

COMBONI MISSION

Summer 2025

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COMBONI MISSION

Summer 2025

COMBONI MISSIONARIES
IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

ENGLAND MISSION OFFICE

Comboni Missionaries
Brownberrie Lane
Horsforth
LEEDS LS18 5HE
Tel: 0113 258 2658
e-mail:

combonimissionoffice@yahoo.co.uk

SCOTLAND MISSION OFFICE

Comboni Missionaries
138 Carmyle Avenue
GLASGOW G32 8DL
Tel: 0141 641 4399

e-mail: mccjglasgow@gmail.com

IRELAND MISSION OFFICE

Comboni Missionaries
8 Clontarf Road,
DUBLIN 3
Tel: 01 833 0051

e-mail:

combonimissiondublin@gmail.com

CMS MISSION OFFICE

Comboni Missionary Sisters
2 Parkhill Avenue,
Port Glasgow, PA14 6BI
Tel: 01475 705585

EDITOR'S OFFICE

Verona Fathers
London Road
SUNNINGDALE SL5 0JY
Berks.

Tel: 01344 621 238

e-mail: jdcomboni@gmail.com

OTHER COMMUNITIES

16 Dawson Place
LONDON W2 4TW
Tel: 0207 229 7059

COMBONI MISSIONARY SISTERS

2 Chiswick Lane
LONDON W4 2JE
Tel: 0208 994 0449



From the Editor

Always moving forward with Hope!



Summertime is almost on us and many people are looking forward with expectation and relief to be able at last to feel the sun on their backs! It is the time when workers can escape from their stuffy offices or noisy workplaces and find a little quiet and rest. I hope you are amongst them!

Yet, as we all know, for millions that will not be the case. Fleeing from persecution or trapped in war zones is the sad scenario for so many. Yet what comes to our minds is the celebration of our Jubilee Year and our call to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Our Holy Father amid his failing health problems united his own troubles with the many who are sick and elderly. The Pope said, "On this day of the Jubilee of the Sick and Healthcare Workers, I ask the Lord that this caress of his love might reach those who suffer and encourage those who care for them".

It is in this mood of Hope that we present Good News in our Summer edition of

'Comboni Mission'. The election of our new Superior General offers once again a fresh outlook on our mission work. Together with his team he will oversee and guide our path to be always present and bring seeds of Hope to all we meet. On pages 4-5 we can come to know his background and deep concerns. The feast of the Sacred Heart, Friday 27 June invites us to prepare through the Novena of the Sacred Heart – the offering of Masses (Back Page), and an opportunity to show our devotion and to pray for each other, our family, the sick and elderly, our spiritual and material needs, the practice of the faith, and especially the needy and those suffering in conflicts throughout the world. You can also find poems and reflections for this Feast Day. Enjoy your read.

May you enjoy a Blessed feast of the Sacred Heart and a truly joyful and wonderful summer season!



Fr. John

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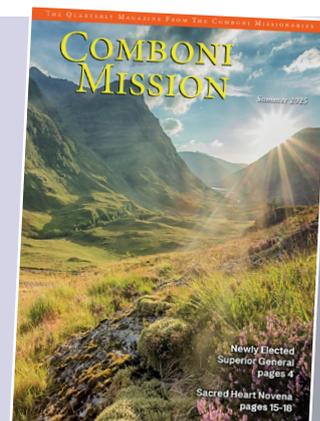
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Father Luigi Fernando Codianni elected Superior General of the Comboni Missionaries



We warmly welcome the appointment of Fr Luigi Codianni as the new Superior General of our congregation, the Comboni Missionaries/ Verona Fathers. May his service be fruitful and blessed!

We also extend our sincere thanks and prayers to Fr Tesfaye, our outgoing Fr General, for his many years of dedicated and generous service. Our prayers and good wishes for his new mission.

The following is the announcement from our Mother House in Rome:

Friday, 21st February 2025

Today, Father Luigi Fernando Codianni, 60, former General Councillor in Rome, was elected Superior General of the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus (MCCJ). Father Luigi, an Italian national, has considerable religious and missionary experience in the areas of administration and government service, particularly in the Comboni circumscriptions of Brazil and Italy.

On 6th November 2024, Father Tesfaye Tadesse Gebresilasie resigned as Superior General of the Comboni Institute, following his appointment as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). In exercising his function as Vicar General, Father David Costa Domingues, on behalf of the General Council, called the ballot for the extra-capitular election of the new superior general.

Father Luigi Fernando Codianni was born on 13th June 1964 in Celenza Valfortore (Foggia), Italy. He entered the Institute with his first religious profession in 1988 in Venegono Superiore (Italy). From 1988 to 1993, he studied Theology in São Paulo (Brazil). On 15th May 1993, he was ordained a priest in Celenza Valfortore, diocese of Lucera-Troia.

Father Codianni carried out his first pastoral work in Italy, from 1993 to 2001. After this missionary experience in his homeland, he was assigned to the Province of Northeast Brazil. From 2004 to 2010, he was Provincial Superior of Brazil Northeast. In 2011, he returned to Italy, where, among other commitments, he was Provincial Bursar of the province of Italy.

At the General Chapter of 2022, he was appointed General Councillor, and then took charge of the European constituencies, the economic sector, and legal aspects and representation.



Fr Codianni (2nd left) with Fr Tesfaye (3rd left).

Letter from the Superior General to confreres living in situations of fragility in the Institute

One of Fr General's first concerns, after taking up office, was to extend his prayers, support and appreciation to our retired and elderly colleagues in the care home of the Combonis in Castel D'Azzano, Verona. To them we all owe our immense gratitude and prayers. May they pray for us!



Dear elderly and sick confrères a greeting of peace from Rome. A couple of days ago we began the Consulta. And, like every other time, we began our work by remembering in prayer all our confrères, but you, in particular, commending you to God, together with all the confrères who live in situations of fragility in our Institute.

I confess that I would have loved to have written write to you sooner, even immediately after the election. Unfortunately, I had many commitments that made it impossible for me to send you these words immediately.

Every time I think of you, I consider the incredible witness of faith and service that you have given us over the past years. And even now, at this stage of your lives, you continue to be an inspiration to us all.

I know that your missionary spirit knows no limits or boundaries. Your abiding love for the people to whom you have given your life, for the confrères with whom you have carried out your missionary service, and for all the members in the Institute today, con-

tinues to enlighten our entire Comboni family. Your presence in the house where you currently live is a precious gift to your entire province, region or circumscription. You are a beacon of hope and comfort to those around you and to those who, though distant, constantly remember you.

I know – we all know – that your heart is always turned to God and that your prayers continue to support the mission of the Insti-

tute and the Church. Never cease to do so! We would be lacking something indispensable.

You, our elderly and sick confrères, are the qualified custodians of the heart of the Comboni charism and of the history of the Institute. Perhaps you feel weak? You and I know that the fullness of life of the human being necessarily passes through the folds of his weakness. God does not turn away from us because we are weak and imperfect. On the contrary, that is when, if we allow him, he is closest to us with his infinite love. After all, wasn't the method chosen by God the Father to save us precisely that of asking His beloved Son, Jesus, to fully embrace the utmost weakness of our nature? And so, let us rejoice in the surprising paradox of the Apostle Paul: "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

The members of the General Council and I thank you for your dedication, your wisdom and your example of life. May faith always give you strength and serenity. Know that you are constantly present in our prayers.

I embrace you in a strong embrace.

Fr Luigi



Comboni Care Home, Castel D'Azzano, Italy

Congo's Hope Amidst Horror - Aid Efforts Bring Lifeline

A deadly and unrelenting humanitarian crisis is unfolding in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Thousands of people have been killed and even more have been displaced from their homes. The Catholic Church of Congo and the Comboni Missionaries — who arrived in Congo in 1963 — are working tirelessly to support these civilians who have lost everything. The missionaries serve in the Butembo-Beni diocese in North Kivu.

In one incident at the end of February, 70 civilians were slaughtered in a church by the Islamist Allied Democratic Forces. At the same time, people are running away from the violence being inflicted by the M23 campaign, a rebel group backed by the Rwandan army.

All the while, the Catholic Church of Congo and the Comboni Missionaries — who arrived in Congo in 1963 — are working tirelessly to support these civilians who have lost everything. The missionaries serve in the Butembo-Beni diocese in North Kivu. The worsening situation has outstripped their capacity to intervene. People are thirsty, starving, and injured, without access to medical care.



In recent weeks, fighting has intensified in North Kivu and South Kivu. The rebels now have control of Goma and Bakau — the capitals of North Kivu and South Kivu, respectively. The estimated death toll sits at over 10,000, with even more people displaced from their homes. People are dying, lacking the basics for survival. The main roads in and out of the cities are cut off, and the airports are closed, making delivery of humanitarian aid nearly impossible. If the situation is not resolved soon, this crisis will only get worse.

Calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, an end to hostilities and the resumption of peace-talks are multiplying. Yet, little progress is being made. Despite calls from the UN and other Western countries calling for an immediate withdrawal of Rwandan troops from Congolese soil, M23 rebels and the Rwandan army continue to gain ground in both Kivu's. Throughout the rest of the country, including the capital, Kinshasa, uncertainty is sweeping through the population. The social situation is deteriorating further and further.

The Catholic and Protestant leaders of the country are attempting to relaunch a dialogue process to avoid even more death and suffering. "Our country is in ruins because of a war that condemns thousands of Congolese to displacement, hunger, misery, and trauma of all kinds. Our priority is peace," declared Monseigneur Donatien Shola, Secretary of the National Episcopal Conference in the DRC (CENCO).

Church organisations have expanded their response to the crisis which has displaced more than 250,000 people.



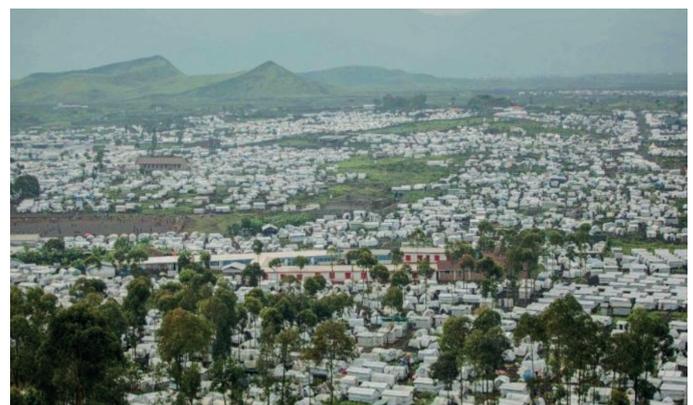
Map of Congo showing North Kivu Photo Natalia Nikolenko

These missionaries working on the front lines are appealing for help to alleviate the suffering of this war-ravaged population. They are looking to support 100 displaced families by providing basic foodstuffs (fufu, beans fish, vegetables) and facilitating access to healthcare and medicine. For the cost of £4,000 per month for six months, at least 100 families — maybe more — can receive the basic necessities of life to help them survive a seemingly impossible situation.

How did we get here?

The journey towards democracy has been fraught in the Democratic Republic of Congo. After 32 years of dictatorial rule by Mobutu Sese Seko and the rise to power of Laurent Désiré Kabila, the first presidential elections for national and provincial deputies were held in 2006.

A brief moment of hope enveloped the nation, but a new political order has been slow in coming. The political hope was accompanied by a series of social crises. For the past twenty years, very little has changed from a security and humanitarian perspective, especially in the east of the country. And now, with the invasion of the M23 rebel group, backed by the Rwandan army, the situation in eastern Congo is dire. For more than two years, M23 has been fighting the Congolese army.



An aerial view of Bulengo displaced persons camp, near Goma, North-Kivu province AFP or licensors)

Myanmar:

Columban College severely damaged by earthquake

Columban Fr Neil Magill founded the Higher Education College (HEC) in Mandalay after realising that many young people in Myanmar were struggling in life and had difficulty in finding jobs. The college has been “severely damaged” in Myanmar’s earthquake.

Fr Neil writes: “You will have been shocked and distressed by the pictures on TV about the devastating earthquake in Mandalay, Myanmar (formerly known as Burma).

In 2007 I started a Higher Education College (HEC) in Mandalay for bright but poor young women and men to train as teachers and development workers. We have hundreds of graduates who have returned to remote villages to teach.

The past 17 years have been challenging but the happiest time of my life. I have never met in any other country such kind, gracious and appreciative young people with cheerful eyes and joyous hearts.

However, for the 160 young people presently studying at the HEC everything has changed. They have been living under a brutal military junta since the military overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi’s government in the coup on 1st February 2021. 50,000 have been killed, 25,000 are languishing in dilapidated prisons, 3.5 million have been displaced and living in Internally Displaced camps.

The military has turned the country into a failed State with a humanitarian crisis. Villages have been wiped out, Christian churches, Buddhist monasteries and Muslim mosques have been bombed and burnt. Two of our graduates were shot dead by the military, another one is in prison and others have disappeared with no contact.

A litany of widespread brutality by a government on its own people. What kind of government appeals for international aid as it continues to bomb its own people?

On top of this tyranny the powerful



Credit: Dimitrios Karamitros

earthquake has brought further devastation, grief and suffering. The junta will not allow foreign journalists into the country after the earthquake as they don’t want the world to know the extent of the devastation.

The junta is compounding the people’s suffering by continuing airstrikes within hours of the earthquake and as people search for loved ones in the rubble. The junta is downplaying the number of deaths and the humanitarian crisis. Many countries are giving aid but these countries need to be careful that the aid does not go through the government as it will never get to the needy.

Our Higher Education College (HEC)

in Mandalay has been severely damaged. The teachers and students were lucky to get out of the classrooms safely when the earthquake struck as bricks, lumps of concrete and debris from the ceilings was raining down on them.

At present the students cannot go back into their classrooms or dormitories as they are so badly damaged and very unsafe. At night they sleep on the ground outside. Most people are living and sleeping on the streets. Food, medicine and clean water are scarce.

From being young people with cheerful eyes and joyous hearts they are now traumatised and sad wondering what their future might be.”

The Jubilee Door A Kairos of Hope



Bantu tribesman Photo 123rf

A Jubilee is a holy time of forgiveness and reconciliation, an opportunity to obtain indulgences and to return to the essence of fraternity. The spiritual dimension of the Jubilee must be combined with its social aspect; pilgrims are called to be fraternal to one another and to care for the earth.

The Jubilee opens our inner path, transforming and replenishing our lives. It is a time of transformation of our hearts and the world's reality, according to God's plan.

In the Old Testament, the Jubilee was an occasion to establish a right relationship with God, with others and with creation. It implied forgiveness of debts, restitution of alienated land and the resting of the earth. In the New Testament, Jesus Himself announces the Jubilee year in the synagogue in Nazareth: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; for He has anointed me. He has sent me to evangelise the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord".

This text describes Jesus' mission, which becomes our mission itself: To go on pilgrimage, to make an inner journey which will lead us to pass through the Holy Door – a powerful symbol which means entering into Christ, uniting us to Him, living from Him, with Him and for Him, and becoming

like Him. The Church invites the faithful to experience this holy time, whether in Rome or in their Christian communities, so that this year of grace may unite us more closely to the Lord, transform our lives and encourage us to engage with the world.

The Jubilee must be a spiritual, ecclesial and social event in the life of the Church which rekindles our Christian life. It should be a year characterised by the forgiveness of sins and the reception of indulgences which express God's mercy. Rekindled Hope and



The Jubilee must be a spiritual, ecclesial and social event in the life of the Church.

Photo MC



The Jubilee is a precious occasion to nourish the faith and consolidate the Christian life of the People of God. Photo 123rf

Forgiveness, the heart of the Jubilee, is a call to conversion, aimed not at condemnation, but at reconciliation with others, with God and with oneself.

It is an opportunity to live a new reality in which wounds are healed and the dignity of each person is recognised.

Holy Door

The Holy Door was opened on 24 December 2024 at St Peter's and it will be closed on 6 January 2026 after the Jubilee Year.

The Jubilee is a precious occasion to nourish the faith and consolidate the Christian life of the People of God.

Conversion and forgiveness of sins also entail a social dimension which regards the transformation of our world. As the spiritual dimension of the Jubilee year is linked to its social aspect, pilgrims are called upon to care for each other fraternally and to care for the earth.

The Church in every country in the world will implement a sign of social commitment in this Jubilee year.

Indulgences as the decree granting the indulgence of the Jubilee states: "All the faithful, who are truly repentant and free from any affection for sin, who are moved by a spirit of charity and who, during the Holy Year, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, will be able to obtain from the treasury of the Church a plenary indulgence, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, which can be applied in suffrage to the souls in Purgatory."

Indulgences are achieved through a Pilgrimage to a Jubilee Holy place and by other means which strengthen Christian life, such as works of mercy and penance, participation in popular missions, spiritual exercises or other formation meetings of the Catholic

Church. They are also achieved by visiting the sick, the imprisoned, the lonely, the elderly, and people with disabilities; through a spirit of penance: abstaining from superfluous and banal things, giving alms to the poor, supporting social works, and other missionary activities.

The Jubilee and the missions

The very nature of the Church is to be missionary. The Jubilee is intended to bring the Good News to those who do not know Jesus. It is a time for true hope, which will come to the world through missionary activity. Missionaries are agents of hope.

The Jubilee invites us to become instruments of evangelisation, through the universal language of charity works.

In this Holy Year, Pope Francis "exhorts each of us to become pilgrims of hope, offering concrete signs for a better future. Let us not forget to take care of "the small details of love" (Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exultate § 145), such as to know how to stop and pay attention to others, to offer a smile, a caress, a word of comfort. These gestures are not improvised; rather, they require daily fidelity, and almost always, remain hidden and silent; they are strengthened by prayer.

At this time, when the song of hope seems to give way to the clang of weapons, the cries of so many wounded innocents and the silence of countless victims of war, let us turn to God and ask him for peace. We need peace; let us raise our hands to welcome it as a precious gift and, at the same time, commit ourselves to restoring it in our daily lives. The Church, living the synodal dimension, rediscovers her pilgrim nature, as people of God on a journey through history, 'migrant' towards the Kingdom of Heaven; with an unquestionable certainty: "The Lord your God accompanies you, and He will never leave you nor forsake you" (Dt 31,6). Although hope is threatened by injustices, violence and inequality, all of them present in our world, it has been revealed to us that the poor have a privileged place in the heart of God, so that, in the face of their suffering, God is 'impatient' until He has done them justice, "until He has removed the multitude of the arrogant and broken the sceptre of the unjust, until He has rewarded each man according to his deeds, and has recompensed the works of men according to their intentions" (Sir 35:21-23).

The Jubilee, in addition to being a pilgrimage, a prayer, an evangelisation and a celebration, leads "each Christian individual and every community to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, enabling them to be fully a part of society. This demands that we may be docile and attentive to the cry of the poor and to come to their aid." (Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, 187). May your grace transform us, O Lord, into dedicated cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel that ferments humanity and the cosmos, in confident expectation of the new heavens and the new earth, when, with the forces of evil vanquished, your glory will be revealed for ever. May the grace of the Jubilee rekindle in us, Pilgrims of Hope, the longing for heavenly goods and pour out on the whole world the joy and peace of our Redeemer.



Group of pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago, Spain. Indulgences are achieved through a Pilgrimage to a Jubilee Holy place. Photo 123rf

By Deborah Castellano Lubov



Children are most vulnerable Photo: Michat Fiatkowski

Massive increase in malnutrition for children in Rohingya refugee camps

The UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, says that severe acute malnutrition in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh jumped by 27 percent compared to the same period last year, and warns that in the camps, at least fifteen percent of the children are malnourished, and therefore eleven times more likely to die.

Severe acute malnutrition in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh is soaring, the United Nations Children's Fund has warned, stating it has surged by 27 percent in February 2025 compared to the same period last year.

Recent figures, UNICEF pointed out, show the crisis is worsening. In January 2025, cases of severe acute malnutrition rose by 25 percent compared to the same month last year, and February saw the even sharper increase at 27 percent, causing concerns for a dangerous upward trend.

Multiple compounding factors, the organization explained, are contributing to the disturbing escalation.

In 2024, there were prolonged monsoon rains that worsened sanitation and triggered spikes in severe diarrhea and outbreaks of cholera and dengue. Also worsening conditions were the impact of intermittent food ration cuts over the previous two years, leading to poor quality diets deteriorating further, as well as a growing number of fam-

ilies fleeing violence and seeking shelter in the camps in recent months.

Highest levels since mass displacement in 2017

Moreover, families are facing emergency levels of nutrition in Cox's Bazar, the world's largest refugee settlement, home to more than a million Rohingya refugees, including more than 500,000 children.

In the camps, more than 15 percent of children are now severely malnourished, marking the highest levels recorded since the mass displacement of Rohingya refugees in 2017.

Eleven times more likely to die

At the start of the year, UNICEF estimated that 14,200 children in the Rohingya refu-

gee camps would suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2025, while also warning that poor diets, factors affect water and healthcare in the camps, and declining food rations, could cause these numbers to climb.

The United Nations agency for protecting and assisting children warned that if children facing this condition are not treated in time, they are 11 times more likely to die than their well-nourished peers.

Throughout 2024, UNICEF provided life-saving treatment to nearly 12,000 children under the age of five suffering from severe acute malnutrition, a condition that leaves children dangerously thin, weak, and highly vulnerable to disease. Of those treated, 92 per cent recovered, but without urgent and sustained intervention, severe acute malnutrition can be fatal.



Life in the refugee settlement Photo: Joel Carillet

SUDAN *Sharing Life*

The suffering of the people continues because the fighting is still raging. Despite all the calamities and difficulties, the people have shown firmness and resilience. Father Yousif William, a Comboni Missionary, says that in the face of everything, he is helping the people to look to the future with hope and strength.

As the only priest responsible for four parishes of the displaced along with a camp on the outskirts of the capital Khartoum, my weekly pastoral schedule is quite full.

On Sunday, I celebrate mass at St. Josephine Bakhita's parish Jeberona. On Monday I conduct catechesis for those preparing for Sacraments. On Tuesday, I travel to St. Kizito Dar Essalam for mass. Wednesday is dedicated to the formation of Catechists and extraordinary Ministers. On Thursday, I go to St. Francis of Assis parish in Angola (Banat). Friday takes me to Sacred Heart Parish Wed Ramly, and Saturday I hold Catechism classes at St. Josephine Bakita's parish Jeberona. The faithful of Nivasha camp in the outskirts ask for mass every month, so I have to take one Wednesday away from the Catechists for this purpose

The living situation here is extremely difficult due to unemployment. In such dire conditions, many people are forced to sell everything - even their household utensils and clothes. Some go so far as to dismantle their windows, doors and roofs to sell to afford food. Looters on the other hand, target abandoned houses, dismantling even the bricks. Despite these hardships, the people remain faithful, coming to church to pray to meet others and to share both their joys and sorrows.

Movements from one part of the city to another are severely restricted with checkpoints every one Kilometer, which delays my journey to the parishes. We thank the Lord, though, because the situation has improved compared to a few months ago when there was intense shelling and aerial bombardments. We often had to seek shelter or remain under our beds. Now the primary danger comes from drones targeting large gatherings, causing many casualties. As a result, we avoid such targeted areas. During the nights, we still hear the orchestra of sounds of sporadic shootings and shelling in the outskirts. No night could pass without the sky lit up from the

'fireworks' of antiaircraft projectiles.

Pastorally, I thought of forming a group of lay helpers to assist me with the work. I am pleased that now we have extraordinary Ministers that help me on the altar. For example, in St. Josephine Bakhita's parish, Jeberona has three extraordinary ministers assist at every Sunday mass, which are attended by two thousand of the faithful. They distribute Holy Communion and pray with families of the sick and deceased. They also serve as catechists, helping prepare people for the sacraments. Additionally, we have four groups of Legion of Mary, who lead the rosary before Mass and visit families, particularly the sick or those who have abandoned the church.

We also have planned for a future work after the war. A few weeks ago, we had a course on Administration offered to us by some volunteers, so that we may have people prepared to get involved to work with humanitarian organizations to create new local humanitarian organizations and help in administering projects that will be supported by donors. All of this will be a great help for the church.

The faithful have taken the responsibility of their churches by covering expenses, ensuring water supplies, cleaning and caring for trees and flowers, as well as sup-



Fr Yousif William administering Baptism

porting the maintenance as their pastor. In all the four parishes, they now produce their wine and hosts for Mass. I have started teaching our choirs the rudiments of music and they can now sing easy Hymns using sheet music.



Fr. Yousif William at Mass

The Hidden Mission of a Catholic Chaplain in a Catholic School

Unveiling the Spiritual Journey



Fr Paul, Chaplain to Trinity High School, Rutherglen, Scotland with teachers from the R.E. department

In the serene corridors of Catholic schools, there lies a profound and often unseen force guiding the hearts and minds of students, teachers, and the broader school community. This force is embodied in the role of the Catholic Chaplain, whose mission is far more expansive and intricate than simply leading prayers and religious services. It is a hidden mission steeped in spiritual guidance, emotional support, and fostering a deep sense of community and faith.

The Role of a Catholic Chaplain

A Catholic Chaplain in a school setting serves as a spiritual leader and mentor. Their primary role involves providing pastoral care, which encompasses a wide range of activities from counselling and support to leading liturgical celebrations and religious education. They are entrusted with the responsibility to nurture the spiritual lives of the students, helping them to explore and deepen their faith.

Spiritual Guidance

At the heart of the chaplain's mission is spiritual guidance. The chaplain provides a listening ear and a guiding hand to those who seek answers to life's profound questions. Through one-on-one sessions and

group discussions, the chaplain helps students navigate their spiritual journeys, encouraging them to develop a personal relationship with God and to live out their faith in their daily lives.

Emotional Support

Beyond spiritual guidance, chaplains offer emotional support to the school community. They stand as pillars of strength during times of personal or communal crises, providing comfort and solace. Whether it's coping with the loss of a loved one, dealing with stress and anxiety, or

navigating the challenges of adolescence, the chaplain is there to support and uplift.

Building Community

One of the chaplain's hidden missions is to cultivate a sense of community within the school. Through organizing events, retreats, and service projects, the chaplain fosters a spirit of togetherness and mutual support. These activities not only strengthen the bonds among students but also instil values of compassion, empathy, and service.

Integration of Faith and Education

In a Catholic school, the chaplain plays a vital role in integrating faith into the educational experience. This mission includes collaborating with teachers to infuse Catholic teachings into the curriculum, leading religious studies classes, and ensuring that the school's ethos reflects its Catholic identity. By doing so, the chaplain helps students to see their education not just as an academic endeavour but as a means to grow in their faith and understanding of the world.

Celebrating Sacraments

The chaplain's mission includes celebrating the sacraments with the school community. Regular Masses, confession ser-



Trinity High School



Building Community Photo: pixelfit

VICES, and other sacramental celebrations are essential parts of school life, providing students with opportunities to participate in the rituals and traditions of their faith. These celebrations are moments of spiritual nourishment and community-building.

Ethical and Moral Formation

Another crucial aspect of the chaplain's mission is the ethical and moral formation of students. Through teachings, discussions, and personal example, the chaplain encourages students to live virtuous lives grounded in Catholic values. This formation helps students to develop a moral compass that will guide their decisions and actions both within and beyond the school environment.

Support for Staff and Families

The chaplain's mission extends beyond students to include support for staff and families. They provide spiritual and emotional support to teachers, helping them to fulfil their vocations with dedication and compassion. They also engage with families, offering guidance and support to help them nurture their children's spiritual development.

Teacher Support

Teachers in a Catholic school are tasked with the dual responsibility of education and spiritual formation. The chaplain supports them in their mission by providing resources, facilitating sensitive complex topics, and being a source of encouragement and spiritual sustenance.

Family Engagement

The chaplain connects with families, offering parent accompanied presence in difficult moments, through their Parish Priest, and together with staff. These engagements help families to be active participants in their children's faith journey, reinforcing the lessons learned at school and fostering a strong home-school faith partnership.

The Hidden Impact

While much of the chaplain's work is visible, the true impact of their mission is often hidden in the quiet moments of transformation and growth. It is seen in the student who finds peace in prayer, the teacher who feels renewed in their vocation, and the family that grows closer

through shared faith experiences. The chaplain's hidden mission is a tapestry of countless small threads of influence, woven together to create a profound and lasting legacy.

Personal Transformations

The chaplain's guidance often leads to personal transformations that may not be immediately visible. Students grow in confidence and self-understanding, teachers find deeper meaning in their work, and families experience greater unity and spiritual depth.

Long-term Impact

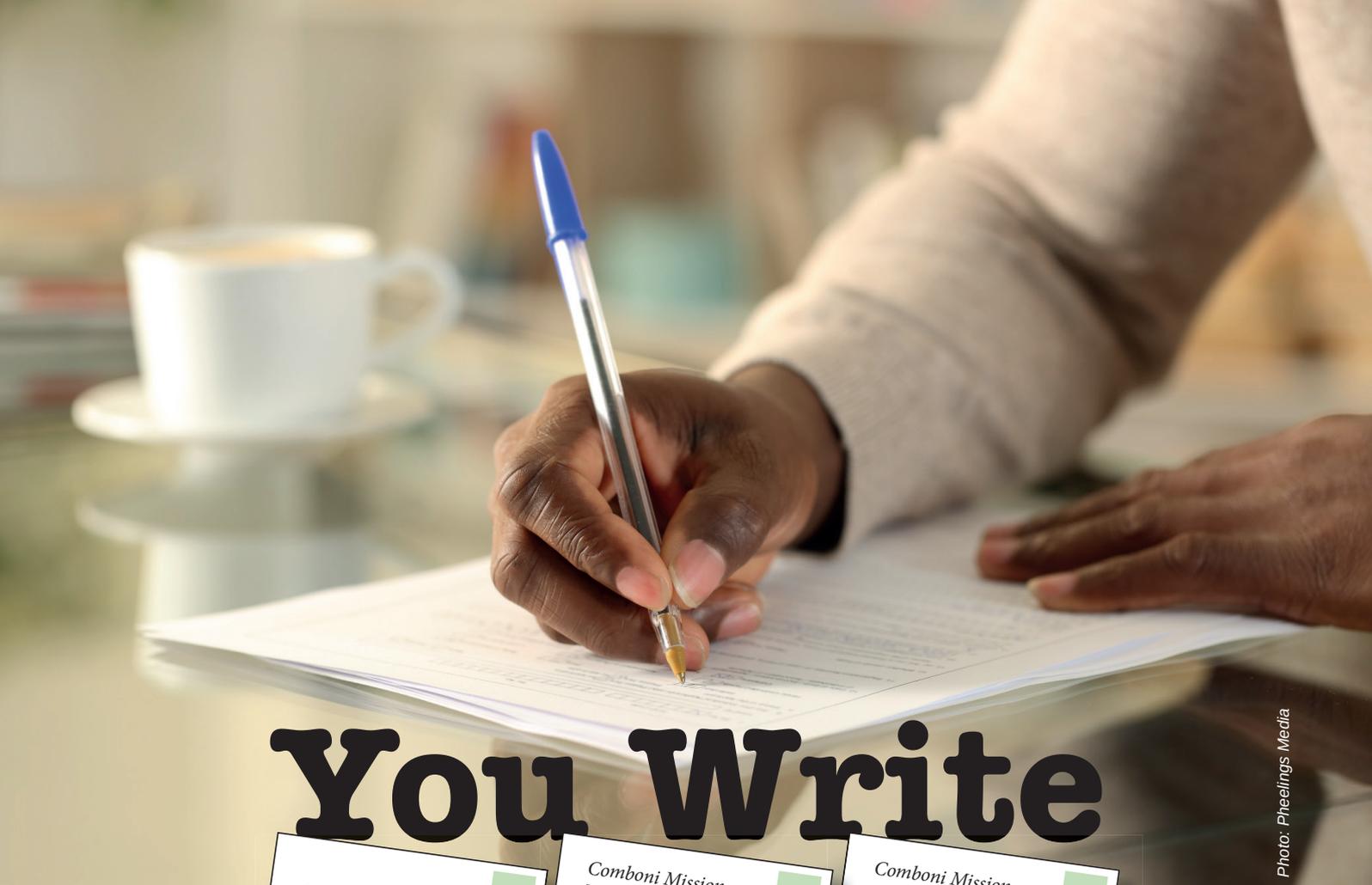
The long-term impact of the chaplain's mission is seen in the lives of students as they carry the lessons and values learned into adulthood. The spiritual foundation laid during their school years becomes a guiding force throughout their lives, influencing their choices, relationships, and contributions to society.

Conclusion

The hidden mission of a Catholic Chaplain in a Catholic school is a journey of profound spiritual and emotional support, community building, and faith integration. Through their dedicated and compassionate service, chaplains touch lives in ways that are often unseen but deeply felt. They are the quiet heroes, guiding the school community not just in religious practice but in living out the teachings of Christ in everyday life. Their mission is a testament to the transformative power of faith and the enduring impact of pastoral care.



Drawing hope from the Word of God Photo: D-Keine



You Write

Comboni Mission
8 Clontarf Road
DUBLIN 3
IRELAND

Comboni Mission
Brownberrie Lane
Horsforth
LEEDS
LS18 5HE
ENGLAND

Comboni Mission
138 Carmyle
Avenue
GLASGOW
G32 8DL
SCOTLAND

Photo: Pheelings Media

Thank you once again for your most welcome letters. It reminds us that some people do read our missionary magazine! Reading today is becoming less and less a daily pleasure.

To encourage you all our readers: to let us know your thoughts and opinions, I will post here my address so that your comments come directly to our office!

**Editor, Verona Fathers - Email: jdcomboni@gmail.com
London Road, Sunningdale SL5 0JY#, Berks, England**

Dear Friends,

For this edition of 'Comboni Mission' we have received few letters (chilly winter?). This has caused me just to remind you of taking the time to drop us a note commenting on our magazine production, articles, suggestions, etc. The 'YOU WRITE' page is much appreciated by the editor and readers alike. So, continue to feed our interest with your valuable contributions! We look forward so much to them! And again, many thanks to our lovely correspondents.

In the following I publish a most welcome letter from one of our readers. We do not want to boast but it is a most heartening appreciation of our work. Our sincere thanks to Barby, Fontenay le Comte, France
Fr John Downey, Editor.

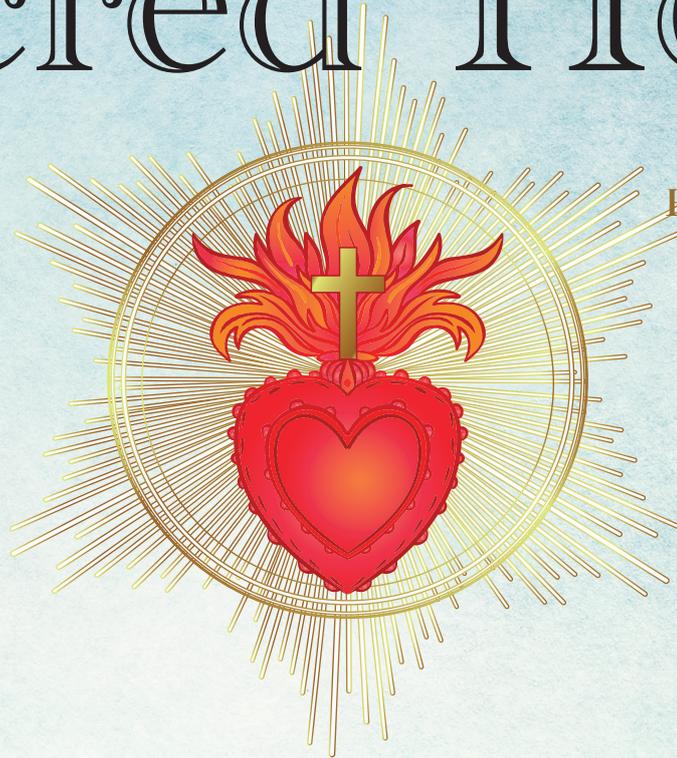
Dear Fr,

I hope you are well. I just wanted to say that the article written by Fr John Clark on 'Hopefulness versus Hopelessness' as brilliant. So too was the feature written by Harvey Martin on the 'Return to the Upper Room'. So true and thought provoking. The article of giving hope in face of challenges by Fr. Franco Nascembene was also enjoyable. I have discovered that when I'm visiting, some accept some don't, but with some perseverance they eventually come round and ask me to stay a while! Really enjoyed the magazine and thank you so much for sending it. Take care and God Bless!

the Sacred Heart Novena

19 - 27 June
2025

Fr Vincent Sherloick
www.messenger.ie



Introduction

Earlier this year, much of Ireland experienced the force of Storm Éowyn. Many people lost power and even water. A day, two, three, four or more without power became the reality for many, and the outcry was far reaching, sincere and understandable. ESB crews worked to restore power as quickly as possible, but days without light, heat and water were long and difficult.

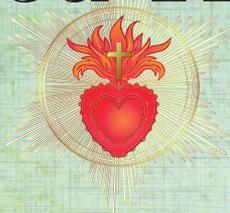
Contrast that with the nine days stretching out before us as this novena begins. Nine days when we focus our attention on the light and the water of our baptism and the heat that radiates from the heart of Jesus. We join the ESB crews as we seek to restore light to the soul and peace to the mind.

These are, in truth, powerful days that call us to hit the reset button, to reboot and power-up afresh, thankful for the light – the light of Christ. Taking a few moments over each of the next nine days, we might reflect on the place of faith in our lives. In this Jubilee Year, called upon to be pilgrims of hope, we allow the heart of Jesus to touch our hearts and open our minds. Over the next nine days, let's connect with the grid so that our spiritual house, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, is bathed in light: the gentle but ever-present light of the Sacred Heart lamp.

Let us begin ...

the Sacred Heart Novena

19 – 27 June
2025



Novena Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, your heart was moved with love for those who came to you for help: you healed the sick, you fed the hungry, you forgave sinners, you cried over Jerusalem. Above all, you showed to those who were prepared to listen the way to true life, for you are the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Lord, your heart is still moved today by your people and their many needs. Open my heart to hear your Word, to accept your love and to respond to your call. In particular, I beg you to grant me the favour I ask during this novena (make your request silently), provided that it will contribute to my own eternal good and to the building up of your kingdom of love, peace and justice here on earth. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

Day One: What Matters

‘Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognising him.’ (Lk 24:15)

Where is Emmaus for you today? What do you see as journey’s end, and who is walking with you? If you are lucky enough to have a good friend to walk with, what

might you want or need to say today to help you shorten the journey? These two men speak about their sense of loss and their confusion. It is one thing to speak to each other, but the conversation is taken to a deeper place when Jesus is drawn into the gathering, even if initially unrecognised. Look for Jesus today; he may well be presenting himself to you in a face unknown. He cares about what you have to say; he listens and will take you to a moment of recognition.

O Sacred Heart thank you for those who walk the road with me and for those who have invited me to walk with them. Leave me always open to the sound of your voice on the road. Amen.

Day Two: Scribbled Words

‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ (Jn 8:7)

Where are you in this story? It is a real question, and one worth pondering on today as you reflect on the Sacred Heart. Might you be the woman dragged in front of a hostile and jeering crowd? Could you be among those who did the dragging? Are you found among the holier-than-thou quoting Scripture and law? You are there somewhere, and only in recognising your place in this story can it truly speak to your heart. Let your mind wander to a man bent over, scribbling in the dirt. What might you scribble on the ground today? How can you help to shift attention from the woman dragged so that stones are dropped, not thrown?

O Sacred Heart, I live in a world where mobs form quickly and easily. Direct me to the ground, where you bend and write words of mercy. Amen.

Day Three: Listening Heart

“Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me see again.” (Lk 18:40–41)

Remember the recent power cut? Remember the darkness of the night where even the familiar setting of your own home became strange? How you longed to see again. Enter the blind man! We don’t know how long he had been in the dark, but it had become his reality. Thankfully someone told him that Jesus was passing, and that gave him the chance to ask for help. ‘What do you want me to do for you?’, asked Jesus. ‘Let me see again’, the reply. Take a moment now and listen as Jesus asks, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ Has your faith faded into memory? Could you ask to see again?

O Sacred Heart remind me today of those who share the faith: parents, teachers, priests. Let my ears be attuned to their voices that I might call out to you, Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!

Day Four: Always Happy

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone.’ (Phil 4:4–5)

These words from St Paul to the people of Phillipi are truly sacred words. St Paul thought he would never see these people again. He wanted them to be in no doubt about his wishes for them. His desire was their happiness. He felt that happiness would be found through filling the mind with only what is good. What message would you be anxious to share with those you live and work with – those you love?

O Sacred Heart give me peace of mind today. Remind me that my life has made a difference in the lives of those around me. Amen.

Day Five: Courage to Share

‘One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” (Jn 6:8–9)

It is a remarkable story of innocence winning the day. The boy knew people were hungry and that he had something to share. Offering it, he thought it might make a difference. The adults questioned that. Jesus appreciated the offering and knew it came from a sincere place. He did the rest, and thousands were fed. Can you offer something today? You might feel that what you have to offer is too little, but offer it anyway. Sincerity is the key ingredient; the Lord will do the rest.

O Sacred Heart take me to that place of honesty where differences are made and made by me. Amen.

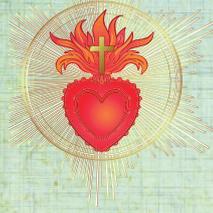
Day Six: His Name Is Mercy

Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him ... and get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” (Lk 15:21–24)

Surely the story of the prodigal son is one of the best-known in Scripture. Everyone can be found between these lines: the arrogant son, the fast-living

Sacred^{the} Heart Novena

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son, the humbled son, the repentant son. The son in the story goes through many personality changes, but at the heart of it he remains a son. The father in the story is consistent, understanding, loyal and forgiving – watching for his son, even when his son is far away. Where are you in this story today? Home or away?

O Sacred Heart give me the wisdom to realise when it is time to come home. Help me to see you, even in the distance, as you watch out for my return. Amen.

Day Seven: Names and Tone

‘Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).’ (Jn 20:15–16)

A short but meaningful meeting. Even in its shortness, it took Mary from sadness to joy and to a place where recognition was possible. There can be days when you feel that Jesus has been taken away. You cannot find him or perhaps recognise him even when he is standing in front of you. Reflect today on how Mary came to recognise him. It was in the calling of her name. Whatever way he had of saying her name was literally music to her ears. Take some time today to imagine Jesus calling you by name.

O Sacred Heart help me to truly believe you know me by name and help me to give honour to my name and yours. Amen.

Day Eight: Be Still

‘Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.’ (1 Kings 19:11–14)

Today you meet someone who is seeking the Lord, and does not know what to expect. Mighty winds, earthquakes and fires present themselves, but the Lord is not in them. Instead it is in silence that God makes himself known. Where are you looking for God?

O Sacred Heart lead me to a place where I can truly meet you and spend time in your presence. Amen.

Day Nine: Fresh Heart

‘There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, “It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22)

You have arrived at the ninth day. Well done! In today’s scripture passage, you journey with Paul and the early Church. It was not smooth sailing then, nor is it today. Persecution takes many forms, and all you can do is walk in faith, hope and love. This novena is about putting fresh heart in you, as you reflect again on that familiar image of the Sacred Heart. Do all in your power to put fresh heart into those you share your life with and those you meet.

O Sacred Heart may the words I speak bring peace to others and remind me to be thankful, prayerful and hopeful. Amen.

To help pray and celebrate more deeply the Feast of the Sacred Heart, Fr John Clark offers us a path to prayer and meditation through his reflection on Pope Francis' latest encyclical letter, published on October 2024, entitled, in Latin, - (Dilexit Nos) - and translated as - HE LOVED US.

ON THE HUMAN AND DIVINE LOVE OF THE HEART OF JESUS CHRIST

To serve a divided, materialistic, a heart-broken world, this 141-page document of 28,000 words, whose title is drawn from Romans 8,37 is directed to a world that has lost its heart. It is divided into five chapters and stresses the missionary dimension of devotion to the Sacred Heart.

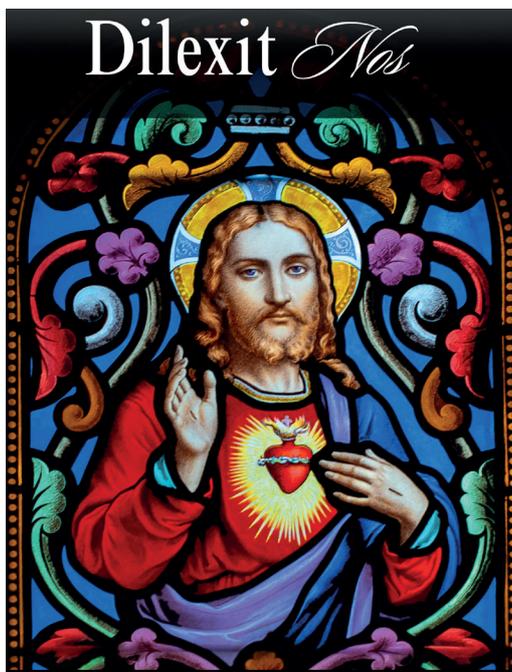
THE DEEPEST PART OF US, CREATED FOR LOVE, WILL FULFIL GOD'S PLAN ONLY IF WE LEARN TO LOVE. AND THE HEART IS THE SYMBOL OF THAT LOVE. IN GAZING UPON THE LORD'S BURNING HEART WE CONTEMPLATE A PHYSICAL REALITY, HIS HUMAN FLESH, WHICH ENABLES HIM TO POSSESS GENUINE HUMAN EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS, LIKE OURSELVES, ALBEIT FULLY TRANSFORMED BY HIS DIVINE LOVE. (Dilexit Nos, 59-60).

CONTENTS OF THE ENCYCLICAL

- CH.1 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HEART. 2-31.
- CH.2 ACTIONS AND WORDS OF LOVE. 32 -47.
- CH.3 THIS IS THE HEART THAT HAS LOVED SO GREATLY. 48-91.
- CH.4 A LOVE THAT GIVES ITSELF AS DRINK. 92-163.
- CH.5 LOVE FOR LOVE. 164-220.

"THE HEART OF CHRIST, AS THE SYMBOL OF THE DEEPEST AND MOST PERSONAL SOURCE OF HIS LOVE FOR US, IS THE VERY CORE OF THE INITIAL PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL. IT STANDS AT THE ORIGIN OF OUR FAITH, AS THE WELLSPRING THAT REFRESHES AND ENLIVENS OUR CHRISTIAN BELIEFS." (Dilexit Nos, 32).

DEVOTION TO THE HEART OF CHRIST IS ...WHAT WE CONTEMPLATE AND ADORE (AS)THE WHOLE JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD MADE MAN, REPRESENTED BY AN IMAGE THAT ACCENTUATES HIS HEART. THAT HEART OF FLESH IS SEEN AS THE PRIVILEGED SIGN OF THE INMOST BEING OF THE INCARNATE SON AND HIS LOVE, BOTH DIVINE AND HUMAN. MORE THAN ANY OTHER PART OF HIS BODY, THE HEART OF JESUS IS "THE NATURAL SIGN



AND SYMBOL OF HIS BOUNDLESS LOVE". (Dilexit Nos,48).

The HEART OF JESUS is a deeply human heart - **'Only God could be so human'** L.Boff. Our witness, therefore, is to live and bear witness to the humanity of Jesus in a world that risks becoming increasingly dehumanised and is full of suffering and so badly needs consoling.

Do you want to know the heart of God? See how much compassion Jesus feels in the face of the lost crowd (cf. Mk6,34); see how sad he is when we betray our humanity (cf. Mk 3,5); see how He rejoices at the faith of the little ones (cf. Mt 11,25); see with how much love Jesus wants to embrace us, as a hen embraces her chicks (cf. Lk 13,34); see with how much passion He fights and is willing to give His life for us (cf. Jn 10,11-15). There is no God outside the heart and humanity of Jesus! Among the many saintly devotees of the Sacred Heart St.Daniel Comboni is mentioned as well as the Comboni Missionary Congregation of the Sacred Heart. Our congregation had to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Among the many different levels of personal devotion and the forms they take, one thing is sure - **IT IS THE HEART THAT MATTERS.** I am very proud to be a Comboni Missionary of the Heart of Jesus. I have been so for over fifty years. The heart is part of my name. It defines me and

is an essential element of my DNA and so for other hundreds of men and woman.

Pope Francis warns us that nowadays humanity is strongly questioned by a culture based on "a notion of the human person which allows him or her to be treated as an object..." This is that 'globalization' or 'pathology of indifference' that the Pope often denounces, and which materialises in a 'throwaway culture and economy'. In this context, rediscovering and living the humanity of the heart of Jesus is a missionary priority.

The Heart reveals the fullness of His love on the Cross. If we let God pour His ardour into our hearts we will be passionate followers of Christ: our life and our ardent words will be able to warm and infect. But Jesus does not resign Himself to our lukewarmness. He wants our love to be equal to His.

"Remain in me, as I remain in you" (Jn 15,4a). Remaining in Jesus means remaining in His love for His brothers and sisters, especially for the least; remaining in His fight for peace; remaining in His thirst for justice; remaining in His ability to forgive; remaining faithful to Him for the cause of the Kingdom; remaining in His trustworthy abandonment into the hands of the Father.

The Heart of Jesus is then open to the great horizons of history and to the commitment of justice and peace as He focuses on the problems and wounds that block people's lives. He is definitely passionate about the hopes, embraces and encounters that shape and give meaning to our daily lives. The main desire of His Heart is summarised thus by Jesus: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10,10b). Christ wants all His brothers and sisters to enjoy a full life, A human life, a beautiful life, at all levels: personal, family, community and political.

The encyclical highlights the pierced heart of Christ emphasizing the healing of a wounded humanity. It is the Heart of the Risen Christ that still bears the healed, open wound. What the world needs is heart-not sentimentality, but integration, presence and fortitude to stay in the tensions of our current reality.

What a burning heart on fire with love! **THIS IS THE HEART THAT HAS LOVED SO GREATLY.**

Deo Gratias

By Peter Delisle - Collected Poems

Lord, thank you for the summer and the spring,
For April's charm, the blossoming of May,
And the full, fine splendour of a June day;
For long, cool evenings and for each living thing
That lives and breathes with me. The little brooks,
That thread their old, well loved familiar way
Through fields, shining like a polished tray,
Past hills and valleys, each from picture books
To vanish out of view. And when I see
A tree in blossom, the lily and the rose,
And sunsets, and the colours of all those
I stop and wonder at Eternity -
Then murmur, ere these sights shall pass
A simple, heart-felt "Deo Gratias".

By Harvey Martin

The Sacred Heart

By Harvey Martin

This forever pumping heart,
Is the wounded heart that yearns
for all mankind to turn to him;
this Heavenly Heart still burns.

Burns with love and light and life,
to raise mankind from sleep.
A Sacred Heart that draws us all
with each Eternal beat.

And there's a deeper place within a man
that makes his soul to strive.
Not the fleshly heart that beats
to keep that man alive.

For God has placed Eternity
within the heart of man.
A heart that meets with Jesus Christ;
the fulfilment of God's plan.

Reminders of his passion adorn
the fiery heart; the crown of thorns
the empty cross; the arrow piercing
wall;
And to every soul that knows him not
that Sacred Heart still calls.

Joining St Oscar Romero on being 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ gave the following homily on St Oscar Romero during Evensong at St Alban's Cathedral on Sunday, 23 March 2025, the anniversary of his martyrdom. International Catholic News ICN.



Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ
Photo: Comboni Press

Scripture Texts: Romans 8.35-end John 15.18-21

In his Letter to the Romans, Paul lists the things that people tend to fear the most: hardship, distress, persecution, famine, the nakedness of poverty and insecurity, danger and violence. He insists that none of these things can separate us from the love of Christ, but it can be hard to believe this when faced with the reality of them. It's precisely these disasters and God's apparent inability to remedy them or lack of interest in doing so that rob so many people of their childhood faith. Every day the

media remind us of the cynical politics and ruthless business profiteering that ruin lives and threaten our planet's future for the benefit of a tiny few. This year, the Roman Catholic Church is inviting all Christians to celebrate a Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope. How can we do so in the face of so much suffering?

St. Oscar Romero was a true pilgrim of hope. He didn't deny the harsh reality of oppressive violence, but named it for what it was, at the same time claiming He saw hope as a force enabling those threatened by oppression and death to believe that love triumphs through the power of Christ, crucified and risen. He encouraged his people: *'Let us not tire of preaching love; it is the force that will overcome the world. Let us not tire of preaching love, even when people see us as sowers of naivety and disillusionment. Love must win out; it is the only thing that can.'*

Romero's kind of hope recognizes the brokenness of the world but refuses to surrender to despair. Hope, faith and love work together: Faith gives us knowledge of God's promises, hope sustains us in trusting that those promises will be fulfilled, and love is both the divine catalyst and the active human response which makes hope real in the world.

In his encyclical *Saved in Hope* (Spe Salvi), Pope Benedict tells us that: *'The*



St Oscar Romero Photo: Comboni Press

Christian message [is] not only "informative" but "performative" [...] the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known - it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing [...] The one who has hope lives differently.'

Romero saw that this 'living differently' was not only about the transformation of individuals but also about the transformation of the Church as a community. He claimed that: *'There is no dichotomy between faith and life. A true Christian does not leave their faith behind when they step out into the streets. Their faith gives them hope and calls them to transform the world.'*

For members of such a Church, true

Christian hope doesn't settle for an unjust world, lamenting that that's just the way things are. It insists with Romero that change is possible: *'The church would betray its own love for God and its fidelity to the gospel if it stopped being... a defender of the rights of the poor, a humanizer of every legitimate struggle to achieve a more just society, something to hope for.'*

Hope believes that Christ has already overcome sin and death, therefore we can have confidence that suffering and evil never, ever have the final say. As Paul tells the suffering church in Rome, 'In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.'

As a missionary in Brazil, I remember a Pentecost celebration where we walked around the neighbourhood from the cathedral carrying processional crosses draped with white T shirts soaked in blood, each carrying the photo of a priest, sister, catechist or lay Christian who had been murdered for their faith. It challenges the reality of one's Christian witness to live in a church of martyrs. Christian hope can't eliminate suffering, but it does transform it. The Resurrection gives the Cross meaning. As Jesus found in the Garden of Gethsemane, hope is most necessary and most possible precisely in moments of despair. When injustice seems overwhelming, when suffering seems meaningless, hope insists that love is still victorious and makes that promise real. Hope is dangerous to the status quo because it doesn't just offer placebo religious comfort - it demands change. That is why those whose power rests on dictatorship and oppressive systems have seen Christianity as a threat ever since Herod sought to kill the king of the Jews born in Bethlehem. Jesus tells his disciples, 'If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.' Romero found this to his cost. But hope is participation in the very life of God. To hope is to trust that God's love is at work in the world, even when we can't see it. And that hope moves us to act, to love, and to seek justice without ceasing and without compromise.

The grotesque injustices of our world don't generally stem from incomprehensibly demonic human beings. They're the accumulation and interdependence of all our failures of solidarity, our desperate seeking for security at others' expense and



Comboni Missionaries pray at the tomb of St Oscar Romero in El Salvador.

Photo: Comboni Press

our doctoring of the truth. It's what we call the sin of the world, and every generation faces the life and death battle against this sin in its own way. God invites us to engage tirelessly in the battle against the powers of darkness. It is likely that our reward, in this world at least, will be to be crucified with Jesus. But in the face of his own death, he assured his disciples that he had overcome the world. Shortly before his assassination in 1980, Romero claimed, *'If they kill me, I shall arise in the Salvadoran people.'* He believed that to live and die in faith, hope and love is to share in the life and death of Jesus.

It is to share in his prayer which is the Cross and to share in the answer to that prayer, which is resurrection from all that is death-dealing.

It can be hugely painful to go on praying in hope in the face of so much that would convince us to despair, but to fail would be to fall into the idolatrous delusion of thinking that it is our efforts and our power that will change the world rather than the power of the crucified and risen Jesus, shining through our human weakness. We pray in hope, not so that we can change God's mind, but so that God can change our mind to become attentive, to recognize God's power at work in the world. God has given each one of us in this cathedral gifts and skills to become a beacon of hope in the world, a transformed transformer. Every time we use those gifts to make a better world in God's name, we join Oscar Romero in being pilgrims of hope.

Month of the Sacred Heart

30 MASSES

will be offered at our three mission centres in honour of the Sacred Heart, for these and your intentions

For your spiritual and material needs and for health in mind and body

For peace and justice in the world, especially where there is war and conflict

For sick and terminally ill among your relations and friends



Photo credit: sansa55

For the needs of your family, especially for serenity, unity and the practice of the faith

For all Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus, particularly those who are ill or exposed to danger

For any specific intention(s) you may wish to make

***Its flame gave Saint Comboni sight
Devotion made his work complete
For love will lift one from retreat
To carry on through darkest night***

***Ringed round with thorns that pierce with might
A heart transcending all defeat
Its flame gave Saint Comboni sight
Devotion made his work complete***

***This saint who crossed through desert's blight
Found strength of grace for weary feet
And courage for his own heartbeat
Guiding lost souls to paths aright
Its flame gave Saint Comboni sight***

By Fr David Bohnsack mccj

Write your intentions for the sacred heart masses on the leaflet provided and return to your nearest mission office.



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