



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. COLUMBAN

# ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022



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Cover page: Fr. Tomas King with parishioners (Pakistan)

This page: Fr. Gabriel Rojas (centre) and Fr. Nilton Iman (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) with participants of the organic gardens workshop (Peru)

# Our Mission Statement

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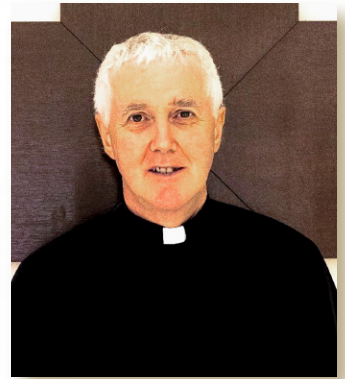
The Missionary Society of St. Columban is sent by the Church to proclaim and witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. We cross boundaries of country, language and culture, living in close relationship with the poor while fostering care for our common home the earth. We are called to:

- To establish the Church among peoples to whom the Gospel has not been preached;
- To accompany local churches as they mature until they are able to evangelize their own and other people;
- To promote dialogue between Christians and those of other religious traditions;
- To facilitate exchange between local churches especially those from which we come and those to which we are sent;
- To foster in local churches an awareness of their missionary responsibility, particularly in the areas of justice, peace and care for creation.

We strive to build collaborative relationships with our supporters in order to nurture their faith while encouraging them to provide spiritual and financial support for our missionary endeavours.



Columban missionaries in discussion with leaders and members of the Higaonon tribe. (Philippines)



## Letter from the Society Leader

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As I reviewed the materials for the 2022 Annual Report of the Columban Missionaries, the image from the Gospel that sprang to mind was that of a mustard seed, which Jesus compared to the reign of God. Even though it is the smallest of all seeds, it grows mysteriously into a very large plant and welcomes birds that wish to make nests in its branches.

Thank you for helping Columban missionaries to sow and water, to tend and care for parishes, programmes and projects across our world. While many of them started out like tiny mustard seeds, with God's grace and guidance they have continued to flourish.

Thank you for your support of Columban Missionaries as we continue to care for God's Great Garden. Please be assured that you and your loved ones are remembered in our daily Masses and prayers. May God continue to bless and reward you.

*Rev. Jim Mulroy, S.C.*

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/x3RWZ-0Sjnc>

# Our Missionary Way of Life

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As missionary disciples of Jesus, we are called to build bridges and foster mutual understanding through encounters with people of other cultures and religious traditions, as well as to promote healing, reconciliation and peace. Moreover, our commitment to live in solidarity with people on the margins of our world, and to care for the earth, our common home, are ways in which we participate in God's mission. Our proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus leads us into a deeper awareness of God's presence and action throughout our world, which leads us into a deeper communion with the Trinity.

- EVANGELIZATION AND EDUCATION
- SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOR
- INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE
- JUSTICE AND PEACE
- CARE FOR THE EARTH



Parishioners with Fr. Pat Visanti during Holy Week. (Pakistan)

# Where We Work

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Cono Norte Lima, Peru  
where Columbans serve  
in a parish community.

"BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT  
HAS COME UPON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM  
AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH"

ACTS 1:8

# AUSTRALIA

This year we are commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Columban Art Calendar. This calendar has found a home amongst many families throughout Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. We thank our Columban supporters for purchasing our Calendar every year to help raise funds for Columban Mission. Through their generosity we have been able to support Columban projects overseas, such as those providing a place of shelter for migrant workers and victims of people-traffickers, education for children from impoverished homes and healthcare for the poor and those living on the margins of society.

During the year we also continued to broaden our mission education and fundraising efforts through the use of social media. We launched our first on-line Columban Daily Prayer Book and reflections of our Columban Calendar Artwork. New articles appear daily on our Columban website and Facebook page, sharing the stories of Columban missionaries as they stand WITH the poor and AGAINST environmental destruction.

Jesus commanded His disciples to spread the Word of God. These efforts show how Columbans are seeking to do this using the latest tools of the “Digital Age”.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- The Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations and partners launched a women’s interfaith group, continued to promote its newsletter on “building bridges between believers from different religions” and supported the Diocese of Parramatta in establishing a Diocesan Interfaith Commission.

- The Columban Peace, Ecology and Justice Office gave courses to clergy and parishes on Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’* and provided resources for celebrating the Season of Creation.

- We have reviewed our safeguarding policies, and all Columban priests and co-workers participate in annual safeguarding training for the protection of minors and vulnerable adults

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/LvnpwC4mMVC>

Rev. Pravrajika Gayatriprana, President of the Ramakrishna Sarada Vedanta Society of NSW and Columban Rev. Dr. Patrick McInerney

# BRITAIN

In November, we were in Glasgow for the UN climate change conference, COP26. As a Catholic missionary society that "listens to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor", it gave us the opportunity to share voices and stories from around the world.

Working with others, we led "24 Hours for the Climate", a vigil of prayer, climate stories and advocacy, broadcast live from Glasgow. By far the most important voices shared were of those living on the front line of the climate crisis, including, for example, elderly people in a Filipino slum community, young adults in Myanmar and children in Peru.

The vigil was planned so that it finished with our group of young adults processing out of the church to join 120,000 others on a campaign march, bringing with us symbolically all that we had heard and broadcast and secure in the knowledge that Jesus was marching with us.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- **2,920** bed-nights offered by Fatima House, a partnership ministry managed by the Columbans, to destitute women in Birmingham seeking asylum in the UK. £8,500 (USD \$10,100) of vital cash support provided to the residents.
- **9,450** hours volunteered by the Interreligious Dialogue and Intercultural ministries team to promote community cohesion and life-giving relationships among peoples of diverse cultures and faiths
- **£60,000** raised from 108 parish communities visited in the dioceses of Southwark, Shrewsbury, Brentwood and Liverpool



Columbans and a *Faith in Action* volunteer (4<sup>th</sup> from left) with members of a local Muslim community during Ramadan

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OW7CtCl7dA8>



# CHILE

In the Old Testament, God was always urging the People of Israel to show hospitality to migrants, because they had once been migrants in Egypt.

We Columban Missionaries in Chile have been eye-witnesses to the more than one and a half million migrants who have flooded into the country over the last few years. Many immigrants came because of Chile's reputation for economic growth and stability, but then found themselves caught in civil unrest and the pandemic. We have reached out to hundreds of homeless migrants, offering shelter, legal advice, access to employment and health care opportunities as well as pastoral care.

The great majority of migrants with whom Columbans currently work are desperate Venezuelan families, who are all undocumented. According to a recent law, these hundreds of thousands of people will never receive legal status in Chile. Sadly, doors are closing in Chile to these migrants, leaving them with little hope. We try to support them in our Migrant Houses of Hospitality and other programmes.

Fr. Michael Hoban (left), Columban seminarians and a sister visiting a parishioner at a Columban parish in Alto Hospicio.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

In Chile we are living through massive social changes. For example, rapid secularization; the country has gone from being 73% Catholic a decade ago to 45% today.

We are offering seminars in our parishes on the proposed new national Constitution, as it is important that our parishioners can make an informed decision when they come to vote on it.

In coordination with the Local Church, we are participating in Diocesan Assemblies on the theme of Synodality, in preparation for the 2023 Synod in Rome.

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/ZGPLex3EHcw>



## CHINA

Nineteen participants of the 2022 ecology workshop in Beijing with workshop hosts Sr. Mary Niu and Columban Fr. Dan Troy.

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/hqdZFlaq5SU>

In 2015 Pope Francis wrote the encyclical “Laudato Si”. Columbans in China are responding to its publication by facilitating ecology workshops. The workshops deepen participants’ appreciation of the natural world, the universe and our Creator God. Since 2015 five workshops have been hosted. Workshops involve lectures about the universe and the natural world. Participants also use hand lenses and microscopes to look at the beauty of small flowers, since the internal structure of flowers often reveals an awesome world of other dimensions where tiny insects live. In response to section 84 of “Laudato Si”, participants revisit their place of birth by using art to express the natural beauty of that place. A workshop was held in March 2022 at the National Seminary in Beijing. Nineteen religious sisters from various congregations took part. Some sisters have already begun using workshop insights in their own diocesan formation courses for young people.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

- The participants of the October 2018 ecology workshop in Xian were leadership team members from eighteen congregations of religious sisters.
- Columbans in China maintain regular contact with 20 Chinese priests, sisters and lay people who have studied overseas under Columban sponsorship since 1994.
- Columbans are the co-sponsors of a three-year course in spiritual direction at the National Seminary in Beijing for 28 Chinese priests, sisters and lay people.



# FIJI

Columbans celebrating Laudato Si' Week, May 2021

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/rSRy26uPOpE>

This was a year of two halves! At first we were still in lockdown, a time of isolation and loneliness. Many of our people lost their jobs, as Fiji depends on the tourist industry, which had collapsed. Our priests, students, lay missionaries and co-workers had to find creative ways to reach out to those in need. They did so by using social media and mobile phones and by distributing food parcels to those in need.

In September, we were able to return to the pursuit of our missionary goals, for example, with celebrations for the Season of Creation, something which is taken very seriously in Fiji.

At year's end, our Regional Director, Fr. Trevor Trotter, asked us, "What did you get from Santa Claus?" Well, for 70 years we have depended on Santa Claus (through the donations and prayers of Columban supporters) to keep our missionary efforts going here in Fiji. "Santa Claus" is actually Saint Nicholas, who represented the love of Jesus. So do you. Thank you.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- Five inter-religious events were organized for the various faith groups that exist in and around the capital city of Suva.
- We have eight seminarians studying to be Columban priests, two newly ordained priests recently appointed to Peru and the Philippines, and six young women serving abroad as Columban Lay Missionaries.
- This year we celebrated 70 years of Columban mission in Fiji, Fr. J.J. Ryan celebrated 60 years of priesthood and Fr. John McEvoy celebrated 50 years.

# IRELAND

The Columban Centre in the heart of Dublin has established itself as a welcoming space for refugees and migrants, and for those working together on building up links among the various new communities of people with different religious traditions in the city. (We recall how Jesus, Mary and Joseph were also refugees when they fled to Egypt.) Our English language classes provide immediate and flexible support for newly arrived refugees, many of whom are accommodated close by, and our location on the street makes us very accessible.

We work closely with the Dublin Interfaith Forum in bringing members of seven different world religions to work together on common issues, learn more about each other and join publicly in prayer and give witness to our shared values. We are part of - and contribute to - local community networks as well as supporting the work of advocacy groups such as the Migrants Rights Centre, Financial Justice Ireland and The Future We Need.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

The membership of the Region of Ireland is currently just over 100 priests, two lay missionaries and two co-workers. Most of the priests are retired or semi-retired, but this doesn't mean that their enthusiasm for mission has waned.

Over the past year a number of our men have published books: "Robots, Ethics and the Future of Jobs" (Fr. Sean McDonagh), "Acts of the Apostles" (Fr. Tom O'Reilly), "Voices from the Desert" (Fr. Hugh MacMahon), "A Little Less than Angels" (Fr. Maurice Hogan) and "Resurrection Gifts" (Fr. Malachy Hanratty).

The Columban House in Maynooth is a centre for students from Asia, both lay and clerical, who live here while studying English and theology at the nearby Divine Word Language School and Maynooth College.

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/G75aED6Y208>

A walk through the Dalgan Woodlands led by former Co Worker, Gerard Clarke. (L-R): Fr. Gerry Murphy, Fr. Conal O'Connell, Fr. Sean Dwan and Ger Clarke. It was a local community activity to celebrate our cultural heritage and the Columbans' programme of events to Care for the Earth.

# JAPAN

Christmas Eve Mass is of course a special time for us Catholics, but also for many non-Christians in Japan. People who live near the church or maybe have been to a Catholic school like to join the Christmas services to hear the carols and to give thanks to God. Usually some non-Christians also attend for the first time, attracted by the candlelight and the nativity scene, but wanting also to know more about Jesus. When adult candidates for baptism were asked what was the first Mass they attended, often they would reply, "Christmas Eve Mass". Simeon described the newly born Jesus as, "a light to enlighten the nations" and we Columbans in Japan are privileged to experience what this means through our ministry. The baby Jesus welcomes all comers to celebrate his birth, and then invites them to walk in the light of faith.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- We eleven Columban priests in Japan are a multi-national and multi-cultural group of five Irishmen, two Australians, two New Zealanders, one Filipino and one born in Vietnam.
- In our missionary parishes our apostolate includes pastoral care of the baptized and missionary outreach to the unevangelized. We also have the reputation of empowering the laity, that is, we encourage our Christians to be missionaries in their own communities.
- Parishes have an apostolate to the many migrant workers who come to Japan from the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, China, Indonesia, Pakistan and South America. These often arrive with heavy debts to unscrupulous recruiting groups back home. They need support - and we give them that.



Fr. Leo Schumacher celebrating Mass with parishioners.

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/79rYYbJo1A4>

# KOREA

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Art Ministry is a response to the Columban tradition of “going to where the Gospel has not been preached”.

Artworks created by Fr. Jason Antiquera were used by a local reality TV programme. Afterwards, the producer said he “felt thankful to Father because it brought laughter and enjoyment to the viewers in these difficult times”. There was a two-week solo exhibition held in the Franciscans’ Hall, with the goal of encouraging people to reflect on “Creation Spirituality” through human figure art. (The perspective was so new and refreshing to many that it featured in the Catholic and secular press.) Two big paintings were also finished, entitled “Our Lady of Peace” (for the Columban Formation House in Seoul) and “Exodus”, depicting the plight and hopes of immigrants (for the Uijeongbu Diocese’s Migrant Ministry Centre).



“Art Recollection” sessions for Filipino Catholics from Daejeon Diocese helped participants foster their emotional and spiritual well-being.

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/A17F6FdNzlg>

“Exodus”, painting  
by Fr. Jason Antiquera



SCAN TO WATCH



[https://youtu.be/XVcQGzW1V\\_I](https://youtu.be/XVcQGzW1V_I)

San Josep Kahtolik  
Nawku Jawng  
Alen Kawng ဂျန်ဆိုင် ဇယံခန့် ဝိုင်းဇော်

Fr. Jehoon Lee with participants of the play therapy programme



## MYANMAR

In line with what we feel to be the will of God, education and drug rehabilitation have always been priorities of the Columban mission in Myanmar. We support boarding houses in the most remote areas of Myitkyina and Banmaw dioceses, allowing children from these areas to have access to education. This year in August, a new student centre will be opened to provide educational opportunities for young people in Myitkyina. The Mandalay Higher Education Centre continues to extend higher educational opportunities to poor but bright young people from all ethnic groups. The Rebirth Drug Rehabilitation Centre continues to provide drug recovery programmes and on 5<sup>th</sup> January opened the women’s centre (the first live-in recovery programme for women in Kachin state).

### FACTS AND FIGURES

- The Columbans sent essential food supplies to over **400** families suffering from the ongoing armed conflict and economic crisis in the country.
- The Family Commission facilitated “Healthy Family” workshops throughout Myitkyina Diocese, in which some **486** married people participated.
- Also in Myitkyina Diocese, a total of **136** married men attended family stress/coping and domestic violence programmes.

# AOTEAROA-NEW ZEALAND

Our principal activity continues to be fundraising. Our business manager and assistant ensure that our donors and supporters are kept well informed about the work of Columban Mission worldwide, through “The Far East” and regular mission appeal letters. We are very grateful for the remarkable financial support from our New Zealand donors. We are exploring new ways of communicating the message which is ours and God’s, and making contact with new supporters, especially through our website, electronic bulletins and social media.

Fr. Michael Gormly ministers to a Mercy community and keeps a close eye on our gardens. Among various other tasks, Fr. Don Hornsey tends regularly to his fruitful garden. Fr. Pat O’Shea is active in our mission office. Fr. Paul Finlayson is assistant priest within the sprawling parish of Our Lady of the Bays in the Tasman District. Fr. Sean O’Connor resides in a care facility for seniors in Auckland.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

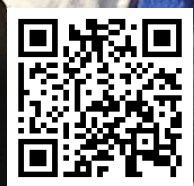
- Fr. David Arms recently celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood. A gifted linguist, he continues to compile a new Fijian-English dictionary.
- Fr. Tom Rouse has been re-elected president of the executive of the Congregational Leaders Conference of Aotearoa-New Zealand. He is convener of the Poverty Committee of the Archdiocese of Wellington and secretary to the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue Commission.
- In different ways, all the Columbans are involved in the ongoing Synodal process.



Parishioners with Fr. Tom Rouse after Mass.

(caption)

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtube.com/YD5hAO6hJbc>



# PAKISTAN

God has a particular love for the poor, and few are poorer than the poor of Pakistan. The government spends less than 3% of its budget on health and education combined, which makes the government health service totally unable to meet the needs of poor people. The “Mother and Child Care Project” provides basic medical assistance to women and children who have no way of helping themselves. These are especially vulnerable. The infant mortality rate is 95 deaths per 1,000 births. Pre-natal and post-natal care is non-existent in government hospitals, which is why the parish medical team also visits villages to offer such care. The project funds the training of young women as midwives and nurses in the two Catholic hospitals of the diocese. To date, 27 young women from the Parkari Kohli tribal people have completed the midwifery training course in these hospitals. They are now back in their home towns and villages serving their communities.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- Last year our “Poor and Needy Project” helped **253** families with food rations.
- We encourage long-term development through income generation schemes - for example, helping people to open a barber shop or fruit stall.
- In 2021 some **1,253** patients were visited in their homes; **137** were diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) and treated in the parish TB Clinic.

Columban Lay Missionary, Monaliza Sagra Esteban (right) with local women.

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/qOKdazNTkXQ>

# PERU

The pandemic obliged us to question whether or not we should hold a face-to-face Summer Course this year in January 2022. In the end we decided in favour, with all the protocols and necessary precautions, because we thought that we needed to hear the lived experience of the people with whom we work - and not just to hear, but to LISTEN. So our Summer Course took on a different structure, not the usual imparting of information, study of Church documents, group discussion followed by periods of reflection, but rather that of sharing openly and honestly, not ideas or theories, but our lived experience, - the joys and sorrows, the hopes and fears, the successes and failures.

The title, “Living with Passion, Living with Compassion”, reflected the process of speaking and listening with the conviction that each one has something to contribute to the search, something to learn from the other - because God is in “the other”.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

The Social Action Network of North Lima, initiated by the Columbans, now links **22** institutions, working in six separate political districts and representing more than **50** grassroots organizations, in advocacy initiatives in support of educational healthcare initiatives in Lima.

“Common pots” supported by the Columbans feed over **700** people every day.

“Children at Risk” are a priority of Columban Pastoral Care, with a variety of projects affording professional care to **120** children.

SCAN TO WATCH



Fr. Carlos Gallagher giving a workshop in the Columban Mission Centre in Lima.

<https://youtu.be/Y6zUi1zd5WU>



# PHILIPPINES



Mereani Nailevu (Columban lay missionary) and Cesar "Jay-R" Ramirez (Columban Vocation Animator-Mindanao) planting a tree at the Higaonon ancestral domain in Dansolihon, Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao

The Higaonon tribal community, through their ecological and spiritual wisdom and close relationship with their natural surroundings, is a Columban community partner in our campaign to encourage reforestation. In the face of threats to their ancestral land rights posed by land-grabbers and weak government regulations, the Higaonon remain hopeful and active in promoting their culture and way of life.

There are now at least 1,000 indigenous trees being nurtured by the community since the reforestation project began, with around 100 of these being planted by the Columban Missionaries. This is in response to the rapid loss of rainforest in this part of the Philippines due to excessive and illegal logging. We are also planting many native Philippine trees.

A women's group organized in the community planted a row of trees at the entrance of the site. An estimated 30 seedlings were sown and are now being fostered by the association members.

The tree growing project started on just 2.5 hectares of land when the first young trees were planted. Now, it has begun to expand into some 82 hectares of surrounding land. Thanks to assistance from us Columbans, a water system powered by solar panels have been installed to help maintain the project and the livelihood of the community.

In this way, Columbans are giving new significance to Jesus's parable of The Sower and The Seed.



A water system powered by solar panels installed in the community with the help of the Columban Missionaries

SCAN TO WATCH



[https://youtu.be/cp7\\_oE92ebM](https://youtu.be/cp7_oE92ebM)

# TAIWAN

The ministry to migrant workers, victims of human trafficking, immigrant families is at the heart of our Columban mission in Taiwan, because we see this as being close to GOD'S heart. Ordained Columbans as well as lay missionaries continue to be involved in providing both social and pastoral services to them.

Sherryl Lou Capili is a lay missionary from the Philippines and she has been serving in this ministry for ten years. As the pastoral coordinator of the Hope Workers' Centre, she accompanies around 150 ministry volunteers at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Zhongli District, where many Filipino migrant workers and immigrants go every Sunday to participate in the Eucharistic celebration.

No matter how cautious the Taiwan government has been during this time of Covid-19, it has not been possible to escape some serious effects of the pandemic, resulting in periodic suspensions of Sunday Mass, cultural activities and on-going formation for the volunteers. The migrant workers were in the most difficult situation, having to survive living with Covid-19 in their dormitories with four or more people in a room. This made them very vulnerable to the virus. Having online gatherings has been helpful in staying connected to the rest in the community.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**180** families with an average of five members per family from the Atayal indigenous group participated in our Christmas activity.

**233** migrant workers received assistance from the Vietnamese Migrant Workers and Immigrants Office (VMWIO).

**264** individuals from the migrant and immigrant communities in Hsinchu Diocese participated in the Synodal consultation process.

SCAN TO WATCH



[https://youtu.be/rV8SikV90\\_g](https://youtu.be/rV8SikV90_g)

Ministry volunteers presented by Sherryl Lou Capili during the Liturgy of Commissioning presided over by Fr. Salustino Villalobos.



# UNITED STATES

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In June 2019, responding to the flood of refugees and asylum seekers being forced to remain in Mexico while waiting for their cases to be heard in the United States, we opened a place of welcome and humanitarian aid at the cathedral in downtown Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

In March 2022, the number of Haitians seeking U.S. asylum exploded. We now faced the additional challenge of ministering to a community who spoke Haitian Creole and French and who were the only migrant group of African descent in Juarez.

***“The suffering of our Black brothers and sisters, exploited and discriminated against here in Juarez, showed us the face of Our Lord Jesus Christ”*** said Cristina Coronado, Coordinator of the Columban Migrant Ministry.

The Columban team provides comprehensive care for the urgent needs of this highly vulnerable population, including food, milk and diapers for families with children, legal advice, pastoral accompaniment, medical care, housing and Spanish language classes.

Columban priest, Fr. William Morton, holding a Haitian baby at the Cathedral project in Ciudad Juárez.

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/TzzFJ-KyhgY>

REFUGEES

# In Gratitude

*"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."  
Ephesians 1:16*



# Giving Back to our Benefactors

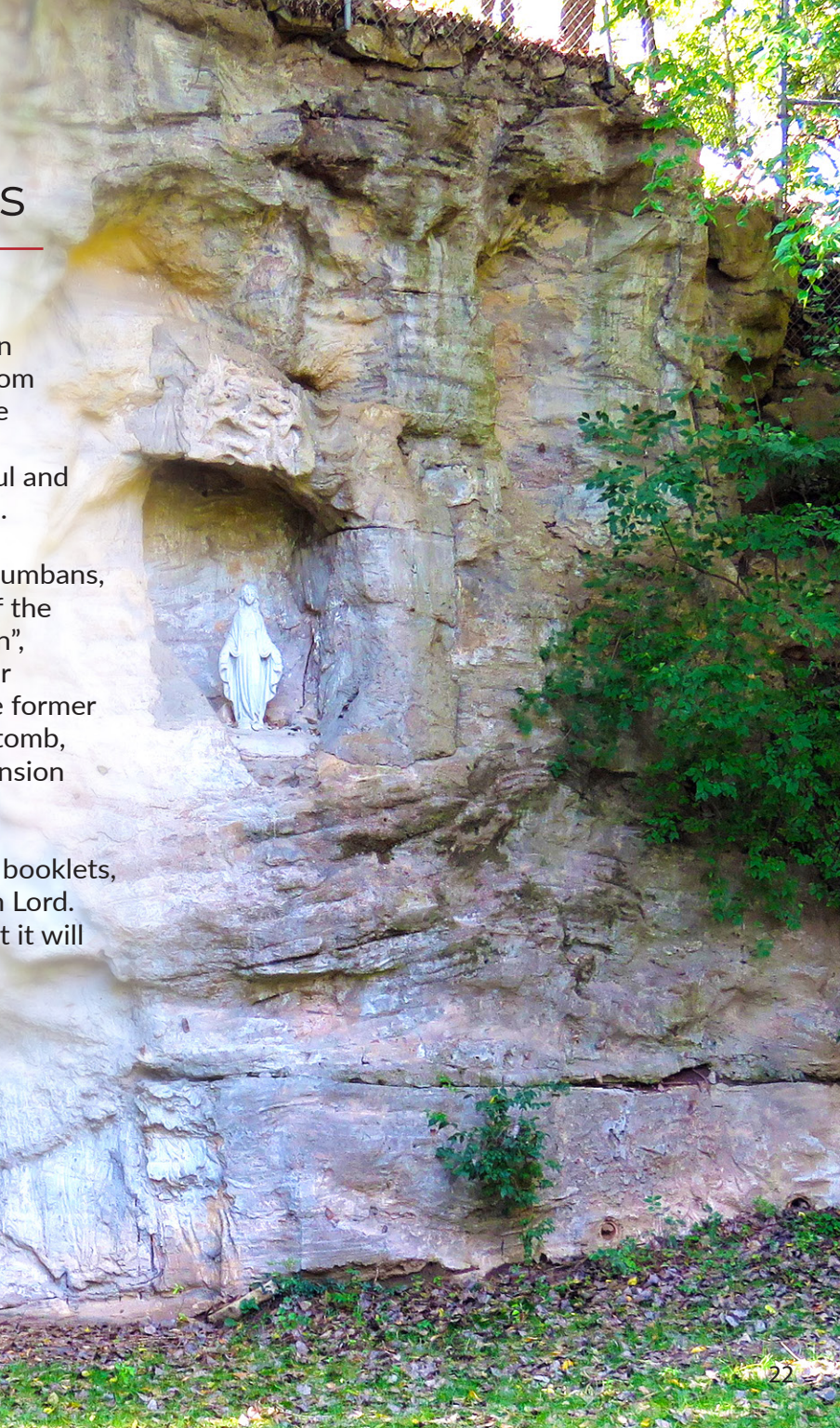
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At the U.S. headquarters of St. Columbans in Nebraska, we restored our Grotto (dating from 1930) and installed renewed Stations of the Cross and the Stations of the Resurrection. We hope these will be enjoyed as a prayerful and reflective space by all who visit our grounds.

For those benefactors living far from St. Columbans, we produced two booklets, "The Stations of the Cross" and "The Stations of the Resurrection", by Fr. Finbar Maxwell. They were sent to our benefactors as a gift. The meditations in the former follow Jesus from his condemnation to the tomb, and, in the latter, from the tomb to his Ascension and the bestowal of the Spirit on the world.

The Stations, those on our grounds and the booklets, serve as a reminder of our hope in the Risen Lord. Our faith has never failed, and we know that it will lead us into a brighter future.



# 2021 - 2022 Financial Summary

## APPLICATION OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

During the year ended March 31, 2022, the Society received U.S.\$21.34M in revenue. Total funds received were used in the following manner.

### MISSION EXPENSES



MISSION  
APOSTOLATES



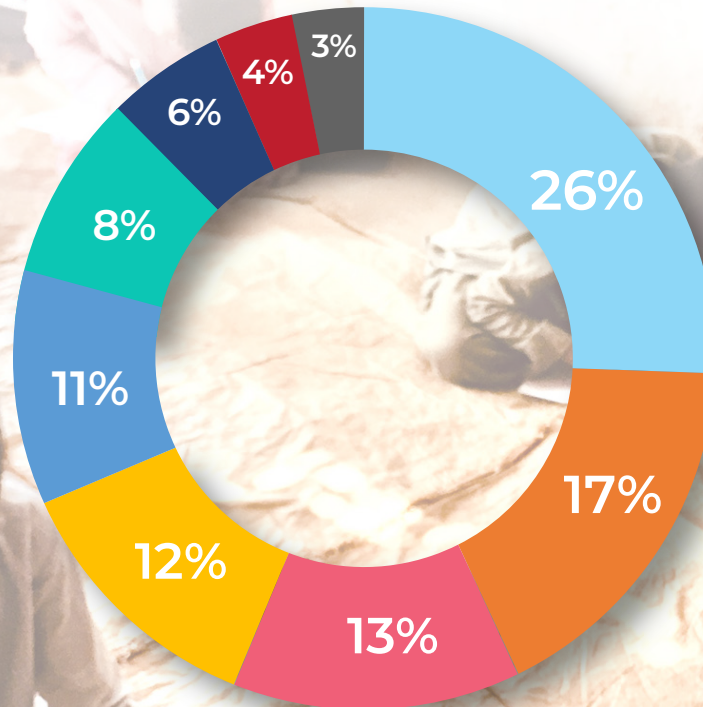
ADMINISTRATION



FUNDRAISING AND  
DONOR DEVELOPMENT



# Funding of Various Missions



- Japan
- Fiji
- Pakistan
- Chile
- China
- Peru
- Taiwan
- Philippines
- Myanmar

Our missionary endeavours in Australia, Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, South Korea, and the U.S./Mexico are self-funded.

The expense associated with each mission country reflects the number of Columban Missionaries ministering there, the cost of living, and the level of support which the local church can provide.

# Society Invitation to Mission

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Invitation to Mission is a Columban programme that allows lay people to engage in mission on a short-term basis. It takes different forms in different places.

In Britain it is called “Faith in Action”. It is a one-year scheme that enables enthusiastic young adults to join with the Columbans and explore their faith through active participation in mission. They give their time, skills and energy in support of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. They put their Christian “faith into action” through projects and activities connected to refugees, asylum seekers, inter-faith initiatives and justice and peace education.

This year we have been fortunate enough to welcome two outstanding young women, Tobi Oyedele and Juliette Bone. They have shared experiences and encounters alongside the other members of our Columban family - priests, lay missionaries and co-workers. They will now go on to enrich the wider Local Church with the benefit of these experiences.

STOP RWANDA OFFSHORE DETENTION, *Day of Action* last 14 June. A rally in Birmingham City Centre, organised by *Stand Up to Racism*, which was attended by Columbans and our *Faith in Action* volunteers.



# Vocations and Seminary Life

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## LIFE AMID COVID-19

By Elia Poasa (Columban seminarian in Suva, Fiji)



Elia teaching first Communion class in a parish.

In April of 2021 Fiji was hit by the second wave of Covid-19. Schools were closed, and travelling was very restricted. We students continued with our formation in a new way via Zoom. Having to adjust to this new normal was both challenging and also a good learning experience. In the past, I had never cooked food for a group of people. The restrictions of Covid-19 helped me to learn how to cook for myself and for my brothers in the Columban international house of studies.

It was my first experience of having classes online through zoom. It was difficult at the beginning to sit in front of a computer for hours each day. Later on, I adjusted to this new way of learning.

We continued vocation promotion with some young men around Fiji and Kiribati through Zoom. We also celebrated two online Masses in Hindi, which were aired on the Archdiocese of Suva and Columban Facebook pages.



Columban seminarians with Fr. Finbar Maxwell (middle), Philippines

# Vocations and Seminary Life

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## A PEACEFUL CLIMATE MARCH STOPPED BY THE POLICE By Paula Suka (Columban seminarian in Suva, Fiji).

When the police stopped a peaceful march for climate awareness by Catholic youth and the Columban formation community in Suva on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 2021, little did they realize that their action would result in the message being spread even more widely than originally envisaged.

Our message -“Stop Global Warming” - was in support of the Prime Minister of Fiji and his team at the COP26 meeting in Glasgow. Within 300 meters from the start the police arrived to stop the march. They told the youth to remove their banners and go home. The young people then proceeded without their banners to a gathering at the Pacific Regional Seminary. Journalists arrived and the incident was widely reported in the press and T.V., thus providing free publicity about the dangers of climate warming.



Confirmation class at Raiwaqa Parish, Suva, led by Paula.

SCAN TO WATCH



<https://youtu.be/xbRbhuB54wE>

Columban seminarian, letawa Naati, doing his assignments at the Columban international house of studies in the Philippines.

# International Leadership Team

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(L-R) Fr. Tim, Fr. Alvaro, Fr. Seung-Won,  
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