

Stranorlar Parish Third World Project

Mission Statement

A concern for the poor is at the very centre of who God is; you could say it is at the very 'heart of God'. Not simply in terms of his love, but also in his actions.

Luke 4:18-19 - *'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*

The Lord's Prayer – *'give us this day our daily bread'* and **God's Word** - *I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you took me into your home.*

Isaiah 58.7 – *'Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter--when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?'*

Matthew 25:40 – *'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

John 14:12 - *'I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these'*

So it is clear then - God has a heart for the poor. Jesus expresses this through his life of action and we are called to do even more on his behalf.

Background

The Parish Development and Renewal Group discussed and decided that Stranorlar Parish should either twin with or have a link with a project in the Developing World. After some research it was decided to link with two projects, which are being run by the Sisters of Mercy. To date the Parish has raised €2,699.32.

The Projects

Project 1: Scholarships for Girls.

These scholarships are focused on girls who have left school early or who have become pregnant at a young age and the purpose is to give them a skill so that they can become financially self-sufficient. This programme is offered in 5 countries in Africa where the Sisters of Mercy work. Scholarships for one year's tuition cost \$50 per year, which is approximately €40. Students are taught a skill, which is usually hairdressing; tailoring; computer skills and how to grow vegetables.



Project 2: Bikes for Cambodia

The Sisters of Mercy have recently built 14 schools in Cambodia. All of the schools are in rural areas. Sr Denise Coughlan said many kids needed a bike because of the long distances they have to travel as otherwise they are unable to attend school and so began the bike campaign. Bikes cost \$50 or €40 each.



The Group

Members: Lily Dowds, Eamon O’Fearghaill, Ann Glancy, Pat Hilley

It is proposed that the group will commit to one full year initially to get the project fully up and running. Meetings will be held once a month. New members are always welcome but it is hoped that each year 2 people should be free to leave and two new people to join the group.

Plan

- After Easter launch a copper hunt and update the parish on the project to-date.
- Ensure that there is a presence in the Church at all times of the Project – posters to be updated at appropriate times throughout the year.
- Explore other areas such as:
 - Involving children and young people in the project through the children’s liturgy and the children;s mass. Also other areas such as the youth club, First Communion, Confirmation, Transition Year Students.
 - Having one or two other fundraising events e.g. a coffee/cake sale after all masses on Mission Sunday, quiz etc.
 - Having one week in the Church Year dedicated to the project.
 - Getting charitable status for the project.
- Have direct contact with those in receipt of the money and ask them to submit an update on the children/women who have received the bike or the scholarship and to submit photographs with maybe messages from those people who are using them.