



In all things to love and to serve

Irish Jesuit Mission Office Newsletter

Issue 8 - Winter 2012

News From Zambia - Malawi

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Vision

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

Mission

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

To learn more about our missions or to make a donation, please contact:

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Students from St. Joseph Primary School
Kasungu, Malawi



From the very beginning, St. Ignatius and his companions, and later his followers, were able to

respond to the various needs of the communities they served because of the generous support of many socially minded lay collaborators, who wanted to participate and support the ministries Jesuits got involved in. This has continued throughout the history of the Society of Jesus.

Wherever Jesuits went to start new ministries, many lay people supported their activities.

Zambia – Malawi Province is a testimony to the great generosity of so many people who willingly shared their resources to touch and transform people's lives. As Jesuits of this Province, we are very grateful for the generous support

we have received. Nowadays many Jesuit provinces have created special ministries called 'Province Development Offices' to continue involving lay people and to support our work.

Fr. Emmanuel Mumba, our Provincial, decided to form, for the second time, a new Development Office in the Zambia-Malawi Province. I was given responsibility to coordinate the activities of this office, in addition to being the Treasurer of the Province. I feel very honoured and happy because it will, in different ways, bring me in touch with so many of you who are part of our ministry to build the church here in Zambia-Malawi.

I am filled with joy because Christian faith has taken root here and has produced local lay collaborators in our ministries. It gives me great hope knowing that the Province Development office will continue to

A Word from the Director



Christmas is a time for giving thanks and a time for sharing.

In our newsletter, we have stories of our reasons for gratitude. Fr. Joe Mallin SJ in Hong Kong is our oldest missionary in the field. His life is interwoven with the history of Ireland through the

execution of his father in 1916 and with the history of China and Hong Kong during their turbulent past. His joy, humility and on-going loving service and presence to the people of Hong Kong are an inspiration.

The story of our youngest Jesuit volunteer Elizabeth O' Rourke from Dublin is also amazing. She is working with refugees in the Turkana desert region of Kakuma camp in Northern Kenya with Jesuit Refugee Service. JRS is the outreach of the Jesuits to refugee and displaced people around the world.

The provision of education is one of the greatest services to young people who have been displaced by war. Elizabeth is sharing her skills with the young people of the camp after choosing to move from work with JRS Ireland to JRS Eastern Africa.

It is also a time for giving gratitude for the collaboration, support of our readers and benefactors who in spite of the recession of the past few years continue to think of the missions and the Jesuit works in Africa and Asia. The impact of your support is witnessed from stories in our newsletter where your contributions made such a difference.

It is deeply moving to witness people giving contributions from their scarce resources for those less well off in our mission lands. You are all in our Masses and prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

I wish you and all your family a happy Christmas and blessings for the new year.

Fr. John K. Guiney SJ



work with support from the Irish Mission Office.

Our work in the Province is principally in the areas of:

- Jesuit Schools and Parish Ministry
- HIV/AIDS Ministry
- Hospital and University Chaplaincy
- Formation of our young Jesuits
- Care of our aged and sick Jesuits
- Media and Communications

We are a young Province but we continue to need new vocations. Please join me in prayer that many Zambians and Malawians will become Jesuits and will work with us in our common mission.

Each Jesuit priest says at least one Mass each month for the intentions of all our benefactors so you are always in our prayer.

Tadeusz Swiderski, S.J. is Director of the Province Development Office Zambia – Malawi Province

Recent Visit to Zambia



Fr. Martin Curry from the Irish Mission Office, Fr. Emmanuel Mumba Provincial of Zambia-Malawi and Fr. Tom Layden Provincial of Ireland

On a brief tour of the Zambia-Malawi Province in September, the Irish Provincial, **Fr Tom Layden**, and **Fr Martin Curry** from the **Mission Office** were very impressed by the vibrancy of the Province, which is expanding and reaching out to new frontiers. Education is to the fore. Leopard's Hill Jesuit School, a co-ed boarding school in Lusaka, is now being run by the Province.

The construction of the new Loyola Secondary School in Malawi has begun and will open in autumn 2014. Canisius Secondary in Chikuni is the third second level college run by the Province. A leadership training centre is opening in Kitwe and Loyola Media Productions will shortly move to large new premises in Lusaka. A new spirituality centre is being built in Livingstone and a new residence has also opened in Lusaka.

The Irish Jesuits were all in very good form and the hospitality extended to the visitors was wonderful and deeply appreciated.

Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

‘What difference does my being here make?’



Students work on their assignments in the dedicated computer lab at the Pedro Arrupe Centre
Photo : Katie Allan

It's been eight months since I arrived in Kakuma Refugee Camp. The original plan was for a 3 month work placement with Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) after which I'd return to my job and life in Dublin. But things didn't quite work out that way, and I'm still here!

The Camp, JRS and Me

Kakuma refugee camp is in the semi-arid desert of North West Kenya. It's about 180 km from the Ethiopian border, 95 km away from the Sudanese border and 100 km from the Ugandan border. ‘Kakuma’ in Swahili means ‘nowhere’, and that just about sums it up. It's hot, hot as hell sometimes. Right now there are approximately 96,000 people living in the camp, mostly fleeing violence and problems in Somalia, Sudan and elsewhere. They are kept alive and supported by different agencies, under the overall management of UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency).

JRS provides education and psychosocial support. This includes counselling, services for people with disabilities, scholarships for children, a shelter for women who are in danger of violence, and post secondary education. And that's

where I come in. I teach a 17 week course on Psychosocial Case Management. I've just finished one round and proudly saw 20 students graduate. The other part of my job is supporting a group of students who are taking a Diploma online with a university in the U.S. I act as the contact person on the ground; I liaise with professors in the U.S and coordinate support for the students. It's part of a project called JC-HEM (Jesuit Commons- Higher Education at the Margins), serving refugees at three locations- Kakuma, Malawi and Syria.

Introducing one of our students

A few days ago I was helping Abdiwali with an essay. He is taking a Diploma through Regis University in the U.S. He's a 26 year old Somali man who's been living in the camp for 10 years. The current course he's working on is “Interpersonal Communication” and he wrote his essay on “Mindful Listening and Disclosure”. He allowed me share an excerpt with you: *“The first step in listening is to choose to be in the present moment and to attempt to fully experience what is being said by the other person. This is no small achievement as our minds tend to wander when we are listening. In my experience and observation, mindful listening is a powerful practise that benefits both the person speaking and the person*

listening.” Pretty great. Abdiwali is bright, ambitious and curious; we had a ten minute discussion about the difference between using the English word ‘danger’ versus ‘risk’. He's passionate in his wish to help others and with some of his friends he has set up the Union of Somali Youth to help to educate single mothers and widows.

Why am I here?

There are many challenges living here. It's not an easy place to be. But then there are the very good times. And the moments that effect you so much. Those ‘*wow, people are truly amazing*’ moments. I'm learning so much from people like Abdiwali, my students and the many other people here. About strength, about courage, hope and dignity. And about suffering and the world some people have no choice but to live in. What difference does my being here make? Believe me I ask that question a lot. What do I have to offer someone who has had experiences that would have floored me, but who still have wisdom and strength.

I'm here to accompany, to be with, to bear witness, to stand alongside. The refugees are here because they have to be. I feel being here with them out of choice is a sign of hope. I'm teaching, sharing the gifts that I've received as a person privileged with education. Undoubtedly one

of the most important things is not what I teach them but what I learn from them.

The thing about Kakuma

When you first come to Kakuma what you see is: poverty, abject and immense; misery and desperation. You walk around in the oppressive heat and it's dry, parched, barren and brown. You see the shoeless

children dressed in rags, the mud huts and the hardship, want and sometimes hopelessness. Yes this is true; it's all here. But also there is more. There are amazing people like our students who are gifted and make the trek through the camp each day to educate themselves. There are mothers adoring their children. There are people getting married, caring for their families, doing odd jobs to make money, day

to day life. Courageous people who are strong, resilient and fighting for a better life. The thing is at the same time it is both a sad and a very wonderful place.

Elizabeth O'Rourke is Psychosocial Case Management Track Facilitator with Jesuit Refugee Service in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. She previously worked as Integration Officer with JRS Ireland.

Ocer Campion Jesuit College Receives 20 new computers!

Ocer Campion College in Gulu was the first Jesuit Secondary school in Uganda. Ocer Campion is a mixed Catholic boarding school in an area of Uganda that was devastated by a twenty year war in which tens of thousands of children were abducted and forced to become rebel child soldiers.

The mission of the school is to help fill the gap in quality education in Northern Uganda, especially for those secondary school students with ability but who would not normally qualify to join a good school because of high tuition fees. The first classes began in February 2010 with 35 students and currently the school has 101 students 60 boys and 51 girls. Ugandan private schools are generally boys-only institutions. The presence of a co-educational institution that fosters the intellectual preparation of young women for further studies is quite revolutionary in the context of northern Uganda. The college's goal is to foster a respect for women and provide outstanding role models through retaining female instructors and administrators.

Ocer Campion will strive to have an equal male and female balance

throughout the school both within the student body and the staff.

One of the subjects offered at the school is computer studies but as there were very few computers, much of the classes were just theory. A

request was made to the Mission Office for the assistance of purchasing 20 computers.

The original project goal was to increase knowledge and skill in the use of computers. Another benefit and long term goal was to connect to the internet so that the students and staff would be able to interact with students and staff from other schools, so that there can be more networking and sharing on issues of peace building and recovery.

Since the arrival of the 20 new computers, staff have observed the benefits. Students have been able to use Microsoft Word programme and learn to type and present documents. The students are now able to put into practice what they had been learning in theory. Part of the classes also involves more team work activities. Two volunteers



have been to Ocer this summer and were very helpful in sharing their expertise and giving extra tutoring to students and workshops to members of staff. For those involved, the practical skills will be very helpful to them not only in their studies but throughout their life. All will continue to update their proficiency. Another extra advantage will be an increased capacity to share and transfer knowledge both within the school itself and externally. So this project will not only help the students but will filter out to the wider community and support the country's continued recovery.

We are delighted to acknowledge and thank **Electric Aid, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gardiner Street** and you our readers for the support with this project.

Fr. Joe Mallin SJ - A Life of Service

The last eighty years have seen momentous changes and Fr. Joe Mallin SJ has been a witness to many, during his years of service in China. Clearly a life of service to others was not unknown in his own family - his brother Sean entered the Society a few years before him and his father was **Commandant Michael Mallin**, executed by the British for his part in the Easter Rising of 1916.

Fr. Mallin was only two and a half years old and therefore has no memories of his father but was very moved by an article about him written in 1917 by an American Jesuit. Fr. Mallin remembers his mother as a wise woman, who tried to let them experience as normal a family life as possible. At the time of his execution she had four children and was expecting their fifth. In a final letter to her, her husband wrote "to pray for all the souls who fell in this fight, Irish and English".

Eucharistic Congress 1932

Shortly before he entered the Irish Jesuit Novitiate, in September 1932, Joe was an active participant in the Eucharistic Congress, remembering the huge crowds in Phoenix Park, the relief that the weather held, and the excellent marshaling by General O'Duffy, Garda Commissioner. Joe had been in contact with the Jesuits whilst at St Enda's Rathfarnham and met Fr. Ernest Mackey at Knockbeg College.

China

On the ship out to Hong Kong the Catholic cargo supervisor died and Fr. Joe was asked to conduct the burial service at sea. It was a very moving experience he remembers and the captain was most helpful.



Fr. Mallin arrived in Guangzhou (Canton) in early September 1948. But in May 1949, the Jesuits had to leave the city for Hong Kong due to the advance of the Chinese Communist army.

Hong Kong in the late 1940s was not in good shape due to the Japanese occupation and the Allied bombing but it recovered very quickly.

Fr. Mallin didn't have much time to explore his new home but got to work straight away. He had to take over the top floor of the Paris Foreign Mission Society house which had kindly been handed over to the Jesuits.

Joe had no difficulty adapting to the new life and culture. He pitched in head first into dealing with all kinds of people – architects, builders and suppliers, cooks and cleaners. He supervised several construction or building conversion jobs and had to arrange for the temporary accommodation of many Jesuits expelled from Mainland China after the Communist takeover.

An incident he recalls clearly was when a phone call came one night, very late, from the Queen Mary

Hospital asking for a priest to come to attend a dying patient. He went down to the street and stopped a taxi. The taxi driver got him to the hospital very quickly. When he thanked him, the driver replied "*I am a Muslim, and my father told me that if a Catholic mission priest ever stopped me in the middle of the night to go to a hospital I should drive like the wind because it was very important.*"

Few words, but many loving actions

He had a very varied apostolic life, successfully doing the job of minister in the community, Mission Bursar, Director of a Social Centre, secondary teacher, Headmaster of Pun Yu Primary School in Hong Kong, Principal of Ricci College in Macao, among other things. He was known as a man of few words, but of many loving actions.

National Museum Dublin

Fr. Mallin played the flute, which had belonged to his father. Indeed his father had played it in Liberty Hall in the Workers' Orchestra on the eve of the 1916 Rising. The flute and his father's watch are now in the National Museum in Dublin.

When asked if he regretted anything about leaving Ireland, he said that he would like to have had some more time working as a priest in Ireland. He said that he also missed the rain!

Fr. Joe Mallin has been a Jesuit for over 80 years and will celebrate his 100th birthday next September! He is viewed with almost incredulous amazement for all he does at his age. He is deeply respected by all those who know him.

You can help to promote the work of the Mission Office by passing on your copy of this Newsletter; or we will send out extra copies if you wish.

After the Flood - Tanzania



Gonzaga Primary re-opened its doors after the floods in Mabibo

Torrential rain, unseen for 50 years, resulted in chaotic flooding in Dar-es-Salaam in December 2011.

The Mission Office appealed for help from our readers and had a wonderful response, particularly from the Jesuit schools and Gardiner Street Church and we were able to send €18,489 to help with the necessary rebuilding.

Since then, tons of mud have been removed from the church, offices and school and an intensive clean up has taken place. Repairs were carried out to the electrics and water installation systems. The church and the school have also had repairs carried out and many of the rooms have been repainted. New equipment has been purchased to replace some of the items lost in the flood and new school books and materials have also been

purchased. The municipality has deepened and widened the river and there is now a protection wall and new iron gates to add security and flood protection. The sense of renewal has been helped by the planting of trees and flowers on and around the new river wall and repairs have been carried out on the Grotto of the Virgin Mary. Fr. Vitus the parish priest has sent a message to thank those who supported them in this restoration project. He says *"because of your generous support we could really repair many things and have been able to return to a situation where we can offer almost all of the services that we had before the floods"*.

Gonzaga Primary school, which caters for about 365 students of which 18% are orphans, has recovered very well.

On behalf of the local community and the Jesuits here at the Parish, I would like to thank you very much. Without your great help, all this would not have been possible, because after the flood we had lost almost everything. It is the grace of God and your great help which has enabled us to continue with our work. All people in our parish send you many thanks, especially our children. They can now continue with their education in the kindergarten and school.

May God bless you and be with you always

Fr. Vitus Sedlmair SJ, Parish Priest

Mission News

🕒 **New Presidential Award for Fr. Michael J. Kelly SJ (Zambia):** In September the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Eamon Gilmore, announced details of the first recipients of the new Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad. Among those honoured in the Peace, Reconciliation and Development Award is Fr. Michael J. Kelly SJ for his campaigning struggle against the global epidemic of HIV/AIDS. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in Áras an Uachtaráin on November 15th 2012.

🕒 **Hong Kong recognition:** On 11th December 2011 Fr. Alfred Deignan SJ received the Award of *"Hong Kong Loving Hearts 2011"*, organised by ATV Hong Kong, for his great contributions to education in Hong Kong and in the two Wah Yan Colleges. Speaking at the Presentation Ceremony, Fr. Deignan said *"The key to education is to love and encourage our students and be a role model for them, so that they can learn and develop their characters and values through trials, mistakes and experiences"*.

🕒 **Annual Memorial Mass:** The Annual Memorial Mass for deceased Irish Jesuit Missionaries and Volunteers was held on the 11th of November in Milltown Park, the Homily was given by Fr. Joe Keaney SJ who works in Zambia. Friends and relatives gathered to pray and remember their loved ones.

🕒 **Christmas Cards For Sale:** The Mission Office is offering Christmas Cards for sale in support of the Jesuit Education Basket where all funds are used to support poor students in Schools in Africa. We would be delighted if you could assist this cause by purchasing some of our cards this year.

Pack of 6 cards for €5.



For more information on the above please visit our website www.jesuitmissions.ie or contact us at 01 836 6509 or mission@jesuit.ie