



In all things to love and to serve
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Irish Jesuit Mission Office Newsletter

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Vision

A just and humane world based on Gospel values and Ignatian Spirituality.

Mission

The Irish Jesuit Missions supports Jesuit works in the service of poor and marginalised people, particularly in Africa and Asia.

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Fr Michael J Kelly SJ and 60 Years in Zambia

Photo: Fr Michael Kelly SJ with Kenneth Kaunda, first President of Zambia

Fr Michael J Kelly SJ is renowned globally for his research, education and advocacy work on HIV and AIDS.

August 22nd will be the 60th anniversary of my first arrival in Zambia in 1955. I was young and inexperienced then, but greatly excited at the prospect of sharing with others my life and whatever expertise I had and thereby communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A spirit of *céad míle fáilte*

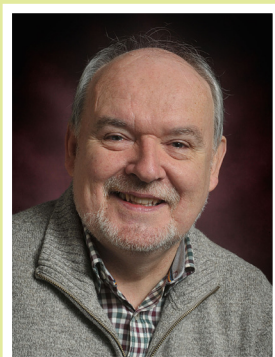
I am now old and somewhat decrepit, but blissfully happy that I can still share myself and the word of God with my Zambian sisters and brothers. I am deeply indebted to them for the sincerity with which they welcomed me into their lives and society. The spirit was always that of *céad míle fáilte*. I felt this

right from the outset, though the feeling was deepened when I became a Zambian citizen in the mid-1960s, a step that I never for a second regretted, though I recall the tears it caused to my mother!

I spent most of my working life in Zambia in education — teaching and administering — at secondary school and university levels. It is a great pleasure today to meet so many who had been “through my hands” at school or university and to see them successful in life, most of them happily married and parents of lovely families, some of them grandparents, and some of them priests or religious.

But there is also the sadness of knowing that many have died, especially that many died from AIDS. Very soon after the world became aware of this terrible

A Word from the Director



Happy St Ignatius Day. The 31st July is a very special day for Jesuits around the world. We celebrate the feast day of Ignatius of Loyola from the Basque Country in Spain, who founded the Society of Jesus. It was approved by Pope Paul III in 1540 and Ignatius was elected leader.

Jesuits have been both appreciated and criticised for their work over the past 475 years. The best known Jesuit of this age is Pope Francis. The impact he has had on the Church, both inside and out, is immeasurable. While he also has critics, his recent *Laudato si'* encyclical on caring for the earth is prophetic and worth reading.

One of the key phrases capturing Ignatian spirituality is: "to love and to serve in all things." In Ignatius' Spanish it reads: "en todo amar y servir." The stories we read in our summer newsletter are of people who are inspired by this spirituality. They include men who gave their lives in loving service to people in other cultures and continents. They in turn rejoice in what they have received from the people they have served.

The spirituality of St Ignatius is not only for Jesuits but for all the people of God. In our offices, schools, parishes and communities, women and men are inspired to serve whether in Dublin, Hong Kong or Lusaka. The Ignatian family is growing and all who support our mission work through prayer and material support are members of this family helping to make our world a kinder place.

I hope your summer is one of rest and relaxation. Although the sun has been intermittent it is wonderful to see the trees and gardens clothed in the majesty of life and colour.

The opening words of Pope Francis' *Laudato si'* announce this beauty:

"Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs."

scourge, I saw that it was a challenge that we would have to do something about through our schools, not only in Zambia but all over the world. This realisation drew me into thinking, teaching, writing and speaking about the give-and-take between AIDS and education, into speaking out on behalf of orphans, and eventually into a wide range of AIDS-related areas.

In my AIDS work I have met and been influenced by many remarkable people infected with the disease. I don't think I could have continued were it not for them, above all the women and the children. I felt driven by their suffering and the way it had undercut their very humanity. But equally I felt driven by their resilience, their spirit, their determination, their courage, and their cheerfulness.

Brigitte Syamalevwe: fearless and powerful

Most uplifting of all was Brigitte Syamalevwe, a highly educated Zambian woman who was diagnosed with HIV in 1992. Instead of staying at home feeling sorry for herself, Brigitte travelled around, speaking fearlessly, feelingly, and powerfully about the epidemic and her situation. She refused to take life-saving anti-retroviral drugs when these were offered to her, saying she would do so only when the poor of Zambia, and particularly the women, could also have access to such treatment. Even at the very end, when I had paid for the drugs that could save her, she told her family not to collect them but to leave her in God's hands. And so, overwhelmed by grief, weariness and illness, she died quietly and peacefully, letting her great spirit soar to the God whom she had loved and served so well.

Brigitte was an Easter witness in the darkness of HIV and AIDS. You just had to be inspired by her. She and people like her show the strength of the human spirit and give real promise that we can make this a better world.

Sixty glorious, happy, fulfilling, satisfying years

Coming back to myself and thinking about my 60 years in Zambia, I wouldn't ask for a minute of them to have been any different for me. They have been 60 glorious, happy, fulfilling, satisfying years and I thank God for every second of them. Of course there were setbacks and difficulties, very especially the grief and anguish of seeing the way AIDS was ravaging the people. But the overwhelming picture is one of joy and gladness and an awareness that God is working all things together for good.

I ask you to join with me in praising and thanking God that it has been so.

A Jesuit's Life Inspired by Remarkable Men

Fr. James Hurley SJ is recently retired and celebrated 70 years in the Society of Jesus in 2014. Across the decades, he has met and befriended remarkable men, been inspired by their dynamism and sense of mission and entered wholeheartedly into civil society concerns and the pursuit of human rights in Hong Kong.

Altar boy turned student activist

James was the youngest child born into a family of two boys and two girls at Ardmore, County Waterford in 1926. As a child he spent a lot of time in church activities and assisting at Mass. James studied in Mount Melleray Abbey from 1939 to 1944 and at the time, it had a thriving farm producing an abundance of food. But when Foot and Mouth disease struck in 1941, the students were not allowed home for the Easter vacation. They organised a protest demanding: “We want a vac!”

And so James, from his youth, was prepared for a life of mobilisation and critical engagement that was to last a lifetime.

He began working with students in a Hong Kong Secondary School in 1962. Two of them wrote an article “From Hope to Despair”, an all-round and penetrating analysis of the College that was not well received by the authorities. Twelve students were subsequently expelled — one of whom was a Buddhist monk — and thus began the student movement in Hong Kong with which James was closely associated.



The bishops, Benensen and Karl Marx

Bishop Perez left a deep impression on James when he announced: “You students are the prophets of the 20th Century!” James was inspired to write a paper on the concept of “prophecy” and intends to expand on his ideas in his retirement.

Wanting to experience life as an ordinary worker, James found a job in a textile factory where he cut cloth endlessly for four mind-numbing months. He prayed daily for social justice and read Karl Marx’ “Communist Manifesto”, sitting on the factory floor. Although he had read it previously, the difference of his understanding from a worker’s perspective was immense.

Peter Benensen, founder of Amnesty International, became a close friend and colleague. James helped establish Amnesty International in Hong Kong as a founder member where it thrives to this day.

“Speak out, speak strongly, criticise while remaining loyal!”, exhorted Bishop Cisco Claver while James was on Sabbatical at the East Asia Pastoral Institute in Manila in 1972. He remembers Cisco as being very casual, playing basketball with the students to win. He was an utterly fearless, exceptionally dynamic man with a sharp intellect and with whom James became very well acquainted.

A life of Jesuit service

James served in four parishes in over 30 years at first in the parish of Christ the Worker for 11 years, being Parish Priest for eight of them. It was a very happy, active period in his life. He began a Faith and Justice group and a Labour group there.

It is usual for a Jesuit to spend five to 10 years in one place before relocating and St. Vincent’s Parish became his next home for over 10 years. It was the happiest period in James’s life. There a basic Christian community and Legion of Mary movement was flourishing. He worked towards collaboration with the Lutheran and Anglican communities and with the Buddhist monks nearby. The Star of the Sea Parish then became his next ministry and having spent over five years there, he returned to the Jesuit Parish of St. Ignatius Church at Wah Yan College where he had been so many years previously.

Now returned to Ireland, James is adapting to Irish life and is looking for an appropriate apostolate to continue his life of Jesuit service.



Remembering with a Smile my Visit to Gulu

Photo: Laura Freyne with students at Ocer Campion Jesuit College in Gulu, Uganda

Last Easter representatives from the five Jesuit schools in Ireland took part in an inaugural formation visit to Ocer Campion Jesuit College, Gulu, Northern Uganda. The primary aim of this program was to build a mutuality between teachers working in different contexts across the Jesuit family.

The sharing and insights that emerged from the time together supported an authentic realisation of spirituality in action. The following is a reflection by Laura Freyne, from Belvedere College, Dublin who participated in the programme.

Brid Dunne, Development Education Coordinator at Irish Jesuit Missions

When someone asks me to describe my time spend in Uganda, I cannot help but smile.

During the Easter break, a delegation of five teachers from each of the Jesuit schools in Ireland, led by Bríd Dunne, were warmly welcomed by the wonderful staff and Jesuit community at Ocer Campion in Gulu. It was a mutually beneficial opportunity to share ideas on Jesuit education and how to best serve students entrusted into our care.

Physics, fine art and drama in Gulu

In the early stages of our visit, we hosted a staff seminar day exploring the Jesuit characteristics in education. This event actively engaged all participants into examining the shared attributes of our sister Jesuit school which led to open and informal discussions that continued throughout the duration of our stay.

I had the pleasure of visiting a variety of lessons

including a physics class and a fine art class where I tried my best to take in everything that was being taught. It was evident to students and teacher alike that physics was never my best subject! I also held a drama class with an enthusiastic and talented bunch of students where we experimented with different forms of process drama and improvisation before they performed an extract from a religious play. I could see my own drama students from Belvedere in the smiles of these students: both groups found humour and parallel delight in the same games.

Easter celebration of song, dance and scripture

One of the highlights for me was Easter Sunday Mass and the student talent show that followed. The ceremony was a vibrant celebration of song, dance and scripture where the entire family of Ocer Campion congregated. The show took place in the afternoon with an array of talent on display from debating to rapping and poetry recitals to traditional tribal dancing.

There was also precious time spent visiting the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Kampala where we met refugees from the Congo and South Sudan who shared their stories with us. It was a deeply moving and enlightening experience. The JRS provides invaluable work in the field of education, emergency assistance, healthcare, livelihood activities and social services.

Building a more just and peaceful Uganda

Another notable visit was to the John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre which is an institution of six Missionary congregations committed to building a more just and peaceful Uganda. They aim to promote peace by enabling people to resolve conflicts through nonviolent

means and promoting justice by empowering people to become active and responsible citizens, knowing and respecting their rights and duties.

A major activity conducted by this centre is the training of secondary school teachers as their direct target group in civic education. The training aims at enhancing teachers' commitment towards students' civic education in secondary schools while also increasing the understanding of civic responsibilities among out of school youth through formal and informal education.

The training of teachers is based on the following themes: peace building, justice, human rights and responsibilities, good governance, leadership and environmental conservation.

Striving for improvement; for *magis*

My return to Belvedere was greeted with many questions from students and staff alike. Not only has this formation visit afforded me the ability to educate the Belvedere community but also it allowed me to witness the great work and devotion of our Ugandan colleagues in striving for *magis* in all they do.

I gained a new appreciation of our international Jesuit ethos and how our actions as educators affect the lives of those in our care.

We have much in common with our friends in Uganda and I will always cherish the time shared with them in Ocer Campion Jesuit College.

A Very Special Place to Work

Rosaleen Kenny is receptionist at the Irish Jesuit Missions in Dublin, Ireland.

When I started working for the Irish Jesuit Missions (IJM) 12 years ago, I thought I would never be able to remember all the different people and the exotic sounding names of the places where they worked.

Communications were usually by email and I would get a friendly note asking me to arrange to send out medication or small domestic items they couldn't get locally. In this way I got to know our missionary men abroad. It was always lovely to welcome them into the Mission office for tea and chat when they came back and to make sure all was arranged for their time home in Ireland.

Being in contact with our missionaries for so long has brought an extra dimension to my life and added to it in a very positive way. While it took a while to get to know some of the men, I found that beneath a serious and sometimes intimidating exterior was someone who was kind, highly intelligent and usually with a great sense of humour. I see at close quarters how willing they are to give their whole lives to others, not in an obvious way but in a gentle, matter of fact way. I have great respect for them because they practice what they preach. They have lived so closely with ordinary people and not in ivory towers. From my observations, missionaries are very much immersed in the real world.

No "agenda" except to be of help to others

When I first came to work at the IJM it was just another job. But I soon found a very different ethos and feeling about the office and in the people I was working with.



Over the years I have been privileged to meet some really wonderful people, those I work with and the missionaries who returned for holidays and sabbaticals.

The work of the IJM has changed over the last few years and has expanded with more focus on projects, communications and volunteers. Many of our men have passed away doing the work they loved or have come back to Ireland to retire.

In a world where bad news abounds and with the media constantly relaying negativity, it is wonderful to be in contact with people of amazing spirituality who have no "agenda" except to be of help and who in turn inspire others to do good. I will always be glad that I found this very special place to work.

Mission News

May they rest in the peace of the Lord

We are greatly saddened by the sudden death of Prof. Fr Finbarr Clancy SJ, formerly of the Milltown Institute of Philosophy and Theology, on 15th July. Fr Finbarr is remembered for his dedicated work as a lecturer at St Patrick's College, Maynooth and in the Loyola Institute at Trinity College Dublin. Staff at the IJM office is grateful for his unfailing support in looking after the Mission box in Milltown Park chapel and welcoming ourselves and friends with such kindness to celebrate the IJM Annual Mass there for deceased missionaries. He took care of the little things with a big heart. God grant him eternal rest.

Fr Clive Dillon Malone SJ travelled to Ireland from Zambia in June following the death of his elder brother, Keith Dillon Malone. May he rest in peace.

A golden jubilee in Zambia

Fr Charlie Searson SJ entered the Society of Jesus Novitiate in Emo Park, County Offaly, Ireland in 1964 and is celebrating a golden jubilee of 50 happy years.

In Ireland this summer

We welcomed Fr Joseph Oduor Afulo SJ, the new Provincial for the Eastern Africa Province to the Irish Jesuit Missions (IJM) in July. He met the Irish Provincial, Fr Tom Leydon SJ and visited Glendalough, County Wicklow.

Fr Tadeusz Swiderski SJ, Province Treasurer for Zambia and Malawi who manages the Development

Office in Zambia, also visited us during the month of July.

From South Sudan for a longer sojourn, is Fr Richard O'Dwyer SJ who works in Rumbek. He is on retreat and enjoying a well-earned rest for a few months.

Excitement grows in Kasungu!

In Kasungu, Malawi, excitement is mounting as the long awaited Jesuit Loyola Secondary School there prepares to throw open its doors to 144 young students and their teachers in September! The young girls and boys will be prepared to be "people with and for others," serving their nation for the future development of faith, justice and peace. Thank you for all your support of this project.

Donations by credit card can now be accepted by phone at: +353 (0)1 836 6509



Thank you for your continued support. Your contributions play a vital role in our missionary work with the poor and marginalised in Africa and Asia.

If you would like to make a donation by cheque, please make it payable to "Irish Jesuit Missions" and post to **Irish Jesuit Missions, 20 Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin 1,**

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