



Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Please read this special message from Missio's National Director Fr Anthony Chantry

Dear

The present COVID-19 crisis has turned the world upside down. It has brought pain and misery and created fear and anxiety for millions of people. It is, therefore, encouraging to see people finding ways to care for their neighbours and those most vulnerable in their local communities. Self-sacrifice and generosity of heart prevail!

Alongside all of our efforts here to combat this disease, I am acutely aware of the plight of our brothers and sisters in countries without the means to respond effectively to this crisis. As well as messages of prayers from you, our faithful supporters, I am receiving messages from missionaries overseas sharing their prayers and concern for us.

Sister Mary from Pirimiti Hospital in Malawi has written to say: *'Thanks so much for your concern. We are in darkness. There is no testing being done and the situation has started biting us economically. I am so worried because up to now, there are no preparations for this pandemic. Our health system in Malawi, and Africa at large, is so weak. Only God will help us out.'*

The need to help churches has never been so urgent and necessary. In many areas of the world, it will be the Church that will respond, as best it can, to the medical and pastoral needs of the people who are now suffering. At Missio we try to express and build solidarity through prayer and action. Prayer focuses our hearts and minds on God's compassion for suffering humanity. Action calls each of us to give what we can to make a difference.

The Holy Father has established an emergency fund to come to the aid of those people and communities who are being tragically impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. He has asked each one of us to contribute what we can to help the Church overseas, through Missio.

Any gift that you can give at this time will help our missionaries reach out to the most vulnerable people and offer them spiritual and practical support; and any prayer you offer for them will surely be heard.

Our partners, the Mill Hill Missionaries, are working in Coronavirus hotspots across the world. They are on the front line of giving pastoral, spiritual and material support to those in greatest need.

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**Lockdown in a sprawling slum with no sanitation, no running water
and no money must be close to hell on Earth.**

Father Michael, a Mill Hill Missionary in Malaysia tells us: *'Due to the lockdown, many poor people have lost their jobs because they are paid on a daily basis. They need our help for the daily sustenance of their families. Also very important is the work of encouraging them in their faith, praying with them and bringing them the hope that only God can give.'*

Thank you for your support in the past, it is already enabling the Church to respond. In Guinea and Chile, churches and convents that you have helped to build are opening their doors to shelter the vulnerable and care for the sick. In Peru, the Catholic community is preparing food packages, which are being delivered by parish priests to homes of families living in extreme poverty.

I know that as a sponsor of future priests, you will stand alongside our missionaries in prayer and solidarity. If you can, please contribute what you can to our special appeal to help the Church overseas respond to this global crisis.

Pope Francis has reminded us that *'we are in the same boat, all of us fragile and disorientated, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together'*. I hope that when the storm has passed, humanity will seize the opportunity to find new ways of living together in harmony with each other and Creation.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. I am celebrating Mass every day at 12 noon in our Missio Chapel. Please join me, and our sisters and brothers throughout the world, in a special daily prayer which I enclose with this letter.

If anyone you know would appreciate being held in prayer at Mass, please return the enclosed form or email me at director@missio.org.uk or call us on 020 7821 9755.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals to us that goodness always triumphs over evil, hope over despair, and life over death. The Risen Jesus lives on among us to heal, transform and redeem us.

I wish you and your loved ones every blessing,

Father Tony.

Fr Anthony Chantry
Missio National Director



Please visit missio.org.uk and join us on social media:



PS. Our website is fully operational and will be updated regularly with news, prayers and reflections. On our children's site you can also find lots of inspiring and educational resources for children to use at home or at school: missiontogether.org.uk

PPS. If you have already sent us a gift, thank you, and we apologise if our communication has crossed in the post.

