

## Defying the odds and *topping the District*

In Bhurkunda, a coal mining town to the south of Hazaribag in India, many families caught in a hand-to-mouth existence see education as too expensive. However, Roshan Kumar's parents see education as the vital pathway to help secure their children's future. Roshan, a 16-year-old boy who loves cricket, is well and truly on the path of opportunity and change as he has recently topped the exams for his District.

Roshan's father, Tinku, works hard to provide for his family and ensure his children can attend school. "I could not finish up to the graduation level. Life was very tough," he says. "My dream is to give my children a good education."

"I did not go to school," says Roshan's mother, Sunita. "My mother had a small shop and I used to help her. When I grew up, I was married off and I have a family now ... What we want is [for] our children to excel in their life."

Roshan has been attending the Jesuit-run Catholic Ashram School for the past eight years. The school was established by the Jesuits to help families working in the coal mines and factories in the area, and many of the students

are from poor families or tribal groups. Knowing the good reputation of the school, Roshan's parents decided to send him there.

Since starting at the school, Roshan has studied hard over the years. This year, he sat the district exam and his hard work paid off, coming first place in the whole district. "I feel very good [about my results]," says Roshan. "My parents feel very proud, and my teachers help me to study so that I get this."

Father Bob Slattery SJ, an Australian Jesuit missionary who has been working with the schools in Hazaribag, is proud of Roshan's achievements as well. "They [Roshan's family] struggle but yet he has done marvellous in exams and topped the district.



Roshan Kumar (second left) and his family are overjoyed by his excellent results in the district exams.

**"We want to say a big thank you to all who supported the school and without them nothing would have been possible ... In this school, all can study, be they poor or rich."**

**- Roshan's father**

"Without Australian supporters, the work would not have been possible ... it is very inspiring for us who are here in the field that so many are supporting us without seeing the actual work."

Our recent Christmas appeal shared more stories of Jesuit Mission's education work in Hazaribag. We are very grateful to all who supported this appeal to make this work possible. You can see more about Roshan's story at <http://bit.ly/2AHoUyH>

## A drop in the ocean

The Jesuits in Hazaribag in India live and work with people of the lowest socio-economic classes – the Dalits and tribal groups. Facing countless battles against exploitation and dehumanising treatment, many hold hope that they can change their life through education.

The Jesuits have been providing education to the marginalised groups in the area for more than 50 years. In my recent visit to Hazaribag, I asked about the number of children being educated by the Jesuits. Fr Bob Slattery SJ replied, "26,000". He went on to say, "It is just a drop in the ocean." After all, what is 26,000



Fr Trung Nguyen SJ (with red garland) visiting schools in India.

compared to a country of over a billion people?

Though the situation is daunting, the Jesuits remain optimistic and hopeful. Hopeful that the 'drop in the ocean' will cause a ripple around the world for people to be aware, to raise their voices, and to act. And hopefully, one day, this ripple will become a tidal wave sweeping over the land to bring a more just society for all.

We thank you for your ongoing generosity and support, and remind you to continue to lift up your gaze to the horizons, and to remember that we are all connected in friendship, prayer, and service, even to those we have never met.

**Fr Trung Nguyen SJ, Rector of Jesuit Mission**

## Magis and young people: *Our hope for the future*

Wishing you a joyful new year for 2018. This year the Catholic Church in Australia is celebrating the Year of Youth, a year to focus on the important contribution that young people make to communities.

During my visits to our programs, I have had the privilege of meeting many inspiring young people who are dedicated to creating a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. Roshan from Hazaribag, whose story we share in this newsletter, is one such example. His bright future has been enabled by generous supporters like you.

In my role, I also have the privilege of meeting many young people in Australia who are passionate about addressing injustices and creating opportunities for our brothers and sisters overseas. In this newsletter, Melbourne student, Ed Kennedy, shares his reflection of his visit to Jesuit Mission programs. We also commend the initiative of The Magis Project students at St Ignatius' College Riverview who broke a world record to act in solidarity with students in Timor-Leste.

'Magis' is a word that means 'more', and sums up the zeal of St Ignatius – to meet the greater need and work for the greater good. I think it's a very relevant word in describing the spirit and energy of many of these young people working towards a better world.

**Thank you**  
**Helen Forde, CEO of Jesuit Mission**



Helen Forde with students at a preschool in Kompong Thom. Jesuit Mission supports many education projects across Cambodia.



A Guinness World Record map of Timor-Leste by students and teachers at St Ignatius College Riverview.

## Breaking records *for Timor*

Australian school students from St Ignatius College Riverview in Sydney now officially hold a Guinness World Record for 'the largest human image of a country'. On 15 November 2017, with the support of the school and teachers, the students broke the World Record, rallying 1,086 fellow students and teachers to come together to form the shape of Timor-Leste.

Jesuit Mission is extremely proud of the initiative shown by the students to stand in solidarity with fellow students in Timor-Leste. The concept was the idea of two Year 10 students who proposed the initiative as part of their school project to raise awareness and funds for Jesuit Mission's projects in Timor-Leste.

The Magis Project is a joint initiative between Jesuit Mission and St Ignatius College Riverview challenging all Year 10 students to develop an original fundraising event and the promotional material to accompany it. All money raised from the event went to the Jesuit school in Timor-Leste.

Visit the Jesuit Mission website to watch a video of the event at <http://bit.ly/2iJRpF9>



## Notes from the margins

**"Who are the poor? They are not only unfortunate ones without goods or money. They are the powerless ones in a set of social structures and ideologies. They are the ones who are so enslaved that they can imagine no other identity."**

– *Disturbing the Dust* by Fr Tony Herbert

After spending more than 30 years working with Dalit communities – some of India's most marginalised people – Australian Jesuit Missionary Fr Tony Herbert SJ has published his latest book, *Disturbing the Dust*, sharing stories and reflections from his mission.

Through the stories we gain glimpses into the lives of Dalit people, as well as the experience of being a foreigner trying to walk alongside them. He shares the struggles of a community as they go through the fruitless process of applying for land rights, the fears

from violent threats of the higher castes after entering a village, and the small sense of hope in seeing Dalit women unite to stand up for one of their group members.

In penning the book, Fr Herbert hopes it will prompt further questioning – a critical consciousness that asks questions about poverty and its causes. Even more, he hopes the reader will gain a greater understanding of the world of the "Other" – of people living in poverty and on the margins.

Order a copy of *Disturbing the Dust* by calling (02) 8918 4109 or go to [www.jesuitmission.org.au/disturbing-the-dust](http://www.jesuitmission.org.au/disturbing-the-dust)

# From Australia to Timor: *Together in Solidarity*

Last July, Ed Kennedy, a Year 11 student from Xavier College Melbourne, travelled with fellow students and teachers on a school immersion trip to Timor-Leste. During his trip, he visited Jesuit Mission-supported projects and met with local students who are studying to become the country's future leaders.

– By Ed Kennedy

Although this sounds clichéd, words cannot describe my time in Timor-Leste. Our Immersion was guided by some truly remarkable Jesuits, sisters, community workers and teachers who personify the actions of St Ignatius through their strong sense of social awareness and commitment to justice. It was marvellous to witness the life-changing work of Jesuit Mission alongside such incredible people. Many have left a world of comfort to educate those who are vulnerable, and inspire the next generation of citizens committed to building the young country.

Throughout our immersion we witnessed many projects where Jesuit Mission is working with local communities to create change and empower students through education. This was evident in the community of Kasait just outside the capital Dili, where Jesuit Mission supports Colégio de Santo Inácio de Loiolá, a secondary school educating the future doctors, engineers and politicians of this ever-evolving country. These students were so eager to serve others through their hard work and motivation.

With support from our Australian community, the work of Jesuit Mission in Kasait is giving hundreds of children access to a quality education, allowing them to follow their ambitions and serve their growing nation with compassion.

We were also fortunate to witness the Feeding and Nutrition Program and Mobile Medical Clinic in Railaco which provide desperately needed services for young children vulnerable to malnutrition, as well as maternal and general health services for remote communities. It was an emotional experience, visiting some of the most marginalised people in society who are exposed to such poverty and hardship, and it made me realise the extraordinary impact Jesuit Mission has on these communities.

Much-needed funds from events such as the Maytime Fair and Indian Bazaar have a significant impact on local communities in Timor-Leste, allowing them to grow and develop. I know there have been astonishing improvements within only a few years, and I look forward to following the future development of these communities and people.



Ed Kennedy (right) meeting with local students in Timor-Leste.

**"In both Kasait and Railaco, we encountered the happiest, most welcoming students; some who would travel hours to school, eager to learn in order to change their country."**



Ed coffee-bean picking with a local student from Railaco.

**"I think the most memorable aspect of the Immersion was the immense gratitude shown by the smiling faces which will stay with me forever."**



Fr Ken McNamara SJ (second from right) with Fr George Thomas SJ, Fr Phil Crotty SJ and Dukhi, the local cook.

## *A friend to all*

**Our Jesuit Mission family farewells Father Ken McNamara SJ who sadly passed away last year. One of our pioneer missionaries, he spent almost 60 years serving some of the most marginalised families in Hazaribag, India.**

As the Principal of two large schools, Fr Ken rallied for government recognition of the schools, constructed new buildings, and most importantly, opened up opportunities for his students across Hazaribag to make a real contribution to their communities and beyond.

Fr Ken was a man of many parts, first a Jesuit priest, but just as integral to being a Jesuit priest, he was also a headmaster, engineer, builder, teacher, minor Scripture scholar, and friend to all.

**Read tributes to Fr Ken by Fr Phil Crotty SJ and Fr Bob Slattery SJ at <http://bit.ly/2A0zJfW>**



## Thank you

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors and volunteers for supporting us in 2017.

We are so grateful to you and to everyone who contributed their time, effort, skills and passion to raise funds for Jesuit Mission. We sincerely thank those who organised and ran the fantastic events of the Indian Bazaar, Maytime Fair, *Disturbing the Dust* book launches, Card Day, Golf Days, parish and school fetes, appeals, and fundraisers, and those who donated to the appeals. With your support, our Jesuit Missionaries can reach more of God's most vulnerable people.

## A lasting legacy

**John and his wife Pauline are long-term supporters of Jesuit Mission. To ensure a lasting legacy of support, they decided to leave a bequest to Jesuit Mission.**

John first heard about Jesuit Mission many years ago. "I went to a Jesuit school, I've known about Jesuit Mission since my school days ... and I've been a strong supporter of Jesuit philosophy all my life."

John and Pauline were avid travellers in the past, and even now, John keeps abreast of international current affairs by reading online newspapers from many different countries. "We are all so much better off in Australia than in poor countries and we think it better to help poor and needy people."

Pauline also feels that their decision to leave a bequest with Jesuit Mission is a meaningful one that will support others in the future.

**"We'd like to make life easier for those people in need, and to help them support their countries."**

"We were just remaking our wills, and our lawyer was helping us with that, so it was very easy to organise the bequest."

For other people considering leaving a bequest, Pauline and John have no hesitation in recommending Jesuit Mission. "The money that we give is all used for the benefit of those needy people. Very little would go to administration, so we think that's a good reason to choose the Jesuits. And also the Jesuits have a good knowledge of where the money is needed, and how it could be best used."

We sincerely thank John and Pauline for their generous support which will help poor and vulnerable communities for generations to come. If you would like to find out more about leaving a bequest, contact [bequests@jesuitmission.org.au](mailto:bequests@jesuitmission.org.au) or phone (02) 8918 4109.

## You're invited

### Maytime Fair - 5 May 2018, Xavier College Melbourne

A great day with activities and fun for all ages at Xavier College - food, stalls, rides and activities. We welcome donations for stalls at the fair:

- **Coins, banknotes and jewellery**  
Donations of Australian and foreign coins and banknotes. Any unwanted gold or silver jewellery - even if not working or broken - would also be appreciated. Please send or deliver donations to our Sydney or Melbourne offices.
- **Bottles of wine**  
For many years the Wine Auction has been a popular event at the Maytime Fair. We're calling for donations of quality wine for the auction. Wine donations can be dropped off at the Melbourne Jesuit Mission office.
- **Stamps**  
Used stamps can be collected and dropped off to the Melbourne Jesuit Mission office.

### Melbourne Golf Day - 16 February 2018, Greenacres Golf Club, Kew

Support Jesuit Mission's work at our Melbourne Golf Day - 18 holes of golf, dinner, presentation and a chance to sponsor a hole. For bookings email: [golfday@jesuitmission.org.au](mailto:golfday@jesuitmission.org.au)



Volunteers running the View Café at the Indian Bazaar

### Parish Appeals

Please visit the Jesuit Mission website to find out the dates of Parish Appeals in your area.

### Jesuit Mission Raffles in 2018

We are so grateful to all Jesuit Mission supporters who purchase raffle tickets each year.

All funds raised from Jesuit Mission raffles go to support our work in over 10 countries across Asia and Africa. To ensure we send as much of the funds to our programs as possible, we have changed the raffle process to save on administration costs and will offer only one prize draw in 2018.

You can purchase your Jesuit Mission 2018 Raffle tickets in our July Newsletter, at the Melbourne Maytime Fair, the Sydney Indian Bazaar, or by contacting our office after May 2018.

For sponsorship and enquiries contact Meg Morrison via phone (02) 8918 4109 or email at [engagement@jesuitmission.org.au](mailto:engagement@jesuitmission.org.au)



You can read more about us at [jesuitmission.org.au](http://jesuitmission.org.au)



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