

Reflections

Our actions in review

Issue #628 Summer 2022



 Jesuit
Mission

Your generosity is
enriching lives and inspiring hope.

From our CEO



Dear Friends,

I am proud of our resilient global family for looking out for each other during another difficult year with COVID-19. I welcome you all into the new year and pray that it is filled with opportunity and hope.

Unfortunately, for many of the countries where we work the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to bring immense hardship. I am so very grateful for your continuing support and I thank you all, our Jesuit Mission community, for standing in solidarity with our marginalised sisters and brothers around the world.

Your heartfelt generosity guides our work and enables our project partners to provide life-giving support to those who need it most.

This year, our Board and team will enter an exciting strategic planning journey to discern our path for the next five years. We will draw on our Ignatian spirituality with prayer, spiritual conversation and discernment to consider how best to serve our partners and the communities they walk alongside going forward.

I am very excited to announce the return of some of our events this year as well as some new ones that I look forward to sharing with you all. This year, we are launching One Foot Raised and we invite you all to follow in the footsteps of St Ignatius the Pilgrim and walk together to support our sisters and brothers overseas.

Thanks to your compassion and thoughtful prayers, together we can inspire lasting change in vulnerable communities and empower those on the margins to live full and free lives.

With thanks,

Helen Forde
Chief Executive Officer

Companions in Mission

Dear Friends,

Though the Society of Jesus was not in its current form in the sixteenth century, St Ignatius Loyola wrote what could be described as a masterpiece of strategic planning – the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus.

The terms “KPIs” or “strategic focus areas” weren’t part of the common parlance of the time, however, their equivalent for St Ignatius was the Magis (greater love), and Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (for the greater glory of God). These are the principal criterion for choosing where Jesuits are to be missioned and which ministries the Society undertakes/sponsors.

The Magis and AMDG motivated Ignatius and the First Companions in electing to offer themselves to the Pope for mission throughout the Church.

Magis and AMDG are interior movements that call forth an exterior expression. In the strategic planning process being undertaken at Jesuit Mission this year, we hope to be able to hear the call of Jesus and respond with love for the greater glory of God.

With thanks,

**Isaac Demase SJ and
Fr Paul Horan SJ**
Jesuit Mission
Companions in Mission



Refugees rise above the challenges of COVID-19 in Indonesia

In Bogor and Jakarta, Indonesia, thousands of asylum seekers and refugees are relying on organisations like Jesuit Mission to survive.

With no social assistance scheme for non-citizens during the pandemic, it is an incredibly challenging situation for many refugee families who lack hope and opportunity in their protracted wait for resettlement.

Our project partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Indonesia supports those people who fled the dangers of their home country and helps meet their basic survival needs, including financial support for food, rent, and access to health services.

Thanks to your generosity, last year through JRS’ ‘Befriend towards dignity during refuge in Indonesia’ project, almost 1,500 refugees were supported through psychosocial and financial support, consultation services and livelihood assistance activities.

“For the first time in my life, I received something from someone whom I don’t have to give anything in exchange,” said one of the refugee’s participating in the program.

Due to COVID-19, JRS adjusted many of its programs to carry out these empowering activities mostly remotely, such as remote learning managed by the JRS Learning Centre.

The cost for mobile data is covered for refugees, giving them access to an internet connection at home, to continue learning and participate in meetings and consultations via Zoom.

Fortunately some livelihood assistance activities could still go ahead in person whilst following COVID-19 protocols and restrictions.

Many asylum seekers and refugees in Indonesia have professional skills to offer, but they have little hope gaining employment in a community that rejects them.

JRS Indonesia is supporting skilled asylum seekers and refugees to access livelihood and income opportunities by connecting them with companies and organisations willing to accommodate them.

Moreover, the project advocates promoting the protection of refugees’ human rights in Indonesia and raising the awareness of just policy and practice.



Top: Refugees taking part in a cooking class in Bogor.
Above: The Basic English Class for women is held weekly at the JRS Learning Centre in Bogor

“After receiving assistance our life is better than before. Not only for me, but for my children. I can manage our expenses and our food. My husband has also regained his health,” said another refugee.



Mrs Neang plants

a future for her family

Thanks to your generosity, farmers in Cambodia like Mrs Neang are being trained in sustainable agricultural practices to help them save money and triple their yield.

Run by our partner Karuna Battambang Organisation (KBO), the project teaches farmers skills in growing rice, vegetables and fruit, as well as raising animals. In addition, the project fosters collaboration and sharing amongst local people through self-help groups.

Locals are trained in the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), an agricultural technique developed by a French Jesuit priest that uses less seeds, less water, and no chemicals.

“With SRI, I was able to make a profit,” said Mrs Neang, a 37-year-old mother with two sons and three daughters who joined the program in Banteay Meanchey Province in 2020.

“At first, I didn’t believe that the SRI could bring a good harvest, but I tried it out in 2020 and the harvest was unexpected,” she said.

Before joining the SRI project, Mrs Neang was a construction worker and helped her husband with chemical rice farming activities, which proved to be very expensive and left their family in debt.

Now debt free, Mrs Neang welcomes an exciting future for her and her family.

“My family’s lives are better than before, please continue to support us and other families to live in better conditions,” she said.



Mrs Neang with her family outside their home.

In order to provide her children with a better education, Mrs Neang will expand her activities to include chicken and pig rearing, whilst her husband continues to work as a construction worker to earn additional income for the family.

Many Cambodian people are experiencing economic hardship during the pandemic, with loss of employment in the factory and tourism sectors. To help support families during this difficult time, KBO has also been providing emergency relief packages and additional farming supplies to vulnerable communities.

“My heartfelt appreciation to the donors and KBO staff for their support and generous advice during this challenging situation,” said Mrs Neang.



Caring for her community

Georgina, a 26 year-old nurse, is dedicated to supporting her community in Railaco, Timor-Leste and has been working for the mobile medical clinic there for almost two years.

As a scholarship graduate of the Jesuit-run secondary school NOSSEF (Escola Secundaria Católica Nossa Senhora de Fátima), Georgina’s education inspired her to take on a career in nursing and help the most vulnerable.



Georgina (right) providing medical assistance at the parish clinic.

“Our teachers (at NOSSEF) were very dedicated and they wanted us to be someone who could really contribute to society,” said Georgina.

After graduating in 2012, Georgina eagerly studied nursing for seven years at the National University of Timor Lorosa’e (UNTL).

Today she works alongside Fr Martin Antonio “Bong” Abad Santos SJ, a Filipino doctor who has been running the mobile medical clinic with the Jesuits in Timor-Leste since it began in 2004.

Thanks to your generosity, the support of St Canice’s Parish Kings Cross and last year South Australian group Pilgrims 100, the mobile medical clinic goes to 12 stations in remote villages in Railaco, providing medicine and medical assistance.

“Normally we go to 2 to 3 different locations per day. In one location, sometimes we treat up to 100 patients per day,” she said.

“Even the people that live far away from Railaco also come to seek our medical treatment because they heard that our clinic offers good medical assistance,” said Georgina.

The mobile medical clinic has been running since Georgina was very young and she is thrilled to work with Fr Bong to help her friends and fellow residents in Railaco.

“If there is an opportunity to study more, I am open to it. But now I just want to work here and help as many people as I can,” she said.



Ingabire flourishes in the digital economy

Ingabire has joined the digital revolution, trading her skills on the global market, while living in Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi. Thanks to her training in the Digital Inclusion Program, supported by you and delivered by our partner Jesuit Refugee Service Malawi, now she is working with clients from around the world.

This innovative program trains participants in marketable digital skills they can use to enter the global online job market, allowing them to generate immediate income, and establish long-term livelihoods.

By offering her professional skills on global freelancing platforms, Ingabire can now provide for herself and her loved ones.

“The training I underwent in the Digital Inclusion Program made it possible for me to get a job beyond borders despite my geographic, legal and social status limitations,” she said.

With 47,000 refugees at the camp, many live below the poverty line and depend on food rations. As job opportunities are extremely limited in the camp and movement is restricted within its borders, working online is a way for refugees to break the cycle of poverty.

Through the program, refugees learn Microsoft Office suite, translation, transcription and high-speed typing. Each participant works to attain

digital accreditation to the European computer license standard, while also learning how to navigate freelance platforms to better manage their own small business.



The program is run in collaboration with a Paris-based NGO, with each participant receiving a laptop and guidance from instructors on the ground.

“This program is the hard work of people on four continents working together for something good,” said Fr David Holdcroft SJ, Australian Jesuit and founder of the Digital Inclusion Program.

Thank you for your generosity in providing refugees like Ingabire with a wonderful opportunity to develop new skills and take agency in her own life.

Concert at Sevenhill supports displaced communities in Myanmar

A special thank you to the Jesuit Sevenhill, Riverton and Manoora parishes in South Australia for hosting the Songs for Myanmar concert and raising over \$2,500 for the Jesuit St Michael's Parish, Nanhlaing Village in Northern Myanmar.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will directly support the activities of St Michael's to help those that have been displaced by military occupation, COVID-19 and poverty.

Thanks to your generosity, last year St Michael's Parish in Myanmar was able to house 300 displaced families as well as build a girls and boys dormitory to revive education in the area.



“We are looking forward to strengthening our partnership with St Michael's and the personal relationships between our respective parishes into the new year,” said Sevenhill Parish Pastoral Council chair John Grbin.

Over 80 people attended the memorable afternoon of music with Opera Australia Soprano Karina Bailey and her accompanist Yining Zhang in St Aloysius Church, Sevenhill.

Thank you for your support of the Maytime Fair and Bazaar Appeals

Jesuit Mission is deeply grateful to everyone who supported the Maytime Fair and Bazaar Appeals last year, together over \$150,000 was raised!

For the second year both events were sadly cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, however, once again the Sydney and Melbourne Jesuit communities pulled together to help men, women and children living on the margins raise themselves out of poverty.

Thank you to St Aloysius' College, St Ignatius' College Riverview, Xavier College Melbourne, the Maytime Fair and Bazaar Committees and all those who volunteered or purchased jams and wine from our online stores.



Whilst it would have been the 70th anniversaries for the Jesuit Mission Bazaar and the Maytime Fair, we hope to celebrate these wonderful days of fun, friendship and solidarity in person with you all this year.



Students of St Aloysius' College walk in solidarity.



This year we invite you to follow in the footsteps of St Ignatius the Pilgrim, to walk in the month of March with *One Foot Raised*.

One Foot Raised is Jesuit Mission's new supporter event, where participants will be challenged to walk a set distance and raise funds for Jesuit Mission using a peer-to-peer online platform. You can take part as a school, a parish, a group of friends or you can take on the challenge personally and set your own pace as an individual.

You can walk in one day, in one week, or spread it out over one month during March, which

will coincide with the 400 year anniversary of the canonisation of St Ignatius and St Francis Xavier on 12 March.

The Ignatian Year is an opportunity to draw further inspiration from St Ignatius the Pilgrim. We walk because Ignatius walked, we walk because Jesuit Missionaries walk alongside the marginalised and we walk because many children in Jesuit Mission supported schools walk long distances each day to gain a quality education.

Events this year

- **Melbourne Golf Day** – Friday 11 March 2022
- **One Foot Raised** – March 2022
- **Maytime Fair** – Saturday 7 May 2022
- **Jesuit Mission Bazaar** – Saturday 10 September 2022
- **Sydney Golf Day** – Thursday 10 November 2022



Mail: PO Box 193, North Sydney 2059
Phone: (02) 8918 4109 **Website:** jesuitmission.org.au
Email: support@jesuitmission.org.au
Facebook: facebook.com/jesuitmission
Instagram: instagram.com/jesuitmissionaus/



Thanks to your generosity, farmers in rural Cambodia are learning sustainable agricultural practices to triple their yield.