

# THE MSC Message



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



## MSC Missions celebrate World Meeting of Families

*Read more on page 4*

### **In this issue:**

2. From the Director
3. MSC News
4. MSC celebrating World Meeting of Families 2018
5. MSC in the Philippines
6. MSC Volunteering
7. MSC Vocations
8. Holy Family Care Centre

### **Winter 2018**

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

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

## From the Director



Dear Friends,

Another year is almost at an end, and the Christmas season, full of joy and promise, is beckoning once again. I hope this Winter finds you well, as we prepare to wave goodbye to one year and welcome the next.

2018 has been a very special year for Ireland and the Catholic Church, as we welcomed Pope Francis to our shores for the World Meeting of Families. What a wonderful thing it was to see Ireland open its arms to pilgrims from all over the world for a celebration that did us all proud!

Together, we celebrated family - our own immediate families, and our extended families, made up of friends, neighbours, and brothers and sisters in Christ. During his visit, Pope Francis said: "If we speak of our entire world as a single family, it is because we rightly acknowledge the bonds of our common humanity and we sense our call to unity and solidarity, especially with the weakest of our brothers and sisters."

I often refer to you, our mission friends, as a family of faith - and together, we are answering that call to unity and solidarity with the weakest of our brothers and sisters. I am very proud to be part of our great community of faith, and as another year begins to wind towards its end, I thank you for all that we have achieved together over the past months. From promoting self-sufficiency in the Philippines, to helping the children of Cameroon access educational facilities, together, we have made a great difference.

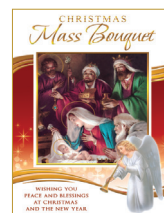
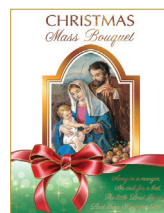
I wish you and yours the warmth and light of the Lord's love as the season turns, with every blessing for the Winter months.

God bless,

*Fr Michael O'Connell MSC*

Director of the MSC Missions Office

## MSC Christmas Mass Remembrance Cards



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

### How to Order

MSC Missions Office,

PO Box 23, Western Road, Cork, T12 WT72.

Telephone: +353 21 454 5704

Fax: +353 21 434 3587

Email: [info@mscmissions.ie](mailto:info@mscmissions.ie)

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

*Suggested Donation €25 per pack of 5*

## Light Up a Memory Mass

Saturday, November 24th 2018

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

All are welcome to join us live on our website

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



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



Find us at @MSCMissions

# Jubilee Celebrations in the Irish Province

Congratulations to eight MSCs from the Irish Province, who marked Silver, Golden, and Diamond Jubilees this summer.



L-R: Fr Carl Tranter MSC, Br Donie Hallissey MSC, Fr Eugene Clarkson MSC, Bishop Emeritus Hugh Slattery MSC, Fr Patsy Kelly MSC, Fr Con O'Connell MSC, Fr Terry O'Brien MSC. Unfortunately, Fr Eamonn Donohue MSC could not attend the Jubilee celebrations.

Celebrations abounded at the Sacred Heart Church in Cork on Thursday, June 28th 2018, as eight MSCs from the Irish Province marked the great occasion of Silver, Golden, and Diamond Jubilees. Friends, family, and fellow MSCs travelled from across Ireland, the UK, and beyond, gathering on the Western Road in Cork to celebrate in the glorious June sunshine on this very special day.

Irish Provincial Leader, Fr Carl Tranter MSC, opened the Jubilee Mass with a warm welcome to all present. Fr Carl was himself celebrating his 25-year Jubilee, and in his opening address, he spoke of God's love, which "empowers, heals, and transforms".

**"We might allow ourselves to be amazed and astonished at what the Lord has been able to do in and through us."  
Fr Carl Tranter MSC**

"As each of us looks back over our lives today in gratitude, as we

remember and recollect with members of our family, friends, and fellow MSCs, we might allow ourselves to be amazed and astonished at what the Lord has been able to do in and through us, often in spite of us!" Fr Carl said.

"We recall being given appointments or responsibilities we felt wholly ill-equipped to undertake; we remember times of great struggle and challenge, even seeming failure; and we delight in the memories of love, success, joy, wonder, gratitude, growth, communion, friendship, and consolation. We recognise each as a gift and a grace. This is what gives us cause to celebrate today. Not anything we have 'achieved'. A couple celebrating 50 years of marriage are not celebrating what they have achieved, but the gift of love which has endured through the years, which has sustained them despite the challenges, and which has borne fruit in so many different ways across the different seasons of their lives. As MSCs, we celebrate that same great gift of love today."

The commemoration of this year's Jubilarians was a joyful celebration of community, fellowship, and thanksgiving, recalling the triumphs and the challenges of the years gone by and looking ahead with faith, hope, and love.

## Congratulations to the Jubilarians!

### Silver Jubilee (25 years)

Fr Con O'Connell MSC  
Fr Carl Tranter MSC  
Fr Terry O'Brien MSC

### Golden Jubilee (50 years)

Fr Patsy Kelly MSC  
Br Donie Hallissey MSC

### Diamond Jubilee (60 years)

Fr Eugene Clarkson MSC  
Fr Eamonn Donohue MSC  
Bishop Emeritus  
Hugh Slattery MSC

# World Meeting of Families 2018



This August, Ireland hosted the World Meeting of Families 2018. After a week of national celebrations, Pope Francis headed the weekend's events on Ireland's first papal visit in almost 40 years. MSC Missions were delighted to attend as part of a truly historic occasion for Ireland and the Catholic Church.

From August 21st to 26th 2018, the Irish nation joined together to celebrate *The Gospel of Family: Joy for the World*, and the weekend's papal visit was the crowning glory on what was a very special occasion.

Pope Francis was an enthusiastic participant, embracing all he met with his customary warmth. Speaking of God's grace, he said: "It is like making tea: it is easy to bring the water to a boil, but a good cup of tea takes time and patience; it needs to brew! So it is that each day Jesus warms us with his love and lets it penetrate our whole being."

The week's events brought families flocking to Dublin from across the globe. "We met families from Indonesia, Paraguay, Taiwan, and Brazil, among others," says Fr Alan Neville MSC, who attended the celebrations throughout the week. "The energy was amazing."

Ireland opened its arms to visitors from all over the world, and Pope Francis noted the importance of unity: "We are gathered for a family celebration of thanksgiving to God for who we are: one family in Christ, spread throughout the world. The Church is the family of God's children."

Speaking to Vatican News, Fr Alan highlighted Ireland's togetherness in our faith. "We are a people of love," he said. "The Irish word for 'church' is 'teach an phobail' – it's 'the house of the people'. The buildings are beautiful, the artwork is incredible, the stained glass windows are stunning – but if we don't have the people, it means nothing at all."

Ireland has been a proud host to Pope Francis and the 2018 World Meeting of Families, and everybody involved has done a tremendous job in making this momentous week one to remember.



# Beekeeping in the Philippines



With the help of the Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, an MSC Beekeeping Livelihood Programme was launched in Antipolo in the Philippines early in 2017.

Since then, the programme has been progressing at a great rate, and Jahms Morga of the MSC Missions Office in the Philippines has recently been in touch to update us on developments in Antipolo.

The MSC Beekeeping Livelihood Programme aims to support the local bee industry, advocating positive environmental awareness and promoting healthy living through a sustainable livelihood scheme. In providing local people with new and useful skills, this programme is opening up avenues of employment for many,

while promoting and developing independent local business.

So far, the programme has conducted basic beekeeping seminars and workshops across five communities – Antipolo, Cavite, Bulacan, Pangasinan, and Quezon Province. More than 50 local people have been introduced to life in the apiary through the programme, and it is already providing the tools for future employment and self-sufficiency in an area where this is much needed.

“We hope to extend the programme to other communities,” says Jahms Morga of the Philippines MSC Missions Office, “in order to further promote sustainable employment while raising awareness of environmental care and protection.”

“We are so grateful to all of the people who supported us in making this programme happen, especially the

Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the MSC Missions Office. These seminars will generate more training programmes, meaning more opportunities for livelihood for local people. We are also encouraging participants to support our future training programmes by giving back a percentage of their profit to the production and harvest of the honeybee. It is our great plan to bring this programme to as many communities as we can.”

Thank you!

“On behalf of all the people who are taking part in the training programmes, we thank you for your generosity and kindness in making all of this possible.

God bless and more power.”

*Jahms Morga  
MSC Missions Office, Philippines*



# MSC Volunteering at Holy Family Centre

Each summer, participants in the MSC Volunteering Programme spend time at the Holy Family Care Centre in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. Roisin, a childcare worker from Kilkenny, and Deidre, a teacher from West Cork, share their stories from Summer 2018.

**“There are hugs galore and the children really do touch your heart.”**

## Roisin’s Story

“Where to start... Well, I’m already considering returning in the future. The people here are so welcoming. You are guaranteed to have a great laugh with the children and staff. There are hugs galore and the children really do touch your heart. They are so happy to have volunteers to play with and teach them new games. I have learnt a lot from the children and working as a team at Holy Family Centre.

The winter camp was great fun. The children loved baking, crafts, and having someone to get out and play with. Time flies, as every day there is a new adventure to be had.

The Holy Family Centre is situated in a stunning rural location, surrounded by the spectacular Drakensburg Mountains. There is a great atmosphere in the local town. The support from Fr Alan and Sr Susan in the MSC Volunteering Programme was fantastic from start to finish. Sr Sally, the director of Holy Family, works tirelessly to keep everything running smoothly and offered endless support throughout our time there.

I would highly recommend the whole experience!”



**“The relationships made and the experiences shared are memories I will cherish for life.”**

## Deidre’s Story

“This experience exceeded all of my expectations. The relationships made and the experiences shared are memories I will cherish for life. The Holy Family Centre team are just that one big happy family, who have been so welcoming and friendly. All of the staff and Sr Sally have been so accommodating and have looked after us and supported us so well.

I really enjoyed working and playing with the children. From baking to knitting, and of course playing soccer, all of these experiences and many more were wonderful. The children loved to include us in all they do. This was very evident during the winter camps, with the children proudly showcasing and displaying all of their skills and flair. When the kids went to school, we helped them with their studies, and they really seemed to appreciate all of the help and support we gave.

I could not recommend this experience enough. From the moment I signed up to volunteer and all the way throughout, the whole process was very well organised and we, the volunteers, were very well supported by Fr Alan and Sr Susan. It was so rewarding, I would do it again without hesitation.”



# Walking the Camino with MSC Vocations



Each year, a group of MSC pilgrims walk the Camino de Santiago. Vocations Director Fr Alan Neville MSC takes us with them on this year's journey.

"It was an intrepid group of pilgrims who set out on the Camino in June. Fifteen relative strangers were bonded together by a desire to walk to a different rhythm of life. We left behind the hustle and bustle of Cork, Dublin, and London for a week on the Way of St James.

It's hard to describe the Camino. It is a somewhat ineffable experience in that those who have walked it, no matter

where they are from, how old they are, or what their faith perspective is, understand what it means. In many ways, it is the perfect antidote to the rat race and its attendant stress that we have come to see as a virtue. Pilgrims here move with a new freedom, where each day they walk to the horizon with the rising sun at their backs, and when they get there they walk on to the next horizon.

We stopped each day for a short reflection point where the Camino crosses a train track, under a motorway. The most challenging aspect of the Way is learning to slow down, and that crossroads is perhaps the best symbol of our need to leave behind the rush

and allow ourselves to walk in a relaxed manner and be attentive to the world around us.

The day we walked the last 20km into the Cathedral of St James was an emotional experience, coupled with a real sense of gratitude. The noon Pilgrim Mass was an opportunity for thanksgiving for where we had come from, and for those we were going home to, hopefully bringing with us a sense of peace and tranquillity.

On the outside of one of the doors of the cathedral, the symbols carved in stone point to the reality that, by arriving in Santiago, your pilgrimage has ended, but now that you head home, your Camino begins in earnest. Buen Camino!"

Please cut here

## Burses to help train our student missionaries

Enclosed is my donation of  towards  Burse

MR / MRS / MISS (Please use block capitals)

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

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

**SEND TO:**  
Fr Michael O'Connell MSC,  
MSC Missions Office,  
PO Box 23, Western Road,  
Cork, T12 WT72, Ireland.

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

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

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

# Thank you from Cameroon

Our 2018 MSC Summer Appeal set out to raise funds for the Sacred Heart College in Cameroon, where teachers and students have been doing their best to manage in extremely difficult circumstances.



During the summer, we asked our mission friends to help us to raise funds for the Sacred Heart College in the village of Lada II, where eager young students have been doing their best to learn despite unfinished surroundings and a lack of facilities. Thanks to your kindness, work has already begun on making the school a safer place for students to learn and grow, with the equipment they need to give them the best possible foundation for the future.

work and study, but they also began working hard at improving their school buildings and facilities, thanks to the generosity of our MSC mission friends here in the Irish Province and beyond.

**Attendance at the Sacred Heart College has increased by 80% from last year, and a new school bus means safer transport for students.**

forward to working together this year to make the Sacred Heart community stronger than ever.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all who donated so generously to make this work possible, and we're wishing the staff and students at the Sacred Heart College a wonderful year ahead!

September marked back-to-school season for students all over the world, and the Sacred Heart College was no exception! This year, not only were the Sacred Heart family preparing for a new term of hard

As the new school year at the Sacred Heart College began in September, attendance had already increased by 80% from last year. A new school bus is in place, making it safer and easier for students to get to school every day. Staff and students are looking



Please cut here

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

€10   
  €20   
  €50   
  €100   
  €250  
 I would prefer to make my own gift of: €

**PAYMENT METHOD**

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

Please debit my:  Visa     MasterCard     Visa Debit     Laser

(Last three boxes for Laser only)

Security Code:

(Last three digits on back of your card)

Signature:  Date:   |   |

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

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Is this gift in memory of someone?  
Name:

**SEND TO:**  
 Fr Michael O'Connell MSC,  
 MSC Missions Office,  
 PO Box 23, Western Road, Cork  
 T12 WT72, Ireland.  
 Charity Regd No. CHY 4783