

# THE MSC Message



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



Thank you!  
On the path to positive  
change in South Africa

*Read more on Page 5*

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## Summer 2025

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

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



## From the Director



Dear Friends,

As I write this, I'm looking out my window and we appear to be in the height of summer, with blue skies and sunshine as far as the eye can see. It is a time of beauty and abundance in nature, a time of renewal and regeneration. It has also been a time of great change for our Church with the death of the late Pope Francis. We have said our farewells, and we must remember that very often, something has to die before we find a rich harvest at the other end of time. Now, we welcome Pope Leo XIV - like the tides going out and coming in, there's always something new and different, and we pray together hoping for great things for our new Pope, and for our Church, and for the Word of God to bring peace to the world.

In the meantime, our missions are as busy as ever, here at home in the Irish Province and across the world. Here, you will read about just some of the work that's ongoing across our mission stations - updates from our friends at the Holy Family Care Centre, with so many young children in need of love and care, news from hard-working students in Fiji and South Sudan, an update from our Centre for the Poor in the Philippines, where care for creation is at the heart of all they do, and news from the Pacific Islands during a time of great progress for our MSC community there.

Out walking recently, I heard a cuckoo, and you might know that the cuckoo comes from Africa. It got me thinking, would that cuckoo have any connection with our missionaries in the Congo, or around South Africa? That little bird might well have seen those places. We are all so very much connected in tiny ways we don't even realise, the very essence of humanity and nature weaving its webs around us in an entirely inspiring way. Everything we do causes ripples, and your friendship in supporting our missions is touching lives around the world in ways you can't even begin to imagine - just like that little cuckoo, all the way from Africa, brightened my morning here in Cork.

I leave you with a thought from the prophet Jeremiah, who wrote that he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes for its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought. Let that be the case for all of us - may we be sustained by the love of the Holy Spirit, and may the Sacred Heart bless you and your family this summer, and all year long.

*Fr. John Fitzgerald MSC*

Director of the MSC Missions Office



Join us on a remarkable adventure...  
Walk the Camino Francés & see Fatima



Journey with us as we walk the Camino Francés, ending our trip with a visit to Fatima, all while raising vital funds to support our global missions.



For more information on the trip and fundraising, please call Mary at 021 454 6691 or email [mary.morrish@mscmissions.ie](mailto:mary.morrish@mscmissions.ie)  
[www.mscmissions.ie/msc-camino-fatima-pilgrimage-2025](http://www.mscmissions.ie/msc-camino-fatima-pilgrimage-2025)  
Dates: September 22nd - October 1st 2025

## Do you have a Will to give?

After you have taken care of your loved ones in your Will, it would be a great blessing to us if you would consider leaving a bequest to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. During our time on earth, we all have the power to touch lives and to make a difference. You can continue to be a force for good in the world, even beyond your own lifetime. Your lasting legacy can be one of hope, as your gift will support our MSCs in their life-changing work in regions of real and desperate need around the world.

*Please help us to pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.*

For further information, contact: MSC Missions Office  
PO Box 23, Western Road, Cork, T12 WT72.  
+353 (0) 21 4545704 or email [info@mscmissions.ie](mailto:info@mscmissions.ie)  
Visit our website: [www.mscmissions.ie](http://www.mscmissions.ie) (RCN) 2006402

**Join us on Facebook & Instagram  
for daily news and updates!**



Find us at @MSCMissions

## Hard work & dedication in Wainadoi, Fiji

It's business as usual at the Chevalier Training Centre in Wainadoi, Fiji. Established by the MSC in 1992, the CTC team work to give underprivileged young men an opportunity to learn useful practical skills, such as carpentry and basic maintenance, with the aim of building sustainable livelihoods and stronger communities.

At the 2024 end-of-year Mass, Fr Mendhy Iva highlighted the importance of working together as a community. In a post on the Facebook page for the Chevalier Training Centre, the team there said, "We acknowledge that we wouldn't have come this far without the gift of one another and the strength of living a shared life."

New students were welcomed in a "wonderful and meaningful start to the new academic year" in early 2025. Director of the CTC, Fr Lotu, was joined by Deacon Richard for a special celebratory Mass, followed by games, a barbecue, and plenty of fun! It was a "great way to spiritually align and set a positive tone for the year," posted the Facebook page for the CTC, allowing the community to "reconnect and strengthen the bonds within the Chevalier Family."

A generous donation of new tools to the Cabinet Making Trade programme was a huge boost to the CTC team in February, with a Facebook post marking their joy and gratitude. "We are forever grateful for the generosity towards the lives of the students under our care who are willing to gain a life skill and better their lives for themselves and their communities," they said.

**Wishing the CTC team continued success in their work, study & play throughout 2025!**

*Images of daily prayer & recreation (right)*

*via the Chevalier Training Centre Facebook page @ctc1992*



## MSCs celebrate Easter around the world

We look back at a wonderful celebration of Easter in just some of our MSC communities at home and around the world, with joyful spirits!



*Holy Week & Easter celebrations led by Fr José Eduardo Paixão & Fr Roney Lima in Pemba, Mozambique.*



*Fr John Fitzgerald celebrates the Easter Dawn Mass in Cork.*



*A community effort this Easter in Wailoku, Fiji, led by Fr Raimon.*

**Mozambique photos via the Facebook page for MSC Mozambique @peduardopaixaomsc**  
**Fiji photos via the Facebook page for the MSC Province of the Pacific Islands @mscprovinceofthepacificislands**



# Pope Francis 17/12/1936 – 21/4/2025

On Easter Monday, April 21st 2025, Pope Francis died at the age of 88, at his residence in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta. The outpouring of love and grief that followed, from all around the world, was testament to his gentle soul and wonderful way with people of all ages and from all cultures and creeds.

Pope Francis' legacy is a particularly special one for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, as he wrote an encyclical dedicated to the Sacred Heart in recent years. His fourth encyclical, it speaks of the importance of returning to the heart in a world that seems to have lost its heart, in the midst of violence, war, and social turbulence. Promoting the essence of returning to actions and words of love, Pope Francis called for us to devote ourselves to the Sacred Heart once more, in all its purity and grace.

Our MSCs also enjoyed meetings with Pope Francis in recent years, with a private audience taking place between the late Holy Father and the members of the General Chapter of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 2017, and again in 2023. Here, he reminded our MSCs that they are called to keep their "gaze fixed on Jesus Christ and learn from Him how to truly love with a human heart, to care for the lost and hurting members of his flock, to work for justice and show solidarity with the weak and poor."



**"With all our benefactors I pray with deep gratitude that Pope Francis touched our lives as if he knew each one of us personally. I thank God that he has made it possible for us to dream of a Church that welcomes all people, a Church where broken, sinful and wounded humanity find a home."**

*~ Fr Joseph McGee MSC, Irish Provincial Leader*

## Welcoming Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost, in Chicago, Illinois, is the first ever Pope to come from North America, as well as being the first Augustinian Pope, and he will turn 70 years old this year on September 14th. He was previously Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, as well as being elected head of the Augustinians for two consecutive terms, and spending a significant portion of his life ministering as a missionary in Peru, where he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo by Pope Francis from 2015 to 2023.

Over 40,000 people gathered in St Peter's Square to watch the new Pontiff greet the world upon his election on May 8th, on the evening of the second day of Conclave. In his first address to the faithful, he echoed the late Pope Francis in appealing for peace.

"Help us, and each other, to build bridges through dialogue, through encounter, to come together as one people, always in peace," he said. "We must seek together how to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges, which holds dialogues, which is always open."

The following day, in his first Mass as Pope, he reinforced this message, explaining that he has been chosen to be a "faithful administrator" of our Church, a Church that would act as a "beacon that illuminates the dark nights of this world".

***Carrying the powerful legacy of Pope Francis before him, Pope Leo XIV has begun a new chapter in our Holy Church as the 267th Bishop of Rome. Our prayers are with him as we look with hope and faith to a peaceful, fruitful, and positive future under his leadership and guidance as Holy Father.***



Image via the Facebook page for Ametur MSC @ameturmsc

## A jubilee of hope in Mozambique

Our MSC brothers in Mozambique began 2025 with a very special ceremony to mark the Jubilee Year of Hope, and have since seen two inspiring new chapters begin on the mission.

Great celebrations were marked in the parish of Santa Marta de Mecúfi in March, where Fr José Eduardo Paixão MSC was appointed as new parish priest, with Fr Roney Lima MSC taking the position of new parish vicar. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop António Juliase, Bishop of the Diocese of Pemba, in a moving and uplifting ceremony where parishioners extended a very warm welcome to Fr Eduardo and Fr Roney in their new roles.

Their Facebook page shared some wonderful photos from the day, telling us that, "During the homily, Father Juliase emphasized the importance of priestly mission and the commitment of new religious leaders to evangelization and strengthening the parish community". These new appointments mark the beginning of a new and hopeful chapter for the parish, strengthening the community and "renewing hope and enthusiasm for Christian life". Shortly afterwards, on March 19th, the Mozambique mission celebrated the Feast of St Joseph by welcoming a group of new students to the Fr Jules Chevalier Formation House, celebrating the beginning of their missionary chapter.

Congratulations to Fr Eduardo and Fr Roney on their new appointments in the parish of Santa Marta de Mecúfi, and to the new students in formation – we wish them all every blessing as they embark on their new chapters, individually and collectively on this shared missionary journey.

*All photos via the Facebook page for MSC Mozambique @peduardopaixaomsc*



*Opening the Jubilee Year of Hope*



*Taking on new parish duties*



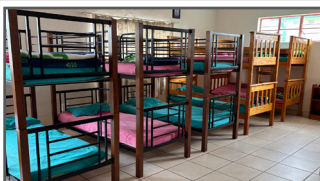
*New students join the mission*

## Progress at the Holy Family Care Centre

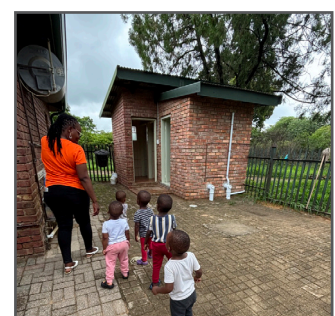
The Holy Family Care Centre is run by the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Ofcolaco, South Africa, providing dedicated residential care for over 80 sick and vulnerable children.

Back at the beginning of 2024, we asked our mission friends here at home to help the Holy Family community to raise funds to improve the dormitory facilities at the centre, to build a new toilet block for the toddlers and younger children in their care, and to install solar panels to help with frequent power cuts.

Thanks to the generosity of our mission friends here in the Irish Province, the dormitory renovation has been a success, and the boys now have a far more comfortable space for rest. The new toilet block has also been constructed, and is a great success with the younger members of the Holy Family community! Finally, the new solar panels are now in place, and the community at Holy Family are already reaping the benefits of having a dependable and sustainable source of power for the centre.



*New bunk beds for the boys' dormitory (left) and new solar panels (right) at the Holy Family Care Centre.*



*New toilet facilities (above) & an evening walk for the Holy Family children (below)*



**"Most sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2024 World Projects Appeal," writes Sr Jenny Christie FDNsc, International Development Officer for the OLSH. "What a difference your support has made!"**



## Back to school in South Sudan

Fr Alan Neville MSC writes from Rumbek, South Sudan, where his ministry includes working as principal at the Catholic University there.

### Late-Night Study

The students always do their best to make time to study, not easy in a country where less than 9% of the population has any access to electricity and the sun sets every night by 6:00pm. Up until recently, students would study at home with only the light of the mobile phone to read. We upped our Late-Night Study programme to three evenings a week, allowing students to work until 8:00pm in our library. Initially, only men attended, as in the culture it would be considered inappropriate for women to stay out late; however, over the last few weeks, more and more of our female students have been able to attend. Our University Librarian stayed with them and provided them with support when needed. It has been a real success, and we plan to continue the programme into next semester.



### Exams in a Heatwave

During exam time, we were dealing with an intense heatwave in South Sudan. For two weeks, all schools were closed by government order, with daily temperatures ranging from 39°C to 42°C. Despite these conditions, we had to conduct our end-of-semester exams. Even with a schedule pushed to late afternoon, the heat remained a significant factor. The students' resilience was truly commendable, as they did not voice a single complaint! However, all good things come to an end and so too do exams.

We are currently undergoing ongoing renovation of our lecture halls, and the work is progressing well. Already, the changes have made a huge difference. As a Catholic university, it is our goal that anyone who wants to study and has the academic ability should be able to undertake third-level studies.

*Nhialic ke yin (God bless you) ~ Fr Alan*

## Care for creation in the Philippines

The MSC Centre for the Poor in the Philippines are hard at work alongside the MSC Centre for the Poor Agriculture Cooperative as they continue in their mission to nurture an ethos of self-sufficiency and sustainability as we care for the world around us and reap the benefits for our society in turn.

Planning sessions are well underway to develop a programme of future activities for the centre. These include "new initiatives, innovative plans and events to support our community," partnerships with other organisations, and further development of programmes for students at the centre, to promote "personal and social growth," according to the Centre's Facebook page.

Various courses have been underway, including mental wellness, and food handling and hygiene, while March saw the arrival of international MSC seminarians who will stay with the MSC CEPAGCO community for a year, learning about organic and sustainable farming, and care for creation. One seminarian has travelled from Brazil, and three have journeyed from Papua New Guinea to take part in the programme. "Let us pray for them as they embark on a new and challenging ministry as MSCs," posts the Centre for the Poor team on their Facebook page.

**We wish our MSC brothers in the Philippines continued success and every blessing in their invaluable work!**

*Images via the Facebook page for the MSC Centre for the Poor @CenterFTPoorMSC*



*Just some of the team at the MSC Centre for the Poor*



# MSC Vocations in the Pacific Islands

In the Province of the Pacific Islands, our MSC community is thriving on our shared mission to be on earth the heart of God.

The new year began with the late Pope Francis appointing Fr Tamati Sefo MSC as the new Apostolic Prefect of the Marshall Islands, following in the footsteps of his MSC brother Fr Ariel, who had filled the position for the previous 20 years.

February was an especially busy month, with eight young men being received into the pre-novitiate programme for the Province. These young men hail from Kiribati, Fiji, and Futuna, and together, they are embarking on the first steps of their missionary journey.

February also saw the Perpetual Profession of two MSC brothers, Kirata Baare MSC & Suliano Qaliwaqa MSC, at the Holy Spirit Parish in Veivatuloa, Fiji. "This is a joyful moment for our congregation as we welcome our two brothers who have offered themselves totally at the service of God as Missionaries of the Sacred Heart," posted the Facebook page for the Province of the Pacific Islands.

Finally, it is with great joy that the Province celebrated the ordination of Fr Richard Momo MSC. "We are filled with joyful celebrations and thanksgiving to God as we witness the ordination of our brother Fr Richard Momo MSC to the priesthood. It is indeed a joyful moment for his family and the MSC Province of Papua New Guinea, our parishes, and all our MSC family but most of all, it is a joyful moment for the Church as a whole."

**Heartfelt congratulations to our MSC brothers involved in the ongoing ministry in the Pacific Islands, at each and every step of the missionary journey. Our prayers are with you all!**

*Images via the Facebook page for MSC Province of the Pacific Islands  
@mscprovinceofthepacificislands*

**If you feel that you might have a calling to religious life, please contact  
Fr Con O'Connell MSC.  
Email: vocations@mscmisions.ie**



*New MSC pre-novitiates in the Province of the Pacific Islands*



*Perpetual Profession of two MSC brothers in Veivatuloa*



*Congratulations to the newly ordained Fr Richard Momo MSC!*

Please cut here ✂

## Burses to help train our student missionaries

Enclosed is my donation of  towards  Burse

MR / MRS / MISS / MS (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. You are part of the great work they will do, in future years, in many lands. May God reward you for your kindness.

- ☐ Sacred Heart  
☐ Our Lady of the Sacred Heart  
☐ St Anthony  
☐ St Padre Pio  
☐ St Jude

Each year, our MSC World Projects Appeal responds to the needs of different communities across our mission stations around the world. We are very grateful to all who have contributed to our 2025 appeal so far, and our fundraising continues as we work together to generate change for the better.

- The provision of essential food and medical care in Venezuela, where our MSCs run soup kitchens in Maracaibo to help feed up to 200 hungry families at each serving.
- Support for Centro Faustino Villanueva, an MSC-run school located in an extremely isolated rural region of Guatemala, which has offered a lifeline to locals for the past 40 years.
- Helping 23 young MSC students in Cameroon, who need funds for equipment to facilitate their studies.
- Providing food baskets and essentials for 48 very vulnerable families in Quito, Ecuador.
- Partnering with the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in their global outreach projects, providing life-changing aid to everyone from young infants to vulnerable elderly people on mission projects across South America and Africa.

A collage of six photographs. Top left: A nurse in a white uniform and cap examines a baby lying on a wooden table. Top right: A group of seven people, including four men in purple vestments and three women, posing for a photo. Middle: A person wearing a blue hat and a purple robe is crouching in a field of tall grass. Bottom left: A group of people in white shirts and red sashes stand behind a table covered with various fruits and vegetables. Bottom right: Two men, one in a patterned shirt and the other in a red shirt, are holding coconuts in a grassy area.

Visit us at [www.mscomissions.ie](http://www.mscomissions.ie) to find the full list of projects featured in the appeal, and learn more about how you can help us to make 2025 a year of positive and productive change.

**I would like to support the MSC Projects. Here's my gift:**

€10      €20      €50      €100      €250

I would prefer to make my own gift of: €

☐ I enclose my cheque / bank draft / postal order payable to Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Please debit my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa Debit ☐ Laser

Security Code:

Expiry Date:

(Last three boxes for Laser only)

(Last three digits on  
back of your card)

Signature:

Date:   |   |  

*\*If you pay PAYE or self-assessment tax, a donation of €250 or more in one year could be worth an extra €112.32 to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.*

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Is this gift in memory of someone?

Name:

**SEND TO:**

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PO Box 23, Western Road, Cork  
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Charity No. (RCN) 20006402