

## Where do the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart work?

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart minister in more than 50 countries worldwide, with over 1,700 MSCs carrying on the legacy of our founder, Fr Jules Chevalier. The Sacred Heart family has grown throughout the years, and now includes the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and MSC lay associates.

In this Newsletter from the Lay Associates of St Albans, we give news of the MSCs and a few of the projects that they are undertaking – some of which involve former priests from St Alban & St Stephen.



### *Golden Jubilarians celebrate in Cork*

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, three MSCs celebrated 50 years since their ordination, with their Sacred Heart brothers on the Western Road, Cork. Warmest congratulations to our MSCs Fr John Jennings, Fr Charles J. Sweeney (our former Parish Priest) and Fr Diarmuid O'Murchu (a frequent visitor to St Albans). Fr Charles celebrated his actual Golden Jubilee on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 with a simple Mass in his current parish in Salthill.

### *News from Fr Alan Neville in South Sudan*

I usually go for a walk around 6:00am before the heat of the day sets in. Already, students are there getting ready. This is nothing unusual; the girls know that education is their best way of ensuring they and their family have a better future. Our Peace Club also staged a roadside play in the local village on the need for peace in South Sudan. It was the first time that they, as a group of young women, addressed the chiefs about their hopes for the future. The *Benydit*, or head chief, encouraged them to continue.

In the Primary School, we had a fancy dress competition, where kids created wonderful papier mâché animals, weather conditions, mathematical symbols and shapes, fruits and vegetables, and traditional costumes. All made from scrap paper and reused cardboard.

While things wound down for Christmas in the schools, we were only getting started in the Rumbek Campus of the Catholic University of South Sudan. We have had a new intake of students for our degree programmes in English, English literature and in business administration. It is hoped that from this group we will have a new generation of well-trained secondary school teachers and business leaders. Education is the essential foundation of a country that, if done properly, will ensure development that is sustainable for everyone. It is about giving someone a rod, instead of offering them fish year after year. Our students make real sacrifices to be here, whether they are in primary, secondary, or third level, but with their energy, vision, and commitment the future is bright indeed.

*Ben Nhialic areer kek a yin,*

## **Aid to the Philippines**

Throughout November, MSC Missions in the Philippines responded to the urgent needs of families and communities directly affected by Tropical Storm Paeng which made landfall at the end of October 2022. Over 100 deaths were confirmed in the Philippines in the aftermath of the storm. The MSC Mission Office Philippines, Inc., working together with the MSC Centre for the Poor, issued an immediate call for help, and undertook an emergency response programme across Mindanao, providing essential items to communities in Maguindanao and Cotabato. Relief packs included basic food provisions and essentials, and were distributed to more than 200 families in regions of significant storm destruction.

Do you have a story you would like to share with others? Not a great story that will save the world, but a simple story of someone reaching out, helping others out of the goodness of their heart, quietly and selflessly. If you do, please e-mail us at [hearttoheartstalbans@gmail.com](mailto:hearttoheartstalbans@gmail.com). All stories will be shared anonymously.



### **Fr Con Doherty**

Fr Con Doherty MSC, who served in St Alban & St Stephen until 1995 when he left to join fellow missionaries in Russia before returning to Ireland in 2005, has just been appointed Parish Priest in the Sacred Heart Parish on the Western Road, Cork.

## **Spirituality of the Heart**

*Spiritualities of the Heart* can be found in many forms, depending on the special gift of the man or woman living and promoting this kind of Spirituality. Some Spiritualities of the Heart find their origin in the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For example, we can find a Spirituality of the Heart according to the Salesian Spirituality of St Francis de Sales (1567-1622) and Jeanne de Chantal (1572-1641), the founders of the Visitation Sisters; St. Jean Eudes (1601-1680), the founder of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary; or St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), whose ways of practicing the Devotion to the Sacred Heart has been popularized by the Jesuits, based on her writings. All these men and women lived and practiced the Devotion to the Sacred Heart in their own way. They offered to others a model of living a spirituality, more precisely a Spirituality of the Heart.

### **A reflective moment**

*“Being Christian is not a result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with ... a person, who gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Of course, the central person in every Christian Spirituality is Jesus Christ, in whom God has become human. However, God “encounters us ever anew, in the men and women who reflect His presence...” (Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est no. 1 and 17).*

*Learn more...* If you would like to learn more about the Spirituality of the Heart, check out our online resources: [www.hearttoheartstalbans.org](http://www.hearttoheartstalbans.org)

*May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved. Forever.*