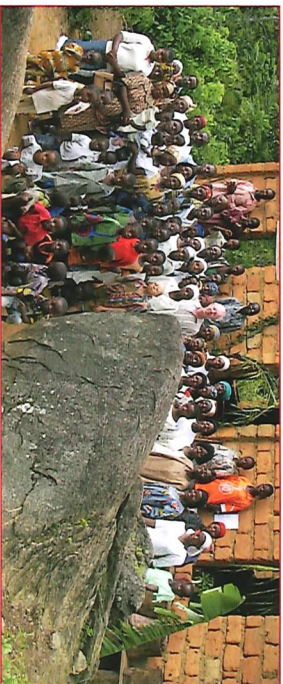


Missio is the Pope's charity
 through which he asks us to share with our
 Catholic brothers and sisters in countries
 where the Church is small or poor



Ways that you can help your Catholic brothers and sisters

The Propagation of the Faith
 Continuing Jesus' Mission
 to bring the Good News to the poor



The Propagation of the Faith helps each and every one of the Catholic Church's 1100 mission dioceses to: provide pastoral care and preach the Gospel effectively; build churches; train Catechists; enable local parishes to support their communities; and give hope to young people through training and formation.

Society of St Peter the Apostle
 Supporting Seminarians and Novices



With your help, mission dioceses throughout the world are able to fund the training of priests, sisters and pastoral workers that they so desperately need. You can sponsor the training of a future priest in St Paul's Seminary in Uganda by donating to the Society of St Peter the Apostle. In Uganda, it costs £336 a year to educate a young man studying to be a priest.

Wills and Legacies
 Leave a future to others



All of us hope to leave the world a better place than when we came into it. When making your will, please consider leaving something to Missio Scotland so that you will continue to assist our brothers and sisters in poorer countries and leave behind a legacy of Faith.

Missio Scotland, 4 Laird Street, Coatbridge, ML5 3LJ
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We are mission

Newsletter of Missio Scotland—The Pontifical Mission Societies, Apr 2024



**Children will carry on Fr
 Martin's missionary legacy**



Fr Vincent Lockhart
National Director of Missio Scotland

EACH year for Mission Sunday in October, Missio Scotland highlights one particular country to which we hope to provide funding and assistance. Last year it was Sri Lanka. This year our focus will be on an area in the English-speaking part of Cameroon in West Africa.

Many Catholic missionaries from Scotland worked there who were members of congregations such as the Mill Hill Fathers, the Marist Brothers and the Holy Rosary Sisters. I myself spent many years in a remote parish there.

Sadly, though, a civil war has been going on in that part of Cameroon for the past six years. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of people have been killed. More than a million people have had to flee their homes. So much of what our Scottish missionaries built up—the schools and colleges, the faith communities—have either been destroyed, abandoned or scattered.

“How can God allow this to happen?” can sometimes be our reaction to the wars and tragedies we see in our world, to the unexpected events such as the sudden death of someone we love. There is no easy answer to this question, but it is not God who causes the wars or the disasters or the illness or sudden death of someone we love. We do not have all the answers, but some things are certain: God’s love is present in all of these things and in the midst of it all He can still give life and death a meaning.

The love and sacrifices of the Scottish missionaries in Cameroon have not come to an end because of the civil war. Their legacy lives on in the people they nurtured and cared for. It lives on in their children and grandchildren who use their faith to sustain them and keep them together in the difficult circumstances they now face. The power of love and the Gospel goes on forever.

The same can be said of Fr Martin Chambers, Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Dunkeld. His sudden death shocked us all. The outpouring of sorrow at his passing is a testimony to his many qualities as a man and a priest. He was full of so much potential and a promise. We all know he would have been a great bishop to the people of Dunkeld. His death has highlighted the greatness of his life, the capacity to create relationships, his love for the Church in Ecuador, his love of serving God’s people.

Fr Martin was a great friend to Missio Scotland and the missionary Church and in this newsletter we wish to express our admiration for him, our gratitude and our sincere condolences to the people of Galloway and Dunkeld. May he rest in eternal peace.

Fr Martin, mission and Mount Carmel’s stars

WHILE participating in the European Conference of Missionary Children (CEME)—with my Missio Scotland colleague Andrea—I heard the terribly sad news about the passing of the Bishop-elect of Dunkeld Diocese, Fr Martin Chambers.

I was lucky enough to be able to call Fr Martin a friend, having known him since I was a pupil at St John’s Primary School in Stevenston where he was our school chaplain.

And it was there that I first became aware of his numerous qualities. He was warm, loving, kind, engaging, intelligent, enthusiastic, funny, and patient—he did coach our school football team after all!

To say he was a people person is an understatement. Perhaps a better way of putting it is that he was someone through whom God’s love truly shone and anyone who met him will have been lucky enough to have basked in its glow.

Whether in his parishes in Scotland, as chaplain to schools, with HCPT in Lourdes or as a missionary priest in Guayaquil, in Ecuador, he was someone who truly showed God’s love in his words and his actions. During our



Schools poster namely:

- Pray the Mission Rosary during May or Mission Month (October)
- Fundraise for Missio Scotland
- Commission Missio Scotland Champions
- Take part in the Missio Scotland Christmas Artwork Contest
- Perform a Missionary Saints play

Once the tasks have been completed, schools become a Five Star Missio Scotland School and receive their own Missy Moo mascot.



It is perhaps fitting then that Mount Carmel Primary School in Kilmarnock—where Fr Martin was chaplain for many years—has received this accolade and their own Missy Moo, which, as a specific tribute has been renamed ‘Martin Moo.’ Here’s the story of how they completed all five tasks in their own words.

We wanted to share with you our journey as Missio Scotland Champions. We were so proud to receive our Missio Scotland Champions badges.

In November we encouraged the whole school to think about their mission. This was discussed at our assembly and we shared and prayed the Mission Rosary. We also prayed the Mission Rosary throughout the month as a class.

We organised a day of colour to remind us of the colours of the Mission Rosary and we raised money for Missio Scotland. We spoke at the assembly and the whole school took part in a day of colourful activities.

Over several weeks, we visited our local care home, Crossgates. This was a great opportunity for us to share the joy of being a friend of Jesus with our new friends. During

Advent, we created a wreath with our new friends and shared with them what Advent means to us.

Before Christmas, we helped with the Reverse Advent Calendar Food Bank collection throughout the school. We also designed Christmas cards and wrote letters to parishioners at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

We recorded a special message for the whole school, reminding them of the real meaning of Christmas. We even learnt a Christmas carol in Makaton. We encouraged everyone to enter the Missio Scotland Christmas Artwork Contest and we were delighted to have a winner from our class.

During Lent, we gave all the classes in the school a copy of Missio Scotland’s Lenten Calendar and encouraged everyone to think about how they could give, pray and fast over Lent. After the Episcopal Ordination of our new bishop, Bishop Frank Dougan, we gave out prayer cards to remind all classes to remember him in their prayers.

In March, we shared our learning with our parents and carers. We decided that we wanted to share our Missio Scotland journey and how it linked to our Sacramental preparation.

We performed a Missionary Saints

play telling the story of the life of St Teresa of Calcutta and everyone in the audience loved our performance. We had so much fun using our amazing drama skills to tell the story of this inspirational modern-day saint. There are definitely lots of budding actors and actresses in Primary 4.

We also shared lots of activities with our families, including our Missio Scotland Top Trumps game. We created prayer pebbles and challenged our parents and carers to try our quizzes about the life of St Teresa and Missio Scotland.

To link with our preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, we wrote our very own ‘Big Book of Saints.’ It was a brilliant afternoon and all the grown-ups really enjoyed sharing our learning.

Thank you to the pupils and staff of Mount Carmel Primary School and all missionary children throughout Catholic schools in Scotland. While Fr Martin is now in Heaven, he’ll be proud to know that you are carrying on his missionary legacy. God bless you all.

GERARD GOUGH (AND THE PUPILS OF MOUNT CARMEL PS KILMARNOCK)

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The Pontifical Mission Societies