

# THE MSC Message



Missionaries  
*of the*  
**Sacred Heart**  
MSC MISSIONS



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## Winter 2023

MSC Missions Office,  
PO Box 23, Western Road,  
Cork, T12 WT72, Ireland.

[www.mscmissions.ie](http://www.mscmissions.ie)

## From the Director



### Dear Friends,

It is that time of the year, where the days grow shorter, and we prepare for the Winter months ahead. It brings to mind cosy feelings of sitting with a nice cup of tea, warming chilly hands safe at home from winter weather. The season of Advent will give us a chance to reflect and prepare our weary souls and hearts for the great season of Christmas. A time to rejoice to love and show good will.

I wish to thank you sincerely for your continued support of our work throughout the year. In countries like Kenya, the Republic of the Congo, South Africa, Brazil, South Sudan, and Haiti to name a few of the places around the world where your help makes a difference to peoples lives. You have helped to bring a glimmer of the light of God's love to others, helping to ease their burden.

This Winter in particular we remember all who need our prayers especially those displaced by the terrors of War.

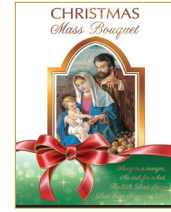
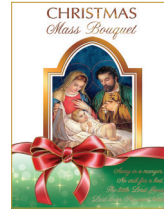
At home as always, a little bit of kindness, a kind word and a smile can go a long way especially as Christmas approaches. I wish you and your loved ones the grace and blessing of this special season and throughout 2024.

Christmas blessings to you and your loved ones,

*Fr. John Fitzgerald MSC*

Director of the MSC Missions Office

## MSC Christmas Mass Remembrance Cards



Remind loved ones they're always in your thoughts this Christmas season with a set of beautifully designed Christmas cards. Each card contains a thoughtful blessing and includes a special remembrance in our Christmas Masses.

### How to Order

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Web: [www.mscmissions.ie](http://www.mscmissions.ie)

*Suggested Donation €25 or £20 per pack of 5*

## Light Up a Memory Mass

Saturday, November 25th 2023

A special candlelight Mass for the Holy Souls will take place in the Sacred Heart Church, Western Road, Cork, at 6.30pm.

All are welcome to join us live on our website

[www.mscmissions.ie](http://www.mscmissions.ie)



Join us on Facebook and X for daily news and updates!



Find us at **@MSCmissions**

## Meet our New Provincial Team



*Fr Joe McGee MSC*

The Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart is pleased to announce Fr Joe McGee MSC as the new Provincial Superior. Fr Joe will be joined by our Provincial team, Fr Dave Nixon MSC and Fr Manus Ferry MSC, Fr John Bennett MSC, Fr Alan Whelan MSC.

We welcome our new team as they begin their term of office. May God bless them along the way.

We also say farewell to Fr Carl Tranter and his team and thank Fr Carl and the members of Fr Carl's team individually for all the work they have done for the province for the last six years (Fr John Fitzgerald MSC, Fr Michael O'Connell MSC, Fr Tony Nolan MSC, Fr Manus Ferry MSC).



*Fr Dave Nixon MSC, Fr Joe McGee MSC and Fr Manus Ferry MSC.*

## A Letter from our New Provincial

Greetings to all our friends and benefactors.

I am delighted to introduce myself to you as the newly appointed Provincial of the Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. I value greatly the opportunity to lead and guide the members in all their various works and ministries throughout the world.

Indeed, as benefactors, you are very familiar with much of the good work we do in various parts of the world. You share in this work by your prayers and generous contributions, and for that I express our deep gratitude and assure you that in return we pray for you every day. As we go about our daily tasks and do what we can to serve God's people we are mindful that without your generous support we simply could not exist.

Born and raised in Convoys Co Donegal, I joined the MSC community and throughout years with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart I have received wonderful opportunities to experience the joys and sorrows of life in a way I could not have imagined possible. God is good to me indeed and your prayers and support have made all this possible as I have fulfilled my various ministries over the years.

What a privilege it is to engage with the lives of people at all levels and now to engage with you our benefactors through the good work of our MSC Missions Office under the leadership of Fr John Fitzgerald.

I look forward to being in touch with you over the coming years as I hear from Fr John and his team about your hopes and struggles. Be assured of my personal daily prayers of gratitude for your kindness. Please continue to remember the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart together with all our co-workers and collaborators throughout the world.

As you can see from the picture on the front page my most recent privileged moment was meeting Pope Francis while attending the worldwide General Chapter of the Society in Rome. What a grace it was to shake the hand of this great man who encouraged us to "embrace the compassion of Jesus' Heart and allow His tenderness to shape our plans and projects" He reminded our MSC members gathered to listen to his address that our God is always "close, compassionate and tender".

I sincerely hope that in corresponding with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, all our benefactors experience this God who in His great tenderness is always close and full of compassion.

*Joseph McGee MSC.*

*Fr Joe McGee MSC*

# Give Peace a Chance - South Sudan



“It important to stop and be thankful for the peace that we currently enjoy here in South Sudan”. - Fr Alan MSC

Peace happens quietly. It’s violence that makes most of the noise or at least it does most of the time. The Senior 4 Students (the equivalent of our sixth year class) took part in an annual peace walk. This year we walked the 45km from Loreto to our neighbouring parish of Cueibet. We had an early start, beginning at the school grotto with prayers and then we hit the road.

The girls were delighted to get out and about in the community. The people in turn were happy to meet our students, especially when they found out what they were doing. Not so long ago such a trip would have been impossible, due to the proliferation of small arms, banditry on the roads, and widespread insecurity.



Senior Four studets

*That day we made plenty of noise, singing and laughing as we walked, and before you knew it, we arrived in Cueibet in time for a simple Mass for peace in South Sudan and a warm welcome from the people of the parish.*

Since I wrote last we had two people over from Ireland, Linda Cardiff and Brendan Smith, to work with our University students on computer coding. We have just purchased two lap tops, doubling the number of computers on the campus. You’d be amazed how many student you can fit around one screen when you really need to!

We also had two new arrivals to the Diocese. The sister congregation of the MSCs, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, welcomed two new members from Indonesia to their Mapourdit community. One is a trained teacher and the other an excellent nurse. We wish them the very best.



Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart welcome new sisters

Finally, as it is the season for cultivation, our students and teachers were out this week planting trees and weeding their plots of groundnuts, the national staple. Taken individually these are all small things, inconsequential in the eyes of national media in its pursuit of the dramatic and the immediate. For the people of Lakes State though, this is significant, as after a long time of insecurity things are slowly building and life is flourishing.

Peace is certainly a fragile thing, as evidenced by the world around us, but it is something worth fighting for.

Nhialic ke yin (or God Bless) Fr. Alan MSC

# Irish Provincial Chapter 2023

Every six years the Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart holds a 'great meeting' (Chapter ) lasting for about a week. Members who can do so attend from Ireland, England the USA and our mission communities in Africa and Venezuela make the journey .

The Irish Provincial Chapter took place earlier in the year. It was a very busy time. Certain tasks such as electing new members to various posts and making other decisions to satisfy Canon law had to be conducted with some precision. Aside from these necessary tasks and meeting old friends the group reviewed the life and the work of the Province since the earlier Chapter.

Some of what had been planned did not happen, mainly due to Covid. Other areas of work could be judged with a 'must do better tag' but generally there was mostly positive reporting regarding all that had been accomplished over the period. A slot was given to some of the projects works we had completed.

Most of the attention turned towards the future, and discerning the will of God for our members, our communities and in all the places where we work. Much time was spent in prayer and discussion in the process. Each geographical area and each ministry we take part in was reflected upon. The dreams and needs for the next six years were considered and necessary plans put in place.

Part of the reflection that constantly came to the surface was the contribution the Irish Province was making to new mission projects connected with our members throughout the world, especially in new Provinces where members work in very poor conditions.

Themes that will receive priority with an emphasis on pastoral approaches are the role of the laity, environmental awareness, healing past hurts, and mapping the future for our mission work regarding personnel, evangelisation and alleviating poverty.

Fr. Abzalón, MSC the Superior General of the whole Society attended and said that he had visited all the countries where the MSC worked, and the contribution of the Irish Province is critical to most of the poorer areas of the overall ministry.

The Pre-Chapter Opening Mass was celebrated on the 17th September bringing all the Missionaries together as brothers and sisters as members of the Chevalier Family with the homily brought by Fr Abzalón Alvarado, MSC.



*Participants of the MSC Irish Province Provincial Chapter 2023*



Fr Abzalón Alvarado MSC



Fr Joe McGee MSC

No doubt he was referring to so many projects big and small that we have funded through your financial help. Throughout the Chapter there were constant prayers for our benefactors no more so than from our younger members from abroad who were very much aware their whole vocation was supported by the prayers and help of the people of Ireland.

Around that time, other Provinces held their own Chapters and later in the Autumn representatives from all the Provinces converged to the General Chapter in Rome. At this gathering the dreams and plans of all the Provinces throughout the world were carefully considered. Fr. Joe McGee the new Irish Provincial and some others represented the Irish Province.



# South India

## St Anthony’s Church and School - Keelakarai, South India

Fr Remigius reached out to us to help rebuild his parish Church which had been damaged by high winds in Keelakarai, in South India. With your our benefactors we have been able to help Fr Remigius and the people of the parish of St Anthony’s. The renovations on the church are now complete and the people of the parish look forward to a special dedicating ceremony in St Anthony’s church, which will take place on the 9th of December.

*“We are thankful to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and their Mission Friends for their generosity towards our small village and we will remember the donors in our daily prayers with profound gratitude for their kindness”.*

Thanks to you, our MSC family, we have built a new school for the children of the parish which will help with the education and welfare of the poor students in our parish.

Merry Christmas & a Grace filled year.

Fr Remigius



# MSC Novitiate House Cameroon

## Post-Novitiate of Nkolbisson, Jules Chevalier House, Cameroon.

Last year we wrote requesting help with purchasing lap tops for some of our novice students and thanks to your help for this project we have been able to supply them for our students.

The members of the Community in Cameroon come from several countries: Burkina, Congo-Kinshasa, Congo - Brazzaville, Cameroon, and Senegal.

As part of their studies the students attend the Catholic University of Central Africa in Yaoundé / Cameroon where they attend the Faculty of Theology which helps them to train, prepare and get the skills that will help them assume their duties in Mission life in Africa or around the world.

Being students the university subjects them to a demanding pace of work and the lap tops enable them to do the practical work which requires the use of a computer.

All the students apply themselves willingly and their academic results are positive. Please remember them in your prayers, as they remember you, without whose help it would be impossible for them to continue their studies.

*“Thank you on behalf of our community and we assure you of a place in our Masses and prayers.”*

*In the Union of prayer -*

*Fr Bonaventure, MBYO, MSC, Superior Cameroon*



# Pope Francis Addresses the MSC General Chapter

As part of the General Chapter in Rome this August where MSC representatives from all over the world met to plan ahead for the next six years, a highlight of the week was meeting the Pope who sent us this Message:

## “Yours is a Journey of Faith”- Pope Francis

The Holy Father acknowledged the numerous challenges faced by the Missionaries, such as serving the poor and migrants, and addressing injustices worldwide. He encouraged them to embrace the compassion of the Heart of Christ and allow His tenderness to shape their plans and projects. “Please do not be afraid of tenderness! God’s style can be said in three words: closeness, compassion, and tenderness. God is like that: close, compassionate, tender. Be like this with others”.

“But this closeness, this compassion, this tenderness you will receive in dialogue with Jesus. Prayer is so important to bring this about. Without prayer, things do not work, do not go”.

The indispensable role of prayer.

In closing, Pope Francis highlighted the indispensable role of prayer in cultivating the qualities of closeness, compassion, and tenderness. He emphasized that prayer is essential for keeping their mission and spiritual vitality. “Thank you, dear brothers, for what you are and what you do! Continue your work with enthusiasm. Flee from sadness, which is the cankerworm that ruins personal and consecrated life! That sadness that brings you down, not the good sadness of repentance, that is another thing, but that daily sadness is a woodworm that ruins. I bless you from my heart. And I ask that you pray for me”.



MSC Community from around the World meets Pope Francis



Pope Francis meets Fr Joe McGee MSC

Please cut here

## Burses to help train our student missionaries

Enclosed is my donation of  towards  Burse

MR / MRS / MISS (Please use block capitals)

Name:

Address:

Tel:  Email:

*Please subscribe to the Burse of your choice for the training of missionaries.*

**SEND TO:**  
Fr John Fitzgerald MSC,  
MSC Missions Office,  
PO Box 23, Western Road,  
Cork, T12 WT72, Ireland.

A Burse is a sum of money which is set up in honour of God, His Blessed Mother, or one of His servants. We have several Burses from which people can choose – a full list is available on request. The most popular Burses in recent years have been the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and St Padre Pio.

The money donated is invested, and the interest goes towards the education of our students to the priesthood.

Any donation, large or small, is very much appreciated and is of great help in ensuring that our students are well prepared for the work that lies ahead on the mission fields. You are part of the great work they will do, in future years, in many lands. May God reward you for your kindness.

