



In all things to love and to serve

Irish Jesuit Mission Office Newsletter

Issue 9 - Spring 2013

At the Frontiers in the Middle East



Aleppo IDP* Camp, Syria

*Internally Displaced Persons

Contents

- At the Frontiers in the Middle East
- A Jesuit's work with HIV and AIDS
- Buy One Brick for Wau
- Irish Jesuits in Hong Kong
- Mission News

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:

Director: John K. Guiney SJ

Jesuit Mission Office,
28 Upper Sherrard St.,
Dublin 1,
Ireland.

Tel: (+ 353-1) 8366509
Email: mission@jesuit.ie
www.jesuitmissions.ie

**Republic of Ireland CHY 4854
NI Trust Number XR302213**



Fr. Gerard Clarke is an Irish Jesuit missioned as a member of the JRS rapid response team

based at the International Office in Rome. There are three team members: Francesca, the team leader is based in Rome, Ernesto is currently in West Africa and Gerry is in the Middle East and North Africa Region. These are short deployments of about 6 months designed to help out JRS teams where they are facing specially difficult situations.

It is just six weeks since I started work in Beirut, Lebanon, and these last few weeks have been spent planning for 2013. The data is being gathered to make sure the plans match the needs and the needs find funding. As proposals from JRS teams arrive in our email inboxes the growing staff at our Regional Office burrow their heads in Excel

files, comparing and cross-checking figures with "outputs", and matching "outcomes" with "indicators": all the jargon of a humanitarian organisation scaling up its operations in the Middle East and North Africa Region. Based temporarily on the third floor of the Jesuit Residence in Beirut, our team of three (a communications officer, finance officer and human resources officer) are settling in for the long haul. And while we know that the frontline work is where the pastoral skills of JRS really count, it is also clear that our teams still need the back up of administrators at the Regional Office.

And the needs are not decreasing. In fact an alarming increase of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria has been noticed in neighbouring countries Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan. The total number of Syrian refugees registered by the UN is 525,465 and rising and the UN now estimates that 3 million Syrians are now "food-

A Word from the Director



Easter is a time for new life and new beginnings and the Resurrected Christ offers us this new life to the full. At the beginning of a new Papacy we pray for our Church so that it may be ever more a sign and instrument of new life, healing and reconciliation in our

world and for all the people who suffer grievously on this planet.

We recognize that the people of Syria are going through horrible suffering with almost 70,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands displaced. We are happy to have an Irish Jesuit, Fr. Gerry Clarke working with Jesuit Refugee Service in the Middle East. Gerry and the other JRS team members are working to accompany the internally displaced in Syria and the refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. They serve them in their needs and advocate their cause for a durable and just peace.

We also remember the Irish Jesuit missionaries in Hong Kong who are advancing in years and whose life stories are an inspiration to all and especially to the people of Hong Kong. Fr. Ciaran Kane SJ passed away in February 2013 in Hong Kong after 54 years of service to the Church. He described his work as an *"apostolate of joy"* amongst the people of China.

We remember also the Church in Zambia and Malawi where Irish Jesuits have been serving for the past 60 years. Fr. Michael J. Kelly's distinguished contribution to the problem of AIDS in Africa has been recognized by our country in the past year and the great Jesuit project of promoting education amongst the most needy continues in Malawi with the building of a new secondary school.

All this great work continues through the support of our mission friends and families. Your prayers and generosity amidst the recession in Ireland inspires us. We continue with your help to bring new life to places where life is so difficult for our brothers and sisters in Africa and in the East.

I wish you every blessing and joy for Easter and let us be united in prayer for one another.

Fr. John K. Guiney SJ

insecure" people, all of which makes for a pretty grim prospect. For a given family it may begin with the loss of regular safe water supply or intolerable cuts in electricity; and this isn't even to speak of the bombardment that switches unpredictably around the principal cities of Syria such as Aleppo, Homs and Damascus. The UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights has stated that the overall death toll has reached more than 70,000 people since the onset of the crisis in March 2011. UNICEF has begun an operation to ship 1 million litres of chlorine to provide safe water for more than 10 million people (half the total population of Syria!). And the Jesuits are also mobilised to help.

Our contribution has traditionally been in the field of education but this time JRS is focussing first of all on the distribution of "Food baskets" and non-food items such as blankets, stoves, hygiene kits and other items that may be needed. Education will follow and a programme is in preparation for the children of remote towns where refugees are not being served by other agencies. The plan is to prepare Syrian refugee children for integration into the Lebanese system; and for that they need a knowledge of French, English and Maths. In Turkey and Jordan too JRS teams are scaling up their support of Syrian refugee families.

What strikes me most about these refugees is their sadness at leaving a country which they love and where they have left many loved ones. Perhaps the bombardment crept just a bit too close for comfort or perhaps members of their community are being targeted for kidnappings. A UNICEF report put it poignantly when quoting a refugee recently arrived: "We came here but left our hearts in Syria with all our relatives and loved ones." And while it may be absolutely imperative to get out, Syrians who have stayed are trying to pull a new society out of the ruins of their country. Our communications officer here in Beirut has produced a short video which has captured the hearts of thousands of people who have stayed behind and since its posting on Youtube has registered thousands of hits and plenty of moving comments. I like to think that while capturing hearts it also captures the spirit of the Jesuit Refugee Service.

Visit www.jesuitmissions.ie for videos and more stories from Syria.

If you would like to make a donation please send cheque or postal order to Jesuit Mission Office, 28 Upper Sherrard Street, Dublin 1.

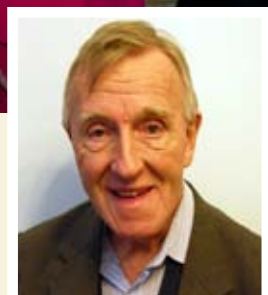
Fr. Gerry Clarke SJ belongs to the JRS Rapid Response Team whose work is to respond to emergency situations.



A Jesuit's Work with HIV and AIDS

Fr. Michael J Kelly's contribution recognized

Photos courtesy of Maxwell Photography



Michael J. Kelly, S.J., was one of the first ten recipients of the new

Presidential Distinguished Service Awards at Áras an Uachtaráin on 15th November 2012.

President Michael D. Higgins said the new Award allowed the State to formally honour exceptional individuals and to recognise the "sacrifice, support and commitment to Ireland of the wider Irish diaspora in all its diversity".

Fr Michael J. Kelly writes below about his campaigning struggle against the global epidemic of HIV/ Aids :

When AIDS exploded on the world in the 1980s, I was lecturing in education at the University of Zambia. It soon became obvious to me that I would have to take account of this new disease in my teaching, research and priestly work.

Deaths and funerals were becoming the order of the day. Across the country people were dying in large numbers, most of them parents with young families, leaving behind them children to be reared and educated by communities which were being overwhelmed by the great number of orphans. Teachers and education administrators were also falling sick and dying in large numbers.

I quickly saw that the courses I was teaching had to say something about this totally new situation.

They had to speak about adjusting to the potential loss of teachers, about the great numbers of orphans that would be coming into the schools, about teaching children traumatised by the loss to a dehumanising sickness of greatly loved family members, about communities shattered and bewildered and impoverished by the sickness and deaths of their most productive members.

But the courses also had to suggest how the very process of education could help check the disease and what could be done to protect the education system itself against the disease's destructive impacts. From then on, my work was guided by what I termed education's "minimax" response to the pandemic: minimise the potential of HIV and AIDS to harm the education sector, maximise the potential of the education sector to control the disease and reduce its harmful effects.

This was a new approach at the time, so new that the University of Zambia has the distinction of being one of the first universities in the world to take account of HIV and AIDS in its teaching programmes. Increasingly, I began to study, write and give presentations about AIDS and education. It was not long until we began to speak about the potential of education to provide a "social vaccine" against the disease, an approach that UNAIDS, the highest world authority on the disease, still strongly advocates.

Gradually I found myself being drawn more and more into national and international discussions on the two-way interaction between AIDS and education, into advocacy and awareness-raising in regard to orphans, and eventually into a wide spectrum of AIDS-related areas, almost all of them with strong social justice implications – stigma, poverty, the subordinate status of women, human rights, the marginalisation of whole categories of people, unfair north-south trade and other practices, food security, environmental protection, global failure to deal honestly with several AIDS-related issues.

The outcome was a greatly extended engagement on my part with the pandemic and extensive commitments to activities across the world on its educational and other implications. As the demands became greater, it eventually became necessary for me to retire from the University of Zambia so that I could dedicate myself more wholeheartedly to the work of confronting HIV and AIDS nationally and globally. And it is to this work that I remain committed. AIDS is not yet over. People are still dying. AIDS continues to consume them. It also consumes me, not in body but in spirit, and challenges me with the great Jesuit questions: "What have I done for Christ who is suffering with HIV and AIDS? What more should I be doing so that there is less AIDS and more chance that people can live with greater human dignity in a world that comes closer to being the

happy world God had planned it to be?"

In many ways the answers are simple. There is need for more honesty in dealing with central AIDS issues. There is need to avoid complacency and recognise how far the world is from seeing an end to the pandemic. There is need for an uncompromising stand on making social justice a reality for every child,

woman and man. There is need for more resources for those affected by the pandemic and for research that will lead to its control.

To the extent that I can respond to any of these needs I must do so. The miracle of those living with HIV or AIDS demands this of me. For as long as one person remains with HIV or the disease deprives one child of a parent, I cannot stop. Until God

calls me, or AIDS ends, I simply must keep going.

Fr. Michael J. Kelly is an Irish Jesuit Catholic priest and educator. Having lived and worked in Zambia for over fifty years, he is an internationally-renowned expert on AIDS and education.

Help Us Build A Chapel Buy One Brick!

An appeal has been launched by the Irish Jesuit Mission Office to build a chapel for Loyola Jesuit Secondary School in Wau.

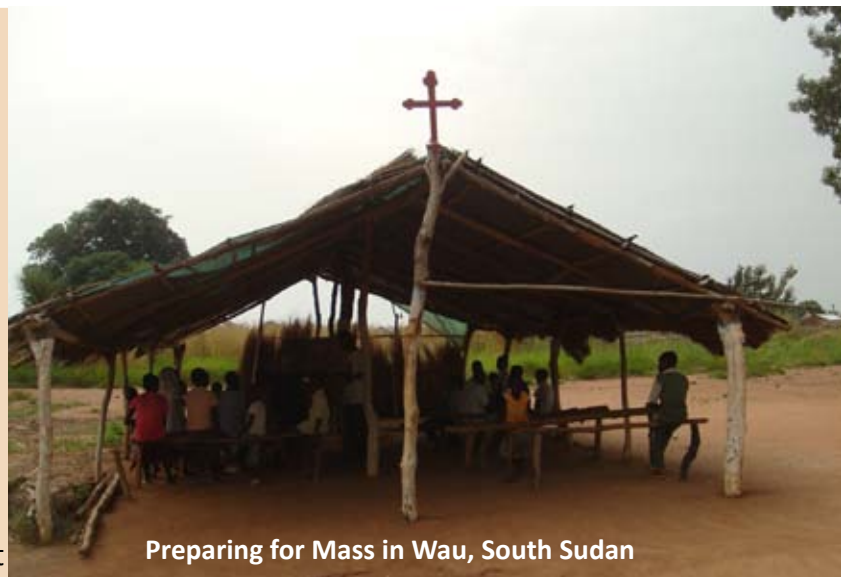
The region has been badly affected by decades of war, which affected its economy, infrastructure and education. In 1982, the Jesuits in East Africa began establishing a school, Loyola Secondary School, with a first intake of 50 students.

However, more war and turmoil in South Sudan meant that the secondary school had to close again in 1987. The army took over the school building. Classrooms became interrogation rooms and prisoners were tortured and killed. Many young boys were forced into becoming child soldiers.

During this Second Sudanese War, roughly 2 million people died as a result of war, famine and disease. Four million people in Southern Sudan have been displaced, at least once. The civilian death toll is one of the highest of any war since World War II. The conflict ended with the signing of a Peace Agreement in 2005. The school could now re-open in September 2006.

New beginnings

Today, the school is a mixed day school of 500 students. Many of the students are ex-soldiers or returnees from refugee camps – all determined to seek a better future through education. There are 6 classrooms and work has started on 8 more, with science labs, computer room and library. However, what the school lacks is a chapel. At the moment, school Mass is said in a classroom or tented area. A new chapel would enable the whole school to come together and act as a focus of worship for the wider community.



Preparing for Mass in Wau, South Sudan

This new school chapel would cost in the region of €175,000.

How you can help

The 'Buy a Brick' campaign was launched in February and will continue throughout the year. Your generous support will begin the task of funding that chapel for our brothers and sisters in Wau.



You can help by bringing a collection box to your home, work or Parish and invite your family and friends to contribute to this cause.

Every time you pop €1 in the box you are contributing 1 Brick towards building that Chapel

Collection boxes for your own use can be obtained from the Mission Office, please call us on 01 8366509 or email mission@jesuit.ie

Stories of Irish Jesuits in Hong Kong

In the autumn of 2012, Minister Jimmy Deenihan of The Department of Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht contracted Maurice O’Keeffe of “Irish Life and Lore”, to create an oral history collection, recording the sons and daughters of those who played a central role in events leading up to the Easter Rising in 1916. One of those on the list for interview was Father Joseph Mallin SJ, a Jesuit priest in Hong Kong, whose story was printed in our last Newsletter.

Maurice O’Keeffe writes: Father Joseph is the son of Michael Mallin, who was executed in Kilmainham

Jail for his part in the Rising. I travelled to Hong Kong to record Father Joseph, now in his hundredth year, having first made contact there with Father Freddie Deignan. I found Father Joseph to be a fascinating interviewee; I recorded not only the stories and memories of the time surrounding his father’s death, but also his Jesuit life experiences as a missionary in the region since 1948.

It was fortuitous for me to be there, as I discovered that the eight Jesuits who now remain in Hong Kong each had most interesting testimonies of their many years of service in the region. In interviewing each of these gentlemen, I found myself immersed in the extraordinary experiences of their lives as missionaries, and now provide a brief overview of the eight interviews which I conducted.

Father Joseph Mallin recalls his assignment to Canton in 1948, discusses the trials of everyday life in the aftermath of war, the challenges for Jesuit priests living under Chinese rule, and the difficulty of arranging the transfer of the Jesuit community to Hong Kong.

Father Freddie Deignan discusses his

assignment to Hong Kong in 1953, his initial impressions of the people and the challenge of living as a minority religion. He recalls many Jesuits who ministered in Hong Kong through the years.



The late Fr. Ciaran Kane SJ with friends in Hong Kong

“My work is the work of sharing joy” Fr. Ciaran Kane

Father John Russell’s first assignment to Hong Kong was in 1951; he talks of witnessing the Cultural Revolution in Hong Kong and the clashes that ensued, and the story of Irish Jesuits in Hong Kong over the last century.

Father Seán Ó Cearbhalláin arrived in Hong Kong in 1964; he recalls his involvement with the Christian Life Community and the preparations for the World CLC conference, which was held in Hong Kong for the first time. Subsequently the CLC undertook the responsibility of managing a school in Hong Kong.

Father Harold Naylor was assigned to Hong Kong in 1960; he has played a major role in environmental issues in the city, and recently received an award for 45 years as an English teacher.

Father Seán Coghlan’s assignment to Hong Kong began in 1959; he spoke of the many Jesuit priests who devoted their lives to the service of the Chinese people in Hong Kong; their legacy, he believes, was to empower freedom of thought and action in their students.

The late Father Ciarán Kane’s first assignment to Hong Kong was in 1958;

he became at once interested in media communications and spent 27 years as a broadcaster, in the turbulent time of the student movement and political unrest. By 1968, the great purge that was the Cultural Revolution was coming to an end in mainland China. By contrast in Hong Kong, religious goodwill appeared to flourish and Ciarán was elected chairman of the Religious Broadcasting and TV Advisory Committee. A keen exponent of varied music as well as hymns in his programmes, his 1000th broadcast was at Easter 1979 and followed a series of 11 programmes on English Cathedrals and

church music, which was entitled “Sounds in Stone”. He arranged and produced debates for television on important issues of the day.

Fr Ciarán Kane died on 5th February 2013 after a long illness. A Memorial Mass was held at Milltown Park on Saturday 23rd March.

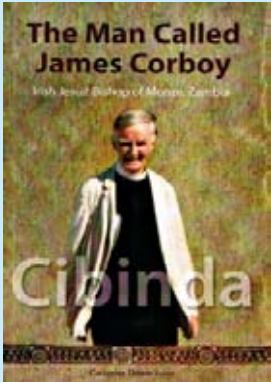
Fr. Tom McIntyre was indisposed during the time of the interviews.

Throughout each interview I was astounded by the dedication and devotion the Jesuits displayed, as well as their profound understanding of the Chinese people. They applied their expertise as educators and achieved major advances in education of the Chinese population in the region, seamlessly handing over this responsibility when the time came. Their continued dedication is manifest - each interviewee asserting his wish to spend the remainder of his days among the people of Hong Kong.

Copies of these interviews are available on CD from the Mission Office, please call us on 01 8366509 or email mission@jesuit.ie

Mission News

● **The Life and Work of James Corboy SJ**, Bishop of Monze, Zambia was celebrated with the launch of his biography by Sr Catherine Dunne at Milltown Park on Thursday 24 January. Over 60 people attended the launch, including members of Bishop Corboy's own family, who had the opportunity to meet many of



those who had known him in Zambia.

The Provincial said, reading the book he was struck by the impact Vatican II made on James Corboy and how its vision of the Church permeated his leadership and his sense of purpose. He also referred to the Tonga name of "Cibinda" given to James Corboy, meaning a wholesome person who knows

where he is going. Copies of the book "The man called James Corboy", are available from the Mission Office.

● **Volunteer to Cambodia.** Best wishes to Jo Smith who is going to work as a volunteer for a short period in

Cambodia with the Jesuit Service. She will work with the art and disability project at Banteay Prieb - the famous centre for landmine victims. We wish her well.

● **Kasungu, Malawi.** Despite heavy rains falling in January, construction continues apace on the site of Loyola Jesuit Secondary School, Kasungu, Malawi. There is no heavy construction machinery; instead, 150 workers from the immediate neighbourhood are hard at work getting the job done, thereby providing much-needed employment especially among the less-developed area of Juma village, beside the site. For the local people of Kasungu there is a dual motivation : the blessing of employment, and the desire to see LJSS finally rise into the school they have been dreaming of for their children and their grandchildren.

● **Chitonga Dictionary.** We congratulate Fr. Frank Wafer SJ for his publication of the Chitonga-English Dictionary. This is a great achievement and we are sure it will contribute greatly to the preservation and development of the culture and language of the Tonga people.



**Educate One Child
Change Their Future**



Easter Appeal 2013

Please help us to continue supporting our missions abroad. Every donation will make a real difference to the lives of the people in the developing world.

Please make cheques payable to: Irish Jesuit Missions
and post to Irish Jesuit Missions, 28 Upper Sherrard Street,
Dublin 1, Tel. 01 8366509

For donations online log on to: www.jesuitmissions.ie

Your Name:

Address:

Contact number: Email :

My choice to this donation is: (Please tick preferred box)

Education Syria Emergency Chapel for Wau Area of greatest need

Are you eligible for PAYE Tax Relief for donations? Yes No

Thank you for your generous support!