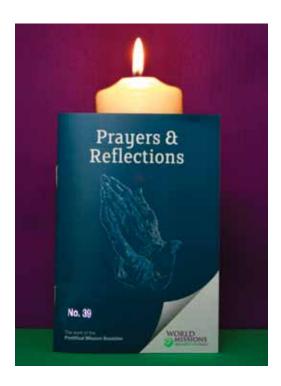
LEGACIES & MASS INTENTIONS

Leaving a Legacy to World Missions Ireland

Please remember World Missions Ireland (WMI) when you are making your will. Your donation can make a significant contribution to the growth of the Young Churches in mission lands by building churches & chapels, supporting seminarians & novices, and supporting children in the developing world. Please see our website (www.wmi.ie) for further information on the work that we do.

Mass Intentions

Your excess Mass intentions can be an invaluable support to native clergy in Africa, Asia and South America. If you have any excess Mass intentions in your parish, please consider sending them to WMI for distribution abroad.



PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS

Prayers & Reflections is published annually by the Pontifical Missionary Union in support of its ministry of prayer.

It is produced in conjunction with the Catholic Healthcare Commission for the celebration of World Day of the Sick on 11th February, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Lady had a special message for the suffering and sick when she invited them to join their sufferings to those of Christ and turn to Him for spiritual, emotional and physical healing.

While the main focus of Prayers & Reflections is to assist those who are ill, distressed or lonely, this 16 page booklet has also found ready acceptance among those who look for a simple yet meaningful aid to prayer throughout their day. It is also used by priests, religious and Eucharistic ministers in parish visitation of the sick and elderly.

World Missions Ireland - the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies is the official support organisation for the overseas mission of the Catholic Church. It brings the prayers, solidarity and financial help of the Church in Ireland to Christian communities in other parts of the world, especially those in greatest need, in the spirit of Pauline Jaricot.



Please	send me more information on:
	Society for the Propagation of the Faith: Spreading the Faith / Building Chapels / Supporting Catechists
	Society of St Peter Apostle: Supporting Seminarians and Religious Novices
	Society of Missionary Children: Supporting children in the developing world materially and spiritually
	Pontifical Missionary Union: Prayers and Reflections booklets / Ministry of Prayer
	Leaving a legacy to the Pontifical Mission Societies

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Name			
Address			

Please complete this form and return to:

Fr Maurice Hogan SSC National Director World Missions Ireland The Work of the Pontifical Mission Societies 64 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6