

THE MSC Message



Missionaries
of the
Sacred Heart
MSC MISSIONS



**An MSC Jubilee
celebration for the
Irish Province!**

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Winter 2026

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

www.mscmissions.ie

From the Director



Dear Friends,

We enter into the Winter months once again, and prepare to bid farewell to another year. Another year of challenges and triumphs, of heartbreaks and celebrations, and all of the tiny daily blessings we receive in between.

In this edition of our MSC Message, you'll see some of the highlights of our year, including Jubilee celebrations, a very special pilgrimage, and our annual Novenas, which are always a wonderful reminder of what a blessing it is to be part of this great sense of community, and of something bigger, a movement towards hope and faith in today's troubled world.

You will also read of some of the more difficult seasons we have faced, and continue to face, not least in Venezuela, where a double earthquake brought the city of Caracas to its knees earlier this year, and our MSCs are still working to help the people there to rebuild and recover in whatever ways they can.

Almost all of these stories of difficulty and distress are also stories of hope. For wherever there is sorrow or grief, there is also hope. There are always people helping, there are always people giving, there are always people bringing light in the darkness - and you, our mission friends, are certainly counted among their number as you are an invaluable source of hope and encouragement to our MSCs and the people they work to help all over the world.

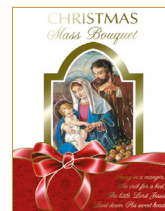
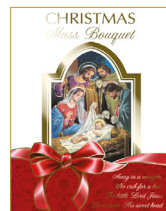
With hope as our watchword as we come to the end of another year, I leave you with a prayer for hope, comfort, and peace of mind. I would also like to remind you of our Light Up a Memory Mass, which will take place this year on Saturday, November 7th, when we will be joined by the beautiful Island of Ireland Peace Choir. If you can, please do join us at the Sacred Heart Church on the Western Road, or watch along on our live stream at www.mscmissions.ie.

With every blessing of the Sacred Heart,

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

MSC Missions Office,

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Telephone: +353 21 454 5704

Fax: +353 21 434 3587

Email: info@mscmisions.ie

Web: www.mscmissions.ie

Suggested Donation €25 or £20 per pack of 5



Sacred Heart Church, Western Road, Cork
will host their Annual Light Up a Memory Mass

7th November 2026 at 6.30pm

SPECIAL GUESTS:



The Island of Ireland Peace Choir

**Join us on our new Facebook page
for daily news and updates!**



Find us at

@MSCMissionsIreland

A Jubilee Celebration for the Irish Province!

Warmest congratulations to our 2026 Jubilarians! This summer has marked very special celebrations for four of our MSCs here in the Irish Province, as they commemorate various Jubilee years.



Fr Kevin Shanahan MSC (40 years), Fr Tom Mulcahy (60 years), Fr Mick Curran (60 years), and Fr Pat Glanaghy (50 years).

Fr Kevin Shanahan, from Bishopstown, Co. Cork, marked 40 years as an MSC, Fr Pat Glanaghy, from Letterkenny, celebrated 50 years since his ordination, and Fr Tom Mulcahy (Limerick) and Fr Mick Curran (Waterville, Co. Kerry), each celebrated 60 years.

Each of our Jubilarians was celebrated for the different skills and talents they bring to their ministry, as each has travelled a different path towards a common goal – sharing God's love wherever and whenever it is needed most.

In a wonderful celebration of fellowship and community, the Jubilee ceremony paid tribute to the years gone by, while looking ahead to a positive future filled with hope and love.

Congratulations to our Jubilarians, with our gratitude for their years of dedication, brotherhood, and care in their ministry, and with every good wish for enduring health and happiness as their individual and shared journeys continue.

2026 Novenas at the Sacred Heart Church, Cork

Our 2026 Novena to the Sacred Heart took place from June 4th - 12th, followed by the Novena to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart from August 31st - September 8th. It is with truly grateful hearts that we thank everybody who helped to make these occasions so special for all involved.

Our annual SH & OLSH Novenas have come to an end for 2026, and it is with grateful hearts that we thank everybody who helped to make them such special occasions for all involved. It was wonderful to see friends and parishioners join us at the Sacred Heart Church on the Western Road, while an astounding 23,500 people joined us in prayer on our live stream over the course of both Novenas, from close to home and across the world, reminding us in such a lovely way that we are all very much interconnected and part of something bigger, part of a great community of faith, wherever in the world we may be located.

It was a joy and a privilege to have this year's Novena to the Sacred Heart celebrated by Fr John H. Walsh OP, while we were equally blessed to have our OLSH Novena led by Fr Patrick Younge OFM.

Each of our speakers provided us with pause for thought in their daily reflections, helping us to look ever deeper in our spiritual growth and healing. "People might say that Novenas don't last," reflected Fr John Fitzgerald MSC, "but there's always somebody who wants to come to pray." Our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to making both Novenas such a sacred and special time, as we take with us a beautiful sense of peace, hope, and renewed faith and love.

To all who joined us in prayer, be it in person or online, your presence has been a blessing and a gift. God bless you all.



Fr John H. Walsh OP prays during our 2026 Novena to the Sacred Heart (above), while Fr Patrick Younge OFM (centre) is joined by MSCs from John & Fr Alix at our 2026 Novena to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (below).



Earthquake relief in Venezuela

Two devastating earthquakes occurred in Caracas, Venezuela, on the evening of Wednesday, June 24th, at magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5. Hundreds of people lost their lives, many others were seriously injured, and homes, buildings, and livelihoods were destroyed.

Br Deiby Fuenmayor MSC and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Caracas have been working closely with Caritas Venezuela, providing funding to help with the relief aid that is still so essential months after the disaster. Over a dozen temporary shelters were immediately set up in the parish of Santa Cruz and its surroundings, helping approximately 2,000 people with safe shelter and basic necessities, and both practical and spiritual aid are very much ongoing as communities work to recover and rebuild.

"In a matter of seconds, thousands of lives were cut short, hundreds of buildings and infrastructure collapsed, and the map of entire communities was altered forever. Today, weeks after the disaster, physical and emotional wounds continue to bleed; grief and anguish remain deeply rooted in the heart of a people trying to rise from the rubble,"
Br Deiby writes.

"Over the weeks, contributions and supplies have dropped drastically: aid has decreased by more than 80% [as of August]," Br Deiby explains. "However, this has not slowed down our commitment. Work continues tirelessly, maintaining constant support for those affected, touching hearts incessantly, and seeking innovative strategies to channel resources. Physical, moral, and spiritual reconstruction will continue for many months, making it vital to sustain our supportive presence alongside vulnerable families."



Br Deiby Fuenmayor MSC



Thank you from Monsignor José Luis Azuaje Ayala

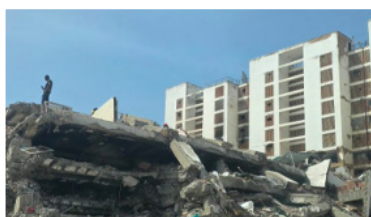
In a message to Irish Provincial Superior Fr Joe McGee MSC, Monsignor José Luis Azuaje Ayala, Archbishop of Maracaibo and Head of Caritas Venezuela, sends his gratitude to the Irish Province of the MSC for the generous support of our benefactors here.

"I wish to express my gratitude on behalf of the people of Maracaibo, who are trying to reach out to the victims of our recent earthquakes. We are very grateful to the Irish Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and to the good people in Ireland, your benefactors, who have provided badly needed funds to help with our relief effort."

A message from Fr Joe McGee MSC

"I have been to Propatria several times," says Irish Provincial Leader Fr Joe McGee MSC, "and I know that the people there have very, very little. Now, we are seeing these people, who have so little, helping people who have less than nothing."

"Here, the people of Propatria are doing all that they can to help others who have less than nothing. Our men on the ground are doing their best to help these people help their own people, and we are so very grateful for your invaluable support, prayers, and contributions. Thank you."



Deepest thanks to all who continue to pray for and support our MSC brothers and the communities they serve in Caracas, at this time of great need.

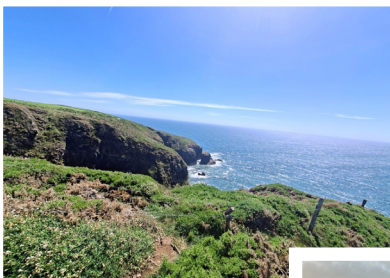
St Declan's Way: A Pilgrim's Diary

At the end of May, our MSC pilgrim group took on a six-day journey along the historic St Declan's Way, raising funds for the vital work being done on the care programme for infant twins in the rural village of Maker Kuei, South Sudan. Under the expert guidance of Phil and Elaine at Celtic Ways Ireland, our pilgrims undertook a truly unforgettable journey along the ancient pathways of Ireland's eastern coast, travelling from the Rock of Cashel to Ardmore.

Our group was based in the beautiful Glencomeragh House, which was built in the early 1800s and is an oasis of prayer, peace, and tranquillity, with a waterfall and ponds on the grounds for visitors to enjoy.

Throughout the journey, our pilgrims enjoyed wonderful guided tours by authors, travel writers, and local experts – and they met some furry, four-legged friends along the way! With breathtaking scenery and the best of fresh, local food, the experience was a very special one, with a hot air balloon sighting on one of the evenings adding to the magic.

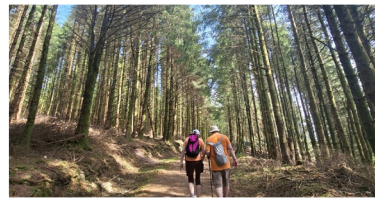
Fr Tony Horgan MSC led the group in daily Masses, prayers, and reflections, often in the most stunning natural landscapes.



One of the final evenings was particularly memorable, as MSCs Fr John Fitzgerald and Fr John Finn made the journey up from the Sacred Heart parish in Cork to wish our pilgrims well. That night, the group were treated to an extraordinarily beautiful performance from the Island of Ireland Peace Choir, in a vigil for peace.



"The piece de resistance took place that evening," said Mary, one of our pilgrims. "We had the most beautiful vigil for peace, led by the Island of Ireland Peace Choir. Phil and Elaine actually started this choir, and arranged the performance for us, and it was just the most joyous experience. The weather was like nothing on earth, we were surrounded by the most beautiful scenery, it was like being in a cloud of joy."



"It was an amazing week," says Mary. "Our group was wonderful, we really did have great craic! There was a singsong every night – Fr Tony's special was Stairway to Heaven! We were all so grateful for our own reflections, and especially for the people of South Sudan, who we did the walk for."

With sincere thanks to all who made our first pilgrimage along St Declan's Way such a special one, from our pilgrims themselves, to Phil, Elaine, and all the local guides, to our MSCs who contributed along the way – and of course, everybody who supported us, helped us, or contributed to a truly wonderful cause.

“Hope and healing” in the Philippines

The MSC Centre for the Poor and the extended community in the Philippines worked throughout the summer to bring aid to survivors of an earthquake and flash flood that devastated the region of Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental, in July.

“Help is on the way!” posted their Facebook page. “The MSC Center for the Poor team is on its way to Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental to bring hope and support to families affected by the recent earthquake and flash flood.”

The team were armed with a plan to support 250 families affected by the disaster, through the distribution of relief packages and Psychological First Aid. “Together, may we become instruments of compassion and hope for our brothers and sisters,” wrote the Facebook page for the MSC Centre for the Poor in mid-July.



Two days later, the Facebook page posted news of the team’s successful arrival at the relief site. “Despite the challenging and hazardous road conditions, the MSC Center for the Poor Relief Team has safely reached one of the communities severely affected by the earthquake and landslides in Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental.”

Finally, on July 18th, the relief team posted news of a successful mission accomplished. “The MSC Center for the Poor successfully carried out its Relief Operation and Psychological First Aid for families affected by the earthquake and flash floods in Brgy. Magulibas, Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental last July 16, 2026. A total of 100 families received assistance through the provision of rice, food packs, cash support, and psychological first aid, bringing hope and comfort during this difficult time.”

Instruments of God’s love & compassion

The project aimed to reach 250 families, but extremely hazardous conditions made further travel impossible at this time. The mission still ensured that the emergency supplies reached those in need, although the full team were unable to get to the site. “Although our team was unable to reach the devastated community of Brgy. Nuing due to landslides that made the roads impassable, we were still able to extend our support by sending 150 sacks of rice, 10 boxes of drinking water, and food items through the parish to ensure that help reached those in need.”



“Despite the long, difficult, and dangerous journey, our mission was successfully accomplished through God’s grace and the generosity of many compassionate people.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the MSC Mission Office for facilitating the donation drive, to all our donors, benefactors, volunteers, and everyone who supported this mission. Your generosity has become a source of hope and healing for our brothers and sisters affected by this disaster.

Together, we continue to be instruments of God’s love and compassion. May God bless you all!”

Images via the Facebook page @CenterFTPoorMSC

“Thank you for believing in this dream.”

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, three MSC candidates, Marllon, João Pedro, and Tiago, are currently studying under Fr Pablo Moura MSC's guidance as formator.

With anticipated growth in the community, alongside struggles with space and structural issues, Fr Pablo and the team have needed to raise funds to support the construction of a formation house for its students. Thanks to the generosity of our mission friends here in the Irish Province, we have been able to contribute to the construction of a new formation house for up to 14 candidates, and support these hopeful MSC scholars at the beginning of their missionary journey.



“This is God's project.”

“It is with a joyful heart that I extend this gratitude to you for helping us with a donation to support the ongoing work of the Postulancy Formation House of the Rio de Janeiro Province. The construction of this house has long been a dream of ours, as it represents a crucial stage in our formation.

On behalf of my formation community and on behalf of the future generations who will pass through this house of formation, I want to thank you; your contribution will be etched on the walls of our house and, above all, in the formation of each new Missionary of the Sacred Heart. Your contribution will help build men whose hearts are filled with the desire to follow Jesus and answer His call!

Thank you very much for believing in this dream and in our vocations. This is God's project; may He richly bless the generosity of your hearts.”



Tiago Barbosa - MSC Postulant

If you feel that you might have a calling to religious life, please contact Fr Con O'Connell MSC by email at vocations@mscmissions.ie

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Fr John Fitzgerald MSC,
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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

This year, we're celebrating the 60th anniversary of the MSC Missions Office on the Western Road, Cork, and as part of our anniversary commemorations, we're looking back on old issues of our newsletter, the MSC Message, on a walk together down Memory Lane.

Nomafa's Story

This place is so cool and the Nurses sisters, Matron and all the staff are good, they all take good care of us. They are far better than the Nurses at the Hospitals; here they take good care of us.

They are really like the first Nurse I read about when I was schooling. Florence Nightingale; they are really volunteers of God, they serve God. To serve God is not only at church; even in places like this and people like them with their hearts.

At home our families are impatient with us especially because we mess ourselves up. We are here because people have dumped us. But when they come to visit us, they are glad that we are out of their hands, they really thank the staff of Tshwaranang, father Herman, the Matron, Sister, Caregivers, cleaners, and all who cook for us.

Thank you."

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