



Jesuit  
Mission

# Gratitude Report

2019



# From the Provincial

Dear Friends and Partners in Mission,

2019 was an important year for the Society of Jesus. After two years of conversation and discernment by the Jesuits and their lay collaborators around the world, the future directions of the Society were launched with the four Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs).

These preferences - 'Showing the Way to God, Walking with the Excluded, Journey with Youth and Caring for our Common Home' will act as the signposts to guide the Jesuits and our partners in mission over the next ten years. The preferences help unite us in our global mission.

In Australia around the same time, we announced our own Australian Province Apostolic Plan 2019 - 2024. This five-year plan seeks to work in concert with the UAPs, creating a framework of five priorities that guide the direction of our works and ministries across the Australian Province. I invite you to learn more about the Province priorities on our website at [jesuit.org.au](http://jesuit.org.au).

Jesuit Mission seeks to reflect these UAPs in its mission but particularly in walking with the excluded in our world, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. Jesuit Mission works closely with local Jesuit partners to empower vulnerable women, men and

children living in the global margins.

Jesuits across the Region express their sincere gratitude to Jesuit Mission and to you – those who generously support our sisters and brothers in need.

I was honored to witness the impact of your support of Jesuit Mission when I attended the first graduation of students from the Jesuit teacher's training institute in Timor-Leste in December last year. As those young women and men crossed the stage to receive their degrees, I saw the way in which our companionship and generosity can lift one another up as we share our lives in gratitude, generosity and service.

Thank you for your continued help and support.

**Brian F McCoy SJ**  
Provincial



Fr Brian McCoy SJ (centre) in Railaco, Timor-Leste with Fr Trung Nguyen SJ (right) and former Treasurer of the Jesuit Region in Timor-Leste, Fr EJ Gerilla SJ (left).

# From the CEO & Rector

What an extraordinary year of compassion and generosity we have witnessed in 2019. Our Jesuit Mission family has put its compassion into action to raise an outstanding \$9.3 million – more than ever before. We're truly grateful to our generous supporters and volunteers, staff, Board and Chair, Paul Levins, who have all helped to achieve this amazing result. Your kindness and dedication will help us reach a greater number of vulnerable people living in the global margins. Thank you.

2019 was a year of great progress. We supported over 50 programs in 15 countries, providing education to over 10,000 people; basic essentials like clean water to 1,500 people in remote villages; and transformative livelihood programs that give vulnerable people the opportunity to create independent futures for themselves, their communities and their countries.

In this report you'll also read about many important projects big and small that you've helped to support. You'll meet the first

graduates of the Jesuit teacher's training institute in Timor-Leste and the Myanmar Leadership Institute, who will now go into the world empowered to reshape their societies, and also get an update on Arti, living in Hazaribag, India.

Buoyed by the Province's call to 'Nourish Our Ministries through Ignatian Spirituality', we were excited last year to partner and begin developing a program with the First Spiritual Exercises Team at the Australian Centre for Ignatian Spirituality. The program is an opportunity for everyone who is part of Jesuit Mission to pray and share together. To invite you all to this experience, we have included a mini prayer fold-up along with this report. We hope you enjoy this prayer and look forward to engaging you further in the Program.

2019 was also a very important year for us in strengthening our commitment to child safeguarding. We have been working closely with all our partners to implement policies to ensure the safety of all children in our programs. In 2020,



Helen Forde with staff and students from the NOSSEF School in Timor-Leste.

we will continue to improve the standards.

We sincerely thank you once again for your decision to walk alongside our sisters and brothers in need. Your support is truly transformative.

With sincere gratitude,

**Helen Forde**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Trung Nguyen SJ**  
Rector

## About Jesuit Mission

A ministry of the Australian Jesuit Province, Jesuit Mission works with our most vulnerable sisters and brothers empowering them to live full and free lives. To create the greatest change, we go where we are needed most in Asia and Africa.

**Our Vision:** Faith, justice and reconciliation for a full and free life.

**Our Mission:** In the name of Jesus and in the spirit of Ignatius, we are called to the generous service of others.

We have a preferential love of the poor and uphold the innate dignity and promote the rights of God's most vulnerable people from all faiths and cultures.

We partner with Jesuits and other companions overseas to empower women, men and children living on

the frontiers to liberate themselves from poverty and injustice through participation in programs that build skills, capacity and resilience to live full and free lives.

We invite Australian companions into communion with our global human family. Our shared faith and love of Jesus compels us into authentic relationships and the spirit of Ignatius guides us to be men and women for others.

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# Your support, your impact



You provided quality healthcare to more than **7,000** people living in remote and rural areas, detention centres and prisons across Asia-Pacific.



You brought easy access to safe and clean drinking water to over **1,500** people in three remote villages in Timor-Leste, improving their health and quality of life.



You gave the gift of education through scholarships to more than **2,100** primary, secondary and tertiary students across Asia-Pacific, giving hope and choices for a brighter future.



You accompanied over **11,000** refugees across South-East Asia and Africa through providing much needed education, livelihood training and housing assistance.



You enriched the lives of and brought hope to over **6,500** vulnerable people living in Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, PNG and India by providing pastoral care and support.



You upheld the dignity and fostered independence for over **400** people living with a disability in Cambodia by giving access to education, improved sanitation, housing and wheelchairs.



You offered emergency housing relief to over **750** refugees and flood-hit families in Asia, helping them to rebuild their lives.



You enabled more than **10,000** vulnerable children and adults to dream of a brighter future by enabling 29 education and livelihood training projects.



You built, improved and expanded **A\$2.8m** worth of critical education infrastructure in India, Timor-Leste and Cambodia, which will benefit close to **4,000** students each year once all construction works are complete.



**55 projects**  
**25 partners**  
**15 countries**



Over **43,000** people directly supported.



## Rejoicing in the power of education

Join us in celebrating the first group of students to complete their studies at the Jesuit teacher's training institute - Instituto São João de Brito (ISJB) in Timor-Leste.

In November 2019, 14 students graduated after four years of education and training, to qualify as Secondary Education teachers in Timor-Leste.

In a country where around half the population lives below the basic needs poverty line, and over 40% of the adult population is illiterate, there is a desperate need for qualified teachers who can educate

young people and help break the cycle of poverty.

Right now, only 25% of all working teachers are properly trained. The quality of education is so poor that even after several years at school, many children still cannot read.

But you are helping to create lasting change in Timor-Leste. With your support, ISJB is becoming the leading teacher education institution in the country.

Students at ISJB earn a Bachelor's degree in education and are given well-rounded training that

prepares them to be highly-skilled, ethical professionals who can take the lead in Timorese education and serve in areas of most need.

In 2020, ISJB will continue to journey with youth, educating young women and men to become future teachers. Enrolments in the year ahead are expected to rise from 132 students to 226 students.

**Above:** ISJB's first graduates proudly receive their degrees in Education.

### A transformative education

For Sidonio, 23, the Valedictory Mass was the unforgettable culmination of his time at ISJB. After proudly receiving his degree, Sidonio delivered the Salutarian speech, taking the opportunity to sum up his life-changing time at ISJB.

*"The experience I have gained at this Institute has shaped me to be a good person and a good teacher*

*– a good teacher who is striving to be professional, with competence, conscience, compassion and commitment and ready to serve all. For all this I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all our friends."*

Looking to the future, Sidonio hopes to become a Jesuit priest, and teach children in vulnerable communities.



Sidonio's speech was a highlight of the graduation ceremony.

## Loyola College Class of 2019

While ISJB celebrated its first year of graduates in 2019, the Jesuit secondary school, Loyola College in Timor-Leste held its second Year 12 graduation. 109 students – 42 boys and 67 girls – donning blue togas accepted their certificates of completion of secondary education.

The graduation ceremony was a joyous event, filled with radiant smiles from graduates, parents and teachers alike. It was the culmination of six years of study, and together the class celebrated their success. Naming themselves the 'caminheiros' (meaning 'the walkers') the Class of 2019 had a 100% pass rate and some took the top places in the National Exam – a remarkable achievement. But their journey has only just begun. Aprilia, a new graduate, can't wait

to begin the next stage of her life. "I am very proud of what our class has accomplished together," she says. "But this is not the end of my journey. This is the new beginning of my journey and a window of opportunity for me."

Aprilia will use the public speaking skills she's developed at the Jesuit school to pursue international relations. "In the future, I'd like to be the representative of Timor-Leste to the world," she says.

While there is a tinge of sadness leaving the College where she found "true friends, true teachers and true happiness", Aprilia – like the other graduates – has the foundations upon which to build the life of her dreams.



Aprilia, seen here at her graduation, feels empowered to represent Timor-Leste to the world. Following the graduation, she received a United World Colleges scholarship to study at Robert Bosch College in Germany.



# Thailand

## Giving care, respect & companionship

Zebedee, four, squealed with delight the first time he saw snow – he could hardly believe his eyes!

For Zebedee and his parents, it's been a long journey to arrive at their new home in Budapest. The family fled their home country of Pakistan when Taliban-related Muslim extremists attempted to kill Zebedee's father, Zeeshan.

When the family arrived in Thailand, they did not find the peace and safety they sought. Thailand is not a signatory to any UN protocol on the treatment of refugees. This means refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Thailand are refused the right to work as they await resettlement in another country. Resettlement can take up

to 10 years, leaving people trapped in poverty without the ability to earn money for life's basics. One refugee described this life as "jail without a cell".

With your support, Jesuit Mission's local Jesuit partner runs the 'Support for Bangkok Refugee and Asylum Seekers' program that provides people like Zebedee's family with money for rent, food, school, medical and legal costs as they await resettlement.

In 2019, the project assisted over 1,000 people to apply for sponsored resettlement, and helped 500 refugees and asylum seekers – like Zebedee's family – begin the next stage of their lives in a new country.



**Above:** Zebedee ready to start school in his new country, Hungary.

**Top:** Zebedee and his Dad enjoy a snowy day in Budapest.

# Realising potential

**Toon never dared to dream of a career. From the Akka tribe in Northern Thailand, Toon's parents were relying on her to quit school and get a job as soon as possible to support the family. But Toon's life took a different turn when she met Fr Pichet Saengthien SJ, Director of Xavier Learning Community.**

Thanks to the generosity of Jesuit Mission supporters like you, Xavier Learning Community provides tertiary education for young people like Toon, from ethnic minority groups in Thailand.

Until Xavier Learning Community was established three years ago, these groups made up of people from many different tribes were virtually excluded from higher education. Most did not have the documentation, access or money necessary to attend one of the few universities in Northern Thailand.

But with you by their side, Xavier Learning Community accompanies young people in the creation of a hope-filled future. The school actively seeks out vulnerable young people from a wide variety of tribes and offers quality education to help them realise their true potential.

Students can study for a Bachelor Degree in English or take profession-based training courses including eco-tourism and hospitality. They also gain real-world experience that empowers them to access better employment opportunities, take control of their futures and uplift their communities.

Today, Toon is thriving and recently represented Xavier Learning Community at an international conference where she met with people from different cultures and broadened her knowledge of global issues. She's looking forward to finishing her degree, then pursuing a career in hospitality and tourism so she can promote her country and her tribe to the world.

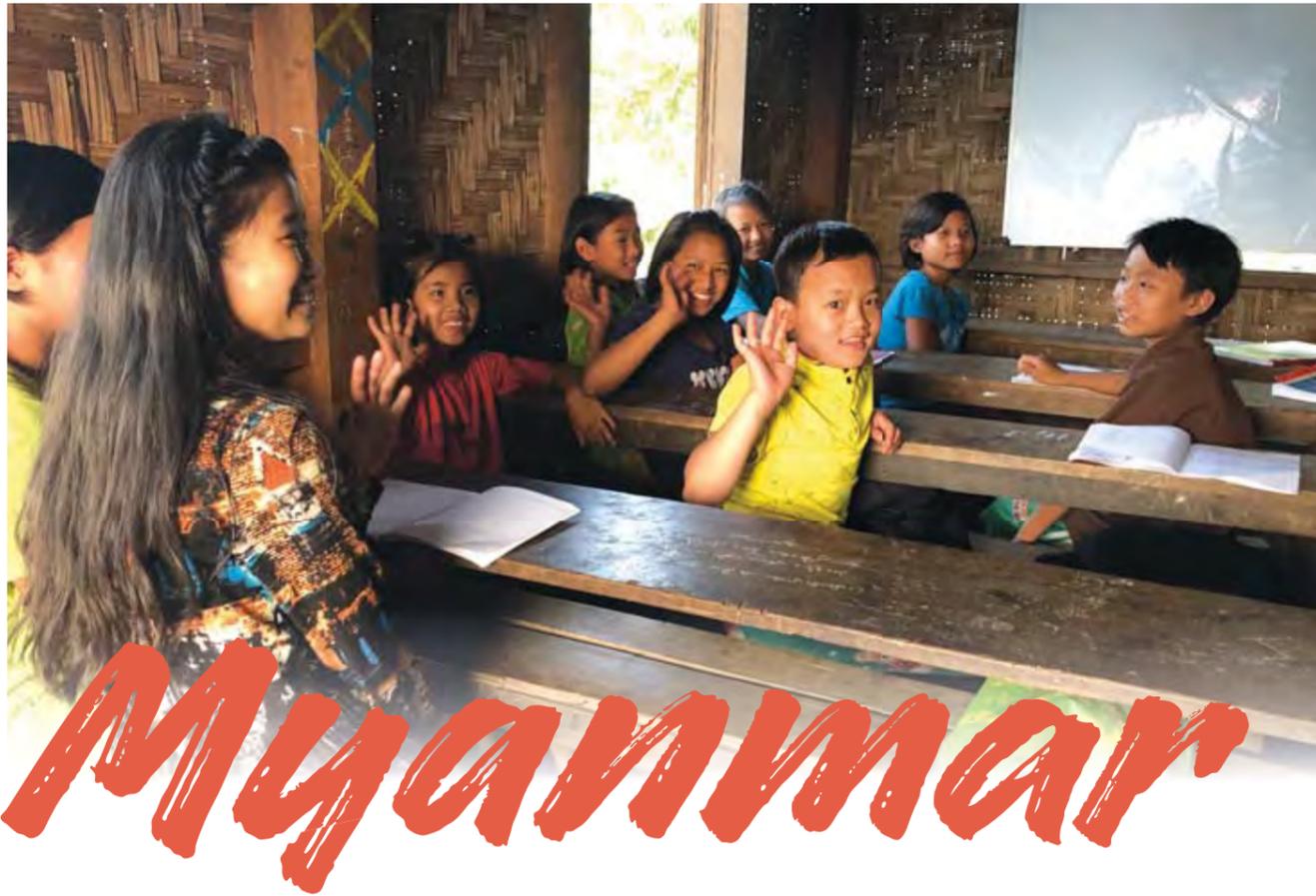
*"Xavier Learning Community has brought together students, volunteers, and professionals for the overall purpose of holistic formation for young men and women," says Fr Pichet Saengthien SJ. "Our students would not be able to afford higher education otherwise."*



Toon representing Xavier Learning Community at an international conference.



Xavier Learning Community students participate in an outreach program in a local Thai community.



# Myanmar

## Educating the most vulnerable

Since Myanmar government troops and the Kachin Independence Army began fighting in 2011, tens of thousands of Burmese people have been displaced.

Camps have been set up in Kachin state to accommodate these internally displaced people (IDP) but conditions are very basic, and vulnerable women, men and children face many ongoing challenges.

An IDP camp in Myitkyina is home to 460 displaced people – and it's here that your support is bringing education, opportunity and hope.

Since the conflict began, the Myanmar government has offered

schooling for IDP children. But, with few resources, the quality of the education is very poor.

Your generosity is helping the Jesuit 'Myitkyina IDP Education Project' to provide additional classes to children in the camp, as well as very vulnerable children in the surrounding neighbourhood. Over 200 children attend classes that teach literacy and numeracy skills and build confidence. This vital education will help children avoid exploitation, access further education and have the opportunity for a better future.

Children are very eager to learn, and teachers do more than teach in the classroom. They provide opportunities and activities

outside class to motivate and inspire the children.

Rosa, a student who has received a scholarship from Jesuit Mission to study at Myitkyina University, regularly volunteers as a teacher at the camp. Seeing how the project not only empowers students, but raises the spirits of parents and families, has given her new purpose.

***"I want to continue my studies so I can help provide better education for disadvantaged children, like those living at the camp," Rosa says.***

**Above:** Students receive vital, quality education at the camp.

Your support is helping to uplift children living in an IDP camp in Myanmar.





# Myanmar

## Sharing knowledge

Last year your support helped to educate students from low-income families at the Jesuit-run Campion Institute in Yangon, Myanmar. The higher education institute provides English language teaching programs for 700 young people. Through your generosity, Campion provides scholarships to students who would ordinarily not be able to afford the education program. The curriculum extends to drama and music too.

During the April school holidays, 16 students were invited to share

their knowledge through the Campion Outreach program.

The student volunteers taught over 200 children in remote villages who, due to poverty or isolation, couldn't otherwise access education. In every village, the children were thrilled to have the rare opportunity to learn English and other subjects they'd never been exposed to before, including art and science. In turn, the Campion student volunteers were deeply enriched by the experience, and plan to continue sharing their knowledge and skills

with more young people through future programs.



**Above & Top:** The Campion Outreach program holds classes for students in remote villages to learn subjects including English, art and science.

# Developing future agents of change

And your impact continues in Myanmar. With your support, in 2019, 16 inspiring young men and women became the first graduates of the Myanmar Leadership Institute (MLI).

The Institute, which was developed through a partnership between the Catholic Archdiocese of Yangon and the Myanmar Jesuits, gives young people the opportunity to develop leadership capabilities that will help transform Myanmar society in line with the values of justice, solidarity and option for the poor.

The Institute, whose motto is "Learn to Lead, Lead to Serve" works with the Jesuit University,

Ateneo de Manila, to offer students diploma courses in a wide range of leadership skills.

Recent graduate Rachel had her world expanded by the rigorous course. Before attending the Institute, Rachel studied English at the Campion Institute (see opposite), and while she found her leadership studies at MLI academically challenging, she was also deeply inspired. Over the course of the year, Rachel found her passion in helping to empower women and is now doing research on underage pregnancies.

*"It was a very precious year of studying at Myanmar*

*Leadership Institute," Rachel says. "I wanted to learn new things that can change my way of thinking. This is what I expected and I got even more than my expectations."*



The Class of 2019: Myanmar Leadership Institute's inaugural graduates.



Rachel celebrates graduation with her proud siblings.



# Cambodia

## Exciting expansion

Nothing lifts the spirits like seeing young people jumping for joy! This was the reaction of Kanika and Juli when they discovered their school will soon be getting a new sports oval.

Kanika and Juli are both Year 10 students at Xavier Jesuit School (XJS) in Banteay Meanchey, one of the poorest provinces in Cambodia. They joined the school in 2015, as part of the first batch of high school students. Back

then, the school had no high school building, and they'd take classes in the primary classrooms.

But, thanks to the support of people like you, the school has been able to expand, thrive and continue to journey with vulnerable youth. In 2019, Xavier Jesuit School had 684 students and the school will reach full capacity in the next few years, with more than 1,300 students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

***"I'm so very happy that I joined this school," says Kanika. "I have gained so much experience studying here and it's helped me to become a confident and independent person."***

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of a Family Foundation, extensive new bathroom facilities were added in 2019, and works begun on the exciting new sports oval, a high school office, and in the near future, middle school classrooms.

***"I think this school is very different to other schools," says Juli. "Here the environment is so much nicer. There are trees. The classrooms, bathrooms and canteens are all clean. In some of the other high schools, the boys and girls have to share one bathroom, so it is not very comfortable. Here, now we have new bathrooms – one for girls and one for boys that's close to our classrooms."***



**Above:** Kanika (left) enjoys collaborating with other students.  
**Top:** A soccer enthusiast, Juli can't wait for work on the new sports oval to be completed.

# Opportunity in action

In northwestern Cambodia, the Battambang Education Program, led by the Jesuits, provides scholarships to primary, secondary and university students whose families couldn't otherwise afford to send them to school. Young people coming from remote villages have the option to board at one of the six student centres where pupils live together in a supervised environment as they continue their studies. With your help, this program supported 256 students to learn, grow and take steps towards a hope-filled future.

Piseth, 18, is amongst the 20 students living at the Tep Im Student Centre, which enjoys a

reputation for being the most innovative of the six student centres. Tep Im led the way, introducing debating clubs, holding philosophy classes and (a student favourite) voting on 'house' rules and regulations.

For Piseth, who comes from a remote village, Tep Im provides a supportive home-away-from-home as he studies business management at the University of Battambang. The son of farmers, Piseth is the first in his community to finish high school, and the first to go to university. Upon earning his degree, Piseth hopes to open his own independent business.

***"Not only does the Tep Im Centre provide me with a good environment to study, it teaches me about morality, right and wrong, and how to become a responsible person," says Piseth.***



Piseth enjoys the supportive environment at the Tep Im Student Centre.

# Nurturing independence

The Light of Mercy Home in Phnom Penh is a beacon of hope for children living with disabilities.

In Cambodian society, there's little support and awareness for people living with disabilities. For children with disabilities, life can be particularly hard – especially in rural areas. Many are isolated or neglected, and miss out on an education because schools don't have teachers who are trained to work with special-needs children.

But thanks to you, these children are not forgotten. Your support is

helping the Light of Mercy Home to walk with the excluded. The Home provides children with disabilities a place where they can live together, learn, gain confidence and grow into independent young adults.

In this loving, homely environment children feel safe, and experience the benefits of being part of a large 'family'.

Boys and girls of all capacities receive tailored education and life-skills training that helps them find their individual strengths and talents.



Children at Light of Mercy Home learn sign language to communicate with one another.



# India

## The enduring power of Uplift

Before the Uplift program, if an emergency struck Dalit villagers in Hazaribag in India, they had no option but to borrow money from unscrupulous money-lenders. These lenders exploit the most vulnerable, charging crippling high interest rates. Villagers who can't make repayments are forced to work as virtual slaves to the money-lender, often doing backbreaking work in the brick kilns long after their debt has been repaid.

Walking with the excluded, the Utthan Uplift program – coordinated by Australian Jesuit missionary, Fr Tony Herbert SJ – helps Dalit people escape the grip of the money-lenders. In Spring 2019, we told you about Arti, who joined a Women's Savings Group run by the Uplift team. Under the guidance of the team,

Arti diligently saved alongside the other women in her community, improved her financial literacy, developed a business plan and eventually borrowed money from the Group to start her own dry goods business.

Arti's business was a success and she quickly repaid her loan. Recently however, Arti has faced several challenges. Her son was injured in a motorcycle accident and trouble with cashflow has meant stock in her store is lower than before. Yet, Arti remains very positive about the future. Thanks to the Uplift program – and savings from her earlier success – Arti could pay her son's medical expenses without turning to the money-lenders, and she has the skills to steer her business through this tough time.

Your support has helped give Arti, and the people of her village, the means to overcome challenges and remain independent, even in the face of adversity.



**Above:** Arti, seen here at her dry goods shop, is forging an independent future for herself and her family.

**Top:** Dalit women come together for a monthly Women's Savings Group meeting.

# Dining with dignity

In the extremely remote highland village of Chiro in India, your faith is creating change for some of the most vulnerable people in India – the rural tribal children.

Thanks to people like you, Nagesia tribal children who generally have very limited opportunities for education are able to attend the Jesuit-run St Mary's School. This will give them a better chance at education and set them up for a life with better choices. However, the school has been in need of an update. With no dining area, children had to go outside to eat their meals, sitting on the ground under the hot sun or in monsoon rains.

With your support, our local partner, the Hazaribag Jesuits, has

been able to build a new dining area and kitchen.

*“We believe that the Nagesia boys and girls deserve just as much as well-off students in the city. A good place to eat their meals with dignity is just part of our push to increase self-esteem of the children,”* says Fr Santosh Minj SJ, Provincial, Hazaribag Jesuits.

These practical changes have had an immediate and positive impact, while the project has a long-term goal of helping students get the education they deserve so they can build a path out of poverty for themselves and their families.



The new purpose-built dining area provides vital shelter from the elements and a dedicated space for students to eat and socialise.



Previously, students had to queue for meals and eat outside, regardless of the weather.

# A young man showing the way

Eleven-year-old Elijah Slavinskis is proof that age is no barrier when it comes to putting faith into action.

One of the youngest supporters of Jesuit Mission, Elijah is a gifted young man who has just starred in the musical Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. But it's not just Elijah's voice that's remarkable, he has a compassionate heart to match.

In 2019, Elijah raised over \$4,000 to help marginalised people living in Timor-Leste.

During one Mass at St Canice's, a Jesuit parish in Sydney, back when Elijah was just eight years

old, he heard a St Ignatius' College Riverview student speak about his immersion experience in Timor-Leste. He was very inspired and ever since has wanted to go on an immersion trip to Timor-Leste to visit projects run by the Jesuits. When his trip was confirmed in 2018, Elijah swung into action.

He started fundraising for the children in Timor-Leste. He organised a 'Staff vs Students' soccer match at his school, sold homemade body scrubs, and made an inspiring speech at his local parish.

During his trip to Timor-Leste in 2019, Elijah visited the remote villages of Railaco and participated

in St Canice's supported programs, including the Mobile Clinic and the Feeding Program. With his kind spirit and open heart, Elijah quickly connected with people in the community, where he ate and played like a local.

Upon returning home, he's continued his fundraising efforts including an online fundraising campaign.

A big thanks to Elijah and all the passionate, committed people in our Jesuit Mission family, who raised funds in 2019 to support our vulnerable sisters and brothers living overseas.



Elijah (third from left) enjoyed getting to know local people of all ages in Railaco, Timor-Leste.

# Spirit of Generosity, Moving Hearts



In 2019, Jesuit Mission and the First Spiritual Exercises Program Team started an exciting journey together. A journey that will see the Universal Apostolic Preference of 'Showing the Way to God' come alive in the ministry of Jesuit Mission, through a new project called 'One Spirit, Moving Hearts'.

We desired to create a program that enabled everyone who is part of our Jesuit Mission family – our supporters, our Jesuit partners and their staff overseas, our project participants, our staff and our volunteers - to participate in a

shared experience of prayer, storytelling and relationship.

To kick off the project, Fr Michael Hansen SJ, National Director of First Spiritual Exercises Program, studied the Jesuit Mission website to draw out our desires and its contraries. From this, the subjects of 80 spiritual exercises emerged from gifts of the Spirit, all the human rights and the areas of growth desired in the projects.

We piloted three small group Exercises with our staff, Board members, volunteers and

supporters. In our fourth pilot, we conducted it online with our program partners in Cambodia and Myanmar. Excitedly, this gave us confidence that we will be able to invite our project participants from around the world to join our circle of sharing and prayer.

We are also exploring how to share the Program in new formats such as Fold-Up Exercises which you would have found in this Report. We hope you enjoy this 'taster' of the Program and look forward to engaging you further.

# Action creating change

Jesuit Mission could not seek out and accompany vulnerable people across the globe without you, our wonderful supporters.

In 2019, you came out like never before to organise and support events throughout the year. To all the volunteers and event committees who gave so generously of their time, and all the supporters who participated so enthusiastically, please accept our most heartfelt thanks. It is a true joy to see you putting your compassion into action to create lasting change for people in need. Thank you.



Maytime Fair



Indian Bazaar



Golf Days



Thanksgiving

# Fruits of your Gifts for Change

Our profound thanks to all of you who purchased Gifts for Change in 2019. By giving a friend, family member or colleague a Gift for Change you're replacing a traditional present with the gift of nourishment, independence, education and empowerment.

This impactful gift helps create lasting change for women, men and children who suffer the indignity of poverty and injustice.



**Left:** In Cambodia, Gifts for Change have transformed the lives of farmers who joined the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) farmers' group, and learned the skills to develop a sustainable livelihood.



**Left:** Gifts for Change have helped fund programs that enable children with disabilities to communicate with one another.  
**Above:** Also, Gifts for Change have given vulnerable children the opportunity to attend school.



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Names of some of the participants mentioned in this report have been changed to protect their privacy.