

Gratitude Report 2024



Jesuit
Mission

From our Provincial



Dear Companions in Mission,

It is my pleasure to present Jesuit Mission Australia's Gratitude Report for 2024. What a humbling year it has been for our region, highlighted by Pope Francis' journeys to Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Fiji, and

Singapore, alongside the inaugural visit of Jesuit Father General Arturo Sosa to Australia and Timor-Leste. Pope Francis' visit to Indonesia was especially poignant as he interacted with refugees supported by Jesuit Mission's partner, Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia. His words, *"They are close to my heart,"* resonate deeply with our mission, emphasising the profound impact of faith and love on the most vulnerable among us.

Fr Sosa's inaugural visit to Australia was a moment of renewal for our Province. His deep understanding of the global mission of the Society of Jesus brought encouragement, hope, and wisdom, helping us discern where our presence is most needed and how we can best serve God's people.

As a generous supporter of our mission, your actions reflect your faith. Thanks to your

generosity, my Jesuit brothers and their lay collaborators can empower communities facing extreme injustice to free themselves from poverty and flourish.

Through my work in Jesuit-run schools in Cambodia and Timor-Leste, I've personally seen the transformative power that education can have for children and families who've survived conflict and suffering.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your compassionate commitment to our humanitarian relief and community development work. In 2024, Jesuit Mission reached more than 530,000 people through our global Jesuit network.

I would also like to thank the Jesuit Mission Board, staff, committee members, and volunteers for their ongoing work this year.

As we look ahead, let us draw inspiration from St Ignatius: *"Take care to serve the poor in every way, for they are the image of Christ."*

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Quyen', written in a cursive style.

Fr Quyen Vu SJ
Australian Jesuit Provincial

About Jesuit Mission Australia

Jesuit Mission is the international development organisation of the Australian Jesuits.

Founded in 1951, Jesuit Mission partners with Jesuit networks overseas to deliver community-led, sustainable programs that cultivate resilience and self-reliance for vulnerable communities, primarily in India and Southeast Asia.

Our Vision

An inclusive and just world where humanity flourishes.

Our Inspiration

'I came so that they may have life and have it more abundantly' John 10:10

From our CEO



As I look back over 2024, I'm moved to offer my heartfelt gratitude to you, our Jesuit Mission Australia family, for your exceptional support.

You've responded to emergencies overseas – including the escalating conflicts in Myanmar and

Lebanon, and natural disasters like Typhoon Yagi – with open hearts and immediate action. Your extraordinary generosity enabled our Jesuit partners on the frontlines to stand alongside people in great need to offer essential emergency relief and ongoing support.

Across the year, it's been a blessing to see our warm and wonderful community come together to pray, act and respond. I've been humbled time and again by your compassion. This year our faithful community raised \$7.3 million, which has a profound impact immediately and ongoing. In 2024, you enabled 66 vital projects in 13 countries, helping to uplift vulnerable children, women and men.

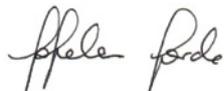
As ever, I extend my most sincere thanks to our dedicated Jesuit project partners overseas who

work hand-in-hand with local communities, to create meaningful transformation. During the joyful visit of Jesuit Father General Arturo Sosa, his Jesuit companions from Rome, and the Jesuit Major Superiors from across Asia-Pacific, it was a true privilege to hear first-hand accounts of the work of our local partners and the life-changing impact of your support.

I'd also like to thank our Board members, staff and volunteers for their commitment and passion; and acknowledge the tireless efforts and boundless enthusiasm of our schools, parishes and committees who ensure the success of events like the Jesuit Mission Bazaar, Maytime Fair, and our One Foot Raised walk for the people of Myanmar.

Please enjoy reading the stories of your impact in this Gratitude Report and join me in keeping the displaced and marginalised members of our global family in your thoughts and prayers.

With gratitude,



Helen Forde
CEO, Jesuit Mission Australia

Our Mission

Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in the spirit of St Ignatius of Loyola, we partner with international Jesuit networks to empower communities living on the margins to free themselves from poverty and injustice.

Our Values

 **Faith & Compassion**

 **Justice & Integrity**

 **Solidarity & Empowerment**

Your support, your impact



Empowering People Living with Disabilities

Rooted in our mission to uphold human dignity, you have helped **3,300 people** living with disabilities access life-changing and inclusive support, breaking down stigma and opening doors to new opportunities.



Accompanying Those in Crisis

When emergencies strike, your compassion reaches those in desperate need. Over **76,000 people** have received lifesaving relief, including food, shelter, and healthcare, with **43,000 individuals** receiving psychosocial support to heal from trauma.



Education: A Pathway to Hope

Inspired by our Jesuit commitment to education, you have helped over **32,000 students** across Asia gain access to quality learning, empowering them to shape their futures.



Building Schools, Building Futures

Thanks to your generosity, critical education infrastructure in India, Timor-Leste, and Cambodia ensures that more than **28,000 students** receive an education each year.



Transforming Communities

In India alone, nearly **350,000 people** have gained new skills, discovered their rights, and built stronger, more resilient communities through programs you have made possible.



Healthcare on the Margins

Over **62,000 people** accessed urgent and essential medical care, ensuring that even the most vulnerable can live with dignity and wellbeing.



Standing with Refugees: A Commitment to Solidarity

Inspired by our Jesuit tradition of walking with the excluded, your generosity has provided over **37,000 refugees** in Asia and Africa with education, skills training, housing, and psychosocial support.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: A Foundation for Life

Access to clean water and proper sanitation is a fundamental human right. With your support, nearly **25,000 people** now have safe drinking water, toilets, and hygiene education — ensuring healthier, more dignified lives.



Caring for Our Common Home

Guided by Pope Francis' call in *Laudato Si'*, your support has empowered more than **10,000 people** to engage in ecological projects — planting trees, restoring land, and learning how to protect our planet for future generations.



Uplifting Women & Girls

Over half of the participants in our programs are women and girls. Your support is ensuring that women and girls can realise their potential, through education, leadership development, and economic independence programs — transforming families and communities.



530,022
participants



66
projects



13
countries



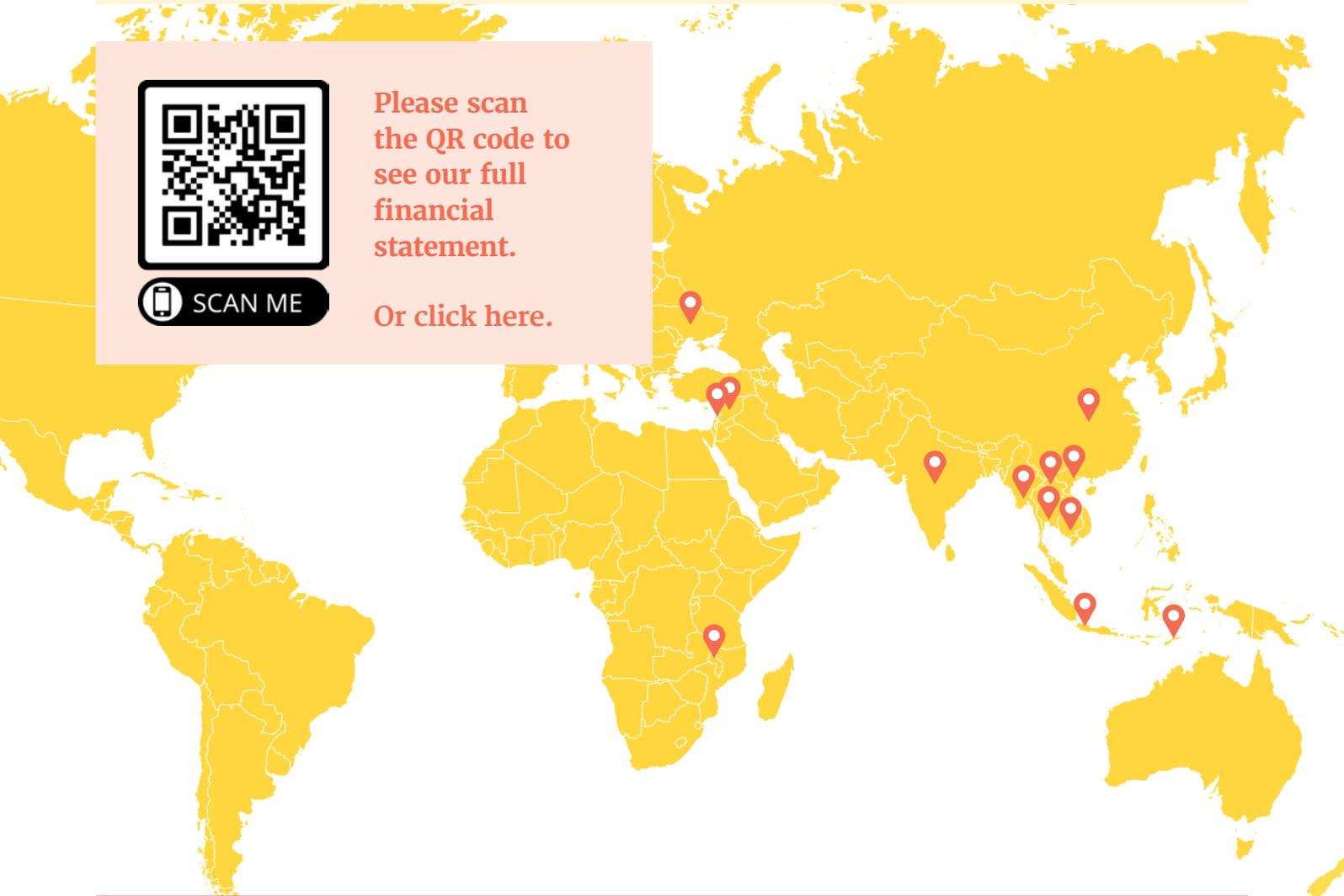
25
partners



Please scan the QR code to see our full financial statement.



Or click here.



Lighting the path to education

For children living in rural villages in Hazaribag, India, the 'Ankur Project' has sparked a love of learning and inspired dreams of a wider world.

"I didn't know how to read before, but now I can!" says Anika, aged eight. *"One day, I want to enrol in high school far away and become a police officer to catch thieves."*

Initially created in response to the closure of schools during COVID-19, our local partner the Hazaribag Jesuits, developed the Ankur project to provide ongoing access to education for Dalit children, who are part of the group of marginalised people formerly referred to as 'untouchables'.

With your kind support, the project has seen outstanding growth. From five tuition centres opened in 2020, **the project has grown to include 100 centres that supported over 2,000 children in 2024.**

Staffed by tutors from the same indigenous Bhuiyan community as the children, Ankur students learn English, Hindi and maths, as well as the skills they'll need to continue their education and access new opportunities.

The project also embraces parents, nurturing their commitment to educating their children.

For many families living with economic insecurity, there's pressure for children to go to work alongside their parents. But through the 'Ankur Project', parents are empowered to have greater confidence in their children's ability to uplift themselves and their families through education.

For Anika's mother, the benefits of the project are clear.

"I send her every day because I want her to study more," she said. *"I only studied up to Grade 6, but I want her to go further and have a bright future."*



Anika loves studying at the Ankur tuition centre with her peers.

Never set limits

Countless refugees and asylum-seekers from around the world arrive in Thailand's bustling capital Bangkok each year. But without legal access to jobs or education, many find themselves highly vulnerable – living on the margins, exposed to exploitation, with few opportunities to improve their situation.

Seeing this urgent need, our local partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Asia Pacific, developed the 'Urban Education Project for Refugees' that supports at-risk asylum seekers and refugees. Participants undertake six-month practical training courses in basic Thai or English language skills, and vocational training such as computer skills, beauty treatments or sewing.

Thanks to your generous support, courses are free of charge, and students can access a financial package to help with housing, food and transport.

The project initially focussed on young people aged 16-24, but has now expanded to include vulnerable older refugees who are eager to learn.

43-year-old Cambodian refugee, Chantrea, has lived in Thailand for eight years after fleeing with her father to avoid political persecution. Living in Bangkok and lacking legal recognition, they've been struggling to survive from day one.

In August, Chantrea gained new hope when she met the JRS Asia Pacific team and enrolled in the project. Now she's training to be a hairdresser – and loving it.

Through the project she's made friends from different backgrounds and learnt new skills that will help her one day open a beauty salon, either in Thailand or, if safe, back home in Cambodia. Facing each day with resilience and optimism for the future, she says: ***“Never set limits. Learn no limit... It is the right thing to empower others to be stronger.”***

In 2024, 310 refugees and asylum seekers like Chantrea – two-thirds of them women – were supported through this inspirational project, gaining essential skills to build a better future.



Chantrea hopes to open a beauty salon, either in Thailand or, if safe, back home in Cambodia.



Chantrea (left) putting her new hairdressing skills into practice.

Emergency Action Fund:

Thanks to your generous contributions to our Emergency Action Fund in 2024, Jesuit Mission has been able to continue working closely with local Jesuit partners overseas to bring desperately needed relief to communities devastated by conflict and natural disasters.

TYPHOON YAGI

Typhoon Yagi, one of the strongest storms to hit Southeast Asia in decades, brought severe flooding and landslides to Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos. Widespread damage to homes, infrastructure and agriculture displaced hundreds of thousands of people and affected every aspect of life, including food supply.

Thanks to the generosity of our Jesuit Mission family, our local partners **delivered essential food supplies and drinking water to communities in Vietnam, assisted families and repaired schools in Laos, and provided 18,000 people in Myanmar** with food, medicine, shelter, livelihood opportunities, and education programs.

“Amid the turmoil and uncertainty, a powerful light of courage has shone brightly through the darkness. 2024 has brought its own tests, with intensified conflict and devastating floods affecting countless lives in Myanmar. But even in the face of these hardships, the spirit of the people is hard to break.”

– A Jesuit in Myanmar.



Members of a displaced Burmese family walk on a muddy path in the aftermath of Typhoon Yagi.

Photo by Myanmar Jesuits.

LEBANON

Since September 2024, intensive bombing devastated Lebanon, displacing over 1.2 million people. The humanitarian situation was dire, with 75% of hospitals under critical strain and 85% of shelters operating at or above capacity. Coupled with the country's ongoing economic crisis, this escalating violence pushed vulnerable families to the brink, with women and children most severely affected.

Thanks to your vital contributions, Jesuit Refugee Service Middle East and North Africa (JRS MENA) were able to provide immediate emergency support to collective shelters – many of which are located in Jesuit schools and Jesuit-run centres. Through our Emergency Action Fund, you helped deliver **over 5,000 meals, 1,900 food baskets and 9,000 litres of clean drinking water, along with cleaning kits, blankets, heating fuel and ongoing psychosocial support for over 14,000 displaced people** and many more in the years to come.

“This work isn't just about providing aid; it's about restoring hope,” said Nada Al Myr, Project Director for JRS Baalbek, Lebanon.



Project partner JRS Lebanon stands in solidarity with the people of Lebanon.

Photo by Iván Benítez.

Responding where needed most

During a globally tumultuous year, your compassionate gifts helped deliver lifesaving immediate assistance and vital ongoing support to our sisters and brothers enduring the darkest of times.

UKRAINE

“Let us continue to keep hope alive for refugees in Europe.” – Fr Alberto Ares SJ, Director of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Europe.

Since the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine began more than three years ago, our Jesuit Mission family has helped JRS Europe offer a **lifeline to over 127,000 people**.

Lyudmila and her family were driven from their home by constant shelling, and after a long, difficult journey found relief. *“Eventually, we went to Lviv, where we met with JRS,”* she recalls. *“Now, it’s two years that this shelter has been our home. I’m happy and grateful for all that I have.”*

With vital infrastructure destroyed and millions of people seeking refuge in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries, your kind support is bringing practical help and the light of hope, including vital ongoing psychological support and education for children.

SYRIA

Following the Syrian earthquake in February 2023, which killed nearly 9,000 people and left many more homeless, our local partner Jesuit Refugee Service Syria continues to provide **direct support to over 10,000 vulnerable children**.

Your generous contributions have helped deliver food, warm clothing and medicine to people in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, and provided psychological support for those living with the ongoing impacts of trauma and loss.

Coming after 12 years of civil war, which displaced over 13 million people internally and externally, the earthquake compounded an already severe humanitarian crisis.

Education, protection and community-building programs are helping to foster resilience and empower Syrian people to begin rebuilding their shattered society.

Thanks to your support of our Emergency Action Fund, since 2021 we have helped over 850,000 women, men and children in 14 countries to survive devastation, crisis and turmoil.



Emergency support for a country in crisis



A mother and daughter in Myanmar.

Days before Christmas 2024, a Jesuit parish was shattered by two 500-pound bombs. One exploded, destroying two-thirds of the church hall. The other, live but unexploded, embedded itself in front of the church at the feet of a St Michael statue.

It was a full year of turmoil, terror and frequent airstrikes in Myanmar, where the ruling military junta has committed a series of grave human rights violations against its own people, often targeting ethnic minorities.

“Myanmar is now in a state of utter devastation,” says a Jesuit who will remain unnamed to protect his safety. *“Every opportunity for a meaningful dialogue has been rejected.”*

Since the beginning of the conflict in 2021, over 3.4 million people have been displaced, nearly 40% of them children. In February 2024, the crisis escalated once more when new conscription laws caused an exodus of thousands of young men and women fleeing to avoid forced military service. The arrival of Typhoon Yagi in September, which brought severe flooding and mudslides, compounded the crisis further still.

In the face of such suffering, your generous contributions to our Emergency Action Fund have helped our local partner, Myanmar Jesuit Region, to deliver more relief in 2024. With your

help, we provided emergency shelter, medicine, food and psychological support to 18,000 displaced children and their families, as well as learning materials and education for students.

Through education, the Jesuits hope to empower the next generation to create a new future for Myanmar. Each day they take inspiration from Pope Francis’ comments on the crisis: *“The future of your country must be peace, based on respect for the dignity and rights of all, on respect for a democratic order that allows each person to contribute to the common good.”*

“May God bless every effort for the displaced victims of the war and typhoon Yagi-hit Myanmar! Keep Myanmar in your prayers.”

– A Jesuit in Myanmar



Some lovely messages from the next generation in Myanmar.

Messages of hope and solidarity to Myanmar from Australia

In the week coinciding with the feast day of St Ignatius of Loyola, Australian Catholics of all ages participated in our One Foot Raised campaign, to raise awareness, prayers and an incredible \$54,000 for the people of Myanmar.

A huge thank you to all of our supporters for participating, including Saint Ignatius' College Riverview (NSW), Xavier College (VIC), Our Lady of the Way Parish North Sydney (NSW), The Cardoner Network (NSW), Saint Ignatius College Geelong (VIC), Sevenhill and Riverton Parishes (SA), and Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia.

In addition, Jesuit Mission supporters and Year 5 and 6 students from Saint Ignatius' College Riverview wrote letters of love, hope and support for the people of Myanmar. We continue to pray for peace and justice for all those affected by conflict.

Upon reading the letters, our project partner shared their thanks with you and our compassionate supporters.

"Thank you so much for all your thoughts, prayers, support and solidarity! All the words and messages are really encouraging, and we feel God's love through those messages...Please know that you, your team, and your loved ones are in our prayers too.

Thank you for all your support in many ways to the people of Myanmar!"



Our Lady of the Way Parish, North Sydney, walking with One Foot Raised for Myanmar.

Write a note or draw a picture to show your support for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar:

Dear buddy,

My name is Leo and I am from Riverview St Ignatius, year 6. I am 12 years old and love to play rugby.

As part of our service we have done a Walkathon and a fund raiser. We hope that the support we have given you helps you very much. The support will help your education and the home you live in.

Much Love, Leo.

Jesuit Mission

Write a note or draw a picture to show your support for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar:

Dear friend,

I hope your day has been going well. My name is Rhys and I go to St Ignatius College Riverview. I'm 12 years and in year 6. I hope the money will get you education and shelter. As part of our service, we walked over 10 kilometres in a walk-a-thon. I wish the support that we give you can give you a better life, with a place to call home.

Warm regards,
Rhys. ☺

Jesuit Mission

HEROIC PRAYERS
GOD LOVES YOU
THE LORD IS YOUR SHEPHERD
MAY GOD PROTECT YOU
INSPIRED
BEACON OF HOPE
KINDHEARTED
BEAUTY
PEACE

OUR PARTNERS ON THE GROUND RISK THEIR LIVES TO GIVE SUPPORT, AID AND COMFORT TO OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN MYANMAR.

Please God care for these precious people

God Bless you all
Carmel

OUR PARTNERS ON THE GROUND RISK THEIR LIVES TO GIVE SUPPORT, AID AND COMFORT TO OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN MYANMAR.

25626

Please know that my husband & I are praying for you. May God give you courage and protect you always.

Thank you for your incredible work.
God bless you.

THANKS LOVE
SOLIDARITY
PEACE AND LOVE
SUPPORT
COURAGE
INSPIRING
RESPECT
GENEROUS
SALUTE YOU
POSITIVE
HANKS
ENCOURAGEMENT
GRATEFUL
NEVER GIVE UP
RESPECT
SALUTE YOU
SOLIDARITY

Enduring friendships

“Bring nothing. The local people will give to you,” said Fr Steve Sinn SJ in 2009, parish priest of St Canice’s, in Sydney.

Parishioners were off to their sister parish of Railaco, Timor-Leste. They did not understand what he meant at the time. They soon experienced the generosity of the Timorese – who had much to give – hospitality, wisdom, faith, and a sense of shared humanity.

“I have so many memorable experiences of visiting the programs in my six visits over the years. The most memorable was when I accompanied 18 others from St Canice’s in 2019 to come and witness first-hand what our parish was making possible.” Michael Musgrave, parishioner and champion fundraiser at St Canice’s Parish.

This year on the Feast Day of Saint Ignatius, St Canice’s Parish raised a record-breaking

\$16,000 to support the nutrition and educational works in their Jesuit sister parish Railaco.

“Over these years I have formed friendships with the many Jesuits connected with Railaco. My better understanding of what drives their dedication inspires my own faith.”



Michael Musgrave (second right) with teachers from NOSSEF secondary school in Railaco.

Developing food security

In Timor-Leste, the vast majority of people are affected by food insecurity. Worse yet, 46% of children under five suffer from malnutrition.

To create lasting change, in 2022 our local partner Jesuit Social Service Timor-Leste established the ‘Food Security Project’. Since its inception, the project has provided almost 1,200 farming families with training to boost agricultural production, along with education on nutrition and healthy eating.

In 2024, this innovative project was supported by **Pilgrims 100**, an inspiring collective-giving group. Launched by St Ignatius Norwood (SA) parishioners in conjunction with Jesuit Mission, the group now has 98 members each giving \$1,000 to a project of their choosing each year.

Members of Pilgrims 100 had the pleasure of visiting the farms of our friends in Timor-Leste. They witnessed the ways the project is not only improving harvests, but is allowing families to

build a sustainable income so they can save money to send their children to school, invest in their health, and begin to pursue opportunities that were once out of reach.



James Hill, Chair of Pilgrims 100, visiting a school food security project.

Embracing the spirit of social justice

We're profoundly grateful for the dedication of all our volunteers, committees, schools, and parishes who worked on a wonderful array of fundraising events and projects in 2024.

Your efforts embody the values of justice, equality and solidarity, and every dollar you've raised will help empower marginalised members of our global family in more than 10 countries.



Sienna College senior students volunteering at the Beauty Bags Stall at the Maytime Fair.

“The deeper meaning of your work is the fact that you have touched the lives of people far away, people you’ve never seen before, people whose results of your efforts you will not know.”

– Fr Tony Herbert SJ, Hazaribag Missionary of over 50 years speaking at the closing mass for the 2024 Jesuit Mission Bazaar.



The best part of our day

Making calls to express our heartfelt gratitude for your contributions is one of the most rewarding things we do.

Kate, our Supporter Relations Officer, loves hearing the stories of our donors and learning about their deep, ongoing connections with our global Jesuit Mission family.

“Our donors show such compassion and love through their contributions,” she says. “They are the foundation on which the project work of Jesuit Mission can happen, and the only and natural answer is gratitude.”

Fr Paul Horan SJ, companion of Jesuit Mission and Hazaribag missionary for over 40 years, says speaking with our wonderful supporters is a reminder of the value of community and the importance of faith in giving meaning to our lives.

“We get a lot out of speaking with donors,” he says. “We get a sense of people’s faith, their loyalty to the church and to Jesuit Mission – it’s very moving.”



Fr Paul Horan SJ and Fr Tony Herbert SJ, long-term Hazaribag missionaries and Companions of Jesuit Mission.



Kate Lopez, Supporter Relations Officer, Jesuit Mission.

A joyous visit from Jesuit Father General Arturo Sosa SJ



On 24 January 2024, we welcomed Jesuit Father General Arturo Sosa SJ, his Jesuit companions from Rome, and Jesuit Major Superiors from across the Asia-Pacific to share an intimate evening of friendship and gratitude with a group of our loyal, Jesuit Mission supporters.

Our CEO, Helen Forde, led an inspiring panel discussion with the Jesuit Major Superiors from Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Timor-Leste. Together they shared stories of how the projects you support are uplifting communities and empowering young people to become future leaders.

Speaking about Jesuit-run schools in Timor-Leste that educate thousands of students and trainee teachers, Fr Erik John Gerilla SJ, Regional Superior of Timor-Leste noted: *“We are providing not only education but holistic formation to youth where their values, culture and spirituality are grounded.”*

While Fr. Girish Santiago SJ, Regional Superior of Myanmar, told the gathering: *“Despite the challenges of the country, the youth of Myanmar have hope... the fighting will one day cease and with the education they receive, they will breathe in something new.”*



Helen Forde, CEO of Jesuit Mission with Jesuit Father General Arturo Sosa SJ and accompanying Jesuits from the Curia, Fr Jose Magadia SJ and Fr MK George SJ.

Their heartfelt stories gave an insight into the incredible impact of our wider Jesuit network and the vital projects uplifting vulnerable people living with the burden of poverty and injustice.

As only the third Father General to visit Australia, we were deeply moved by Fr Sosa's special blessing and acknowledgement of the unique contribution of the Jesuit Mission Australia family. *“You are part of the family of the Society of Jesus. Not because of what you give, but because of who you are. Because what you are giving is your own life, your own heart.”*



Jesuit Father General Arturo Sosa SJ, accompanying Jesuits, Australian Jesuit Provincial Fr Quyen, Jesuit Mission Board and staff.



Empowerment is key to the Lok Manch project in India – uplifting women and amplifying their voices to bring opportunity and independence.



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/



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

Front Cover: Helen Forde, CEO of Jesuit Mission welcomes Jesuit Father General Arturo Sosa.