



Gratitude Report

2020

From the Provincial

Dear Friends and Partners in Mission,

In 2020, it was my great privilege to be appointed Provincial of the Australian Jesuits.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share some of my story.

In 1994, I entered the Society of Jesus. I believe I have a strong calling to serve, because I know what it's like to be vulnerable, to be a refugee, to be dependent on God, to have full faith and trust in Him.

I was born in Vietnam in 1969. When I was just six years old, the Communists imprisoned my father. As soon as he had the chance, he escaped prison and our whole family attempted to flee Vietnam. Not everything went to plan.

My younger brother and I, aged 8 and 10 at the time, were separated from the rest of the family. We endured a treacherous journey on

a tiny boat that took us to Malaysia. We ran out of food and water long before we arrived, and I was certain we would die of dehydration like another child onboard.

After many challenges, my brother and I were finally reunited with our family and we began life in Australia, where I went on to gain my education.

Throughout my Jesuit life, I have always been involved in education. In 2012, I was involved in the establishment of Loyola College, a Jesuit school in Timor-Leste, and then worked in Cambodia to help establish Xavier Jesuit School in 2015. It was during this time that I came to know you, the Jesuit Mission family and feel your compassion and support. I never felt alone as a missionary both in Timor-Leste and Cambodia because you were always there by my side.

All my experiences have taught me that we are all on this journey together, to help one another as



we move forward. I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude to you for your solidarity and generosity in the last year and look forward to your continued friendship in the year ahead.

In solidarity,

Fr Quyen Vu SJ

From our CEO

Dear Friends,

2020 has been an extraordinary, unprecedented year. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested each member of our global family. For many of our sisters and brothers already living in the margins, the pandemic has brought extreme hardships including hunger, loss of livelihoods and further exclusion.

The courage I've witnessed in vulnerable communities around the world during these terrible times has been truly inspiring. So too has the incredible creativity and resilience shown by our local partners who've risen up to respond to the many challenges presented by this ongoing crisis.

I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone in our Jesuit Mission family.

You, our supporters have shown an abundance of compassion and heartfelt generosity in 2020, along with our wonderful volunteers, committees, staff, Jesuits, local

partners and our Board of Directors. Thank you.

With your generosity and the dedication of our project partners, we have been able to support over 132,000 people directly through our programs. It is remarkable to see that that the extent of our outreach has tripled in one year.

I believe that together we will get through this crisis, in solidarity as part of one global human family.

Looking ahead, we expect the challenges of the pandemic to continue in 2021. I hope that you'll continue to be by our side as we help those most in need to survive – and thrive – even in these most difficult times.

As always, it's my pleasure to present our Gratitude Report. Here you'll find stories about the impact your kind support has had for individuals, families and communities in our partner countries around the world.



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

With deep gratitude,

Helen Forde
Chief Executive Officer

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 critical access to healthcare for more than **11,000** people living in remote and rural areas and detention centres across Asia-Pacific.



You brought easy access to safe and clean drinking water for families in Vietnam and Timor-Leste – improving health and quality of life for over **25,000** people.



You empowered **3,100** people to provide for their families and build secure futures through vocational skills training and livelihoods programs.



Your support provided **2,019** vulnerable students with scholarships – ensuring an opportunity for a quality education and a pathway out of poverty.



You accompanied over **21,000** refugees across South-East Asia and Africa by providing much needed education, livelihood training, counselling support and housing assistance.



You enabled over **22,000** students in Asia-Pacific and Africa to create a brighter future through the gift of primary, secondary and tertiary education. Through your continuous support over many years building critical education infrastructure in India, Timor-Leste and Cambodia, an additional **17,000** students continue to be educated each year.



You helped deliver humanitarian assistance to more than **29,000** people in response to the Vietnam typhoons and Beirut Blast in Lebanon, providing emergency shelter, food and accompaniment to rebuild their lives.



You fostered independence and upheld the dignity of **502** people living with a disability in Cambodia by giving access to education and vocational training, health and sanitation, housing and wheelchairs.



COVID-19 has impacted the most vulnerable throughout our world, and your support has enabled emergency relief including food, health and sanitation; education, income-generation and livelihoods training to more than **31,000** people across Asia-Pacific and Africa.



70 projects
27 partners
16 countries



Over **132,000** people directly supported through our programs.

Cambodia:

Thriving in the workforce

Meet Teng Voeut, the newest and youngest member of the Outreach team, working with our local partner Karuna Battambang Organisation (KBO) in Cambodia.

Teng is a joyful young woman who's thriving in her new job as Accountant Assistant. She's extremely proud of herself – as she should be. She's come so far, with you by her side.

When Teng was 10 years old, she was gathering bamboo in the forest with her mother when she stepped on an unexploded landmine. The accident caused her to lose her leg.

Cambodia has one of the highest number of people living with disabilities caused by landmine accidents. Yet, people with disabilities are frequently discriminated against, isolated, excluded from education and pushed to the margins.

It's thanks to the generosity of people like you that Teng was able to get the support she needed to create a full and free life.

While Teng was in hospital she met Fr Greg Priyadi SJ, who later introduced her to the Outreach

team run by KBO – the very team she works with now!

Back then the team encouraged Teng to study and live at the Arrupe Centre, and helped her family to move to Prey Thom community where KBO works today.

This was a transformative experience for Teng. The Arrupe Centre, founded in 2001, helps people with disabilities access the education, healthcare and employment opportunities they need to thrive.

Teng made friends, started her education and laid the foundations for a better future. She went on to graduate high school and has recently started studying accounting at university. She has blossomed into a capable young woman who's ready to make the most of her new job, and help other people living with disabilities achieve their goals too.

“My current job has been a light that comes to my life after facing so many difficulties in the past,” said Teng.



Teng with Bishop Kike Figerado SJ, Apostolic Prefect, Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang.



Teng at 10 years old.



Resilience and hope

In 2020, Xavier Jesuit School scholarship student Kanya faced some of the biggest challenges of her young life.

As you may remember, COVID-19 forced Xavier Jesuit School, run by our local partner Jesuit Service Cambodia, to close its doors from March – September 2020.

Thanks to the solidarity and generosity of people like you, the school was able to provide internet dongles, and data, so students from even the poorest families could continue their education remotely.

Remote learning started well for Kanya. But then, she disappeared. She stopped attending classes via Zoom, and did not show up for the registration day of the National Year 9 exams.

When her worried teachers contacted Kanya, she told them that prolonged drought had

affected her parent's crops, leaving the family in heavy debt. Although Kanya wanted to continue studying, she felt she must leave school to earn money working alongside her mother.

Xavier Jesuit School teachers were able to help Kanya to speak openly with her mother about her desire to continue studying. When Kanya's mother eventually gave her blessing, Kanya rejoiced and went on to excel in her National Year 9 exams.

When we spoke with Kanya recently, she told us she'd once again felt pressure to drop out of school.

During the one-month school vacation, Kanya again went to work to help repay the family's debt. Once more, Kanya felt immense pressure to stay with her family. This time she thought it was the end of her education.

But, knowing her passion to learn, Kanya's family could see that her studies were very important and they encouraged her to stay at Xavier Jesuit School.

Now, with your support and her family's approval, Kanya is back at school, getting the education she needs to build a better future, while her parents have planted new rice crops that will help them repay their debt.



Through all your faith and support, Kanya (front left) sees the classroom as a beacon of hope.



Timor-Leste:

Celebrating clean water

Please join us in celebrating the inauguration of three new water projects delivering clean, fresh water to communities in Kamalelara, Tocoluli and Nasuta in Timor-Leste.

With your wonderful support, our local partner Jesuit Social Service (JSS) has been working side-by-side with members of each community to install water pumps, water tanks and pipelines.

But the project does not stop there! JSS will continue working with each community to ensure the water can be used to develop sustainable livelihoods, while a tree planting project will help communities improve vegetation, soil and crops.

In the remote village of Kamalelara, people rely on fishing and farming for their livelihoods. But until now, the 800 residents had been living without access to

safe, clean water. ***“This facility will lighten the burden of the community of Kamalelara,”*** says local government representative, Alberto Gomes.

You’re also helping to transform the lives of the people of Tocoluli. The community here are subsistence farmers, who used to spend hours each day fetching clean water. Now, 62 households, as well as a neighbouring school, can quickly and easily access clean water. ***“I am glad the residents here do not have to struggle like before,”*** Fr Julio Sousa, SJ, Director of JSS commented at the inauguration in December.

The rejoicing was echoed in the remote village of Nasuta. In September 2020 the community came together to open their clean water facility after months of hard work and collaboration between community members and JSS. ***“I used to go to the stream to***

wash our clothes and shower,” said Etelvina, a mother of seven children. ***“But now it is easy for us because the water tank is very close to our house.”***



Cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the water facility at Kamalelara village.



Etelvina and her family at the new water facility.



Children in Nasuta village celebrate the inauguration of clean water.

COVID-19 Update



COVID-19 has shaken the world. Vulnerable families fell into deeper levels of poverty and hunger, as casual employment opportunities disappeared with people being forced to stay inside.

Some families were forced to reduce the number of meals they have per day, as they simply did not have enough food and became dependent on our support and the support from project partners.

The distribution of emergency food packages, masks and supplies was vital for many of the people and communities participating in our projects.



Above: Bishop Kike Figerado SJ, Apostolic Prefect, providing emergency food packages to people with disabilities in Battambang, Cambodia. **Below:** A family in Yangon, Myanmar receiving rice and other essentials. **Bottom right:** Sisters and participants making masks in Hazaribag, India. **Bottom left:** A boy in Ulmera, Timor-Leste waits to receive the emergency food package for his family.



Jesuits in Vietnam

respond to the chaos left from six typhoons

With your support, the Jesuits in Central Vietnam responded effectively to a flood crisis in late 2020, where 192 people were confirmed dead.

After many days of irregular, torrential rain from September to early December, six successive typhoons left thousands of vulnerable families stranded, with no access to food, water or shelter. Jesuit priests, nuns, Buddhist monks and local governors collaborated in creating a relief program for flood victims that provided 20 tons of rice and emergency assistance to 2,000 vulnerable families.



"Pastoral halls of 40 parishes were used as a place for distributing 2,000 packs of food supplies and drinking water to isolated families during the flooding period." said Fr Peter Phuc SJ, Head of the Jesuit Social Apostolate Ministry of the Vietnam Province.

With the floods decimating over 300,000 hectares of rice and fruit plantations, and killing over 50,000 domestic animals in the months of September and October, the Jesuits have since provided additional financial support to the most vulnerable families.

"Once the flooding ceased we gave financial support to around 3,000 poor families to help with rebuilding or repairing their houses, for buying seedlings, livestock, agricultural machines and food," said Fr Phuc.



With your financial support, the construction of 100 collapsed houses and the repair of 400 damaged houses began in December and will be finished in April 2021.

Please stand in solidarity with the devastated families in Vietnam and keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Above: Fr Peter Phuc SJ (second left), Head of the Jesuit Social Apostolate Ministry of the Vietnam Province, and friends visit and aid flood victims in central Vietnam.



Myanmar:

Empowering our sisters in need

In Myanmar, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed our already vulnerable sisters even further into the margins.

Before April 2020, every day thousands of women would leave their homes in the shanty towns of Yangon to go to work in the vast garment factories located in the industrial zones. There they'd earn money that was a lifeline for their families.

But when COVID-19 hit Myanmar, the garment district was forced to suspend their operations. A few months later, factory owners began closing their businesses, leaving more than 60,000 factory workers unemployed.

Some workers returned to their home villages, but many women had no option but to stay in the slums, trying to provide for their children as best they could. To avoid starvation, some women made the difficult choice to go into the sex trade.

With your help, we're desperately working to bring women out of this situation.

Our local partner, Myanmar Jesuit Mission, is working to support women who've been forced into prostitution because of poverty, and your gifts helped to distribute vital food parcels to 100 at-risk families. This year, you'll also be helping to provide vital skills

training and microcredit loans, to empower women and give them a path out of the sex trade. Together we're creating tangible change to protect the most vulnerable and light the way to a safer future.



Above: Local women taking part in a vital skills training class.
Top: A young girl carries water through the slums of Yangon.

India: Uplifting Dalit people

In the rural villages of Hazaribag, change is afoot. With your support, the Utthan Uplift Project is empowering Dalit people – previously known as the 'untouchables' – by opening up new ways to overcome stigma, access education and gain opportunity.

Despite nationwide efforts to uplift Dalit communities, they still have a very low level of education. But our local Jesuit partner who runs

the Uplift project, is working to change the way Dalit people are perceived and how they perceive themselves.

Education is key to creating lasting change for Dalit people. As schools closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Uplift Project responded by opening Tuition Centres to provide daily lessons, so children wouldn't miss out (or drop out) of school.

Village Animator Naresh Kumar Rishi, who is supported by the Uplift Program, says:

"We hope to get more children going to school. We are assuring them, if they stay in school, they will find good work. They can then migrate to the cities and take on the value of their capability, not their caste identity."



Village children studying outside at a Tuition Centre.



Classes are provided daily, ensuring that children don't miss out on an education.

Thailand!

Realising a dream

Life in the Mae Hong Son refugee camps in Northern Thailand is extremely challenging. Yet, when we met Paw Meh in Spring 2020, she captured our hearts when she declared her selfless ambition: *"I want to be a nurse!"*

Born in the refugee camp, Paw Meh is the daughter of ethnic Karenni parents who were forced to flee Myanmar to escape violence and persecution.

Life in the camp is tough. And, because movement outside the camp is restricted for refugees, earning a livelihood is almost impossible and access to education is very limited.

It's in these challenging circumstances that your generous support is providing hope and transforming lives.

By putting your faith into action, you're helping our local partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Asia Pacific to train teachers in the Mae Hong Son refugee camps so they can provide life-changing education for children like Paw Meh.

When we first met Paw Meh, she was nine years old, completing

Grade 3 in the camp's school run by the Karenni Education Department (KnED), with teachers trained by JRS.

Since the pandemic, JRS and KnED have adopted new strategies that ensure vulnerable children like Paw Meh can continue their education. To observe strict COVID-19 safety protocols, classes have been divided in two, with each group of children attending class on alternate days.

In December 2020, Paw Meh was excited to take her exams, and happy when she ranked in the top five of her class. Now 10, she's started Grade 4, and like children everywhere, she misses going to school daily. But her beautiful

spirit is not dampened – she's as determined as ever to fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse.

With you by her side, we have every faith that Paw Meh will continue taking a step closer to realising her dream every day.



Above: Paw Meh doing school work provided by Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). **Right:** Paw Meh helping her mother make roof sheets made out of leaves.

Images taken by Prasit Boonlard/JRS Thailand.

Pilgrims raise \$71,000 for Railaco programs

The collective giving group known as Pilgrims 100 will donate \$71,000 to the Railaco Jesuit Mission nutrition, healthcare and education programs in Timor-Leste.

Pilgrims 100 was established in Adelaide in 2019 by Jesuit Mission supporters James and Genevieve Hill, who visited a number of our projects in Timor-Leste in 2019.

The concept is that each member gives \$1,000, the funds are then pooled and the members vote on which Jesuit Mission program will receive the funds.

Voted in by 71 members, the Railaco program assists the local population in three ways: a mobile medical clinic that visits eleven remote villages; a nutrition program that provides healthy meals to children in three villages; and a secondary high school providing a quality education for 380 students.

Railaco is a rural community of low-income farmers and has the highest infant mortality rate and incidence of malnourished children in Timor-Leste.



Pilgrims 100 committee members, (from left), John Carey, the Honourable Judge Tim Heffernan, Genevieve Hill, Richard Pagliaro, Elizabeth Boylan and James Hill.

If you would like to be involved in Pilgrims 100 to support programs like this, please contact James Hill on 0412 163 142 or pilgrims100@jesuitmission.org.au.

Action creating change

Unfortunately, last year Jesuit Mission was unable to host the Maytime Fair and Bazaar events for the first time in 69 years, but our supporter community generously rallied together to raise an impressive amount of funds for the Jesuit Mission Emergency Action Fund. Thanks to your support, our partners were able to provide the most vulnerable communities with essential food packages and supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you to the Jesuit and Companion school communities for participating in creative fundraising events such as walking and cooking in solidarity, mission

days, readathons and online musical soirees.

We would also like to thank Fr Colin Reinhard and the Sawtell Parish community for their unwavering support and the many fundraising initiatives they held in support of the Jesuit works in Cambodia.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues and the communities we serve need your support now more than ever. With your solidarity this year, Jesuit Mission will continue to accompany the world's most vulnerable people around the world and create lasting change for people in need.



Students of St Aloysius' College walk in solidarity.



Happy participants of Melbourne's golf day, one of the few events held in 2020.



Prayer for Kindness

Let us join together in the Prayer for Kindness written by Fr Michael Hansen SJ, National Director of the First Spiritual Exercises Program.

Like the kindness shown by our project partner who provided vulnerable villages in Timor-Leste with access to clean water, we too pray for the spirit of kindness to support our brothers and sisters in their time of need.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you? To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:6-8).”

Prayer time: Ten minutes.

1. Desire

I ask the Spirit for the gift of loving Kindness.
I consider small acts of loving kindness, and how I felt receiving them.

2. Relish

Now I imagine I am surrounded in a circle by the Kind Trinity, Father, Jesus and Spirit.

Each person addresses me by name, saying, ‘Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with me.’ Knowing it is both easy and hard to be kind in the face of intolerance, hostility and injustice, I sit humbly, for a while, in the mystery of the Kind Trinity and my desire. I relish being kind.

3. Kindness

I breathe in the Spirit of Kindness.
I breathe it out into my daily relationships, and into those who are suffering.
I repeat as desired – breathing kindness and love.
I conclude in thanks, going forward to infuse my relationships with greater kindness.



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