



23 December 2018

MERCY SISTER RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL AWARD



Sr. Mary Killeen, has been presented with a Presidential Distinguished Service Award by President Michael D. Higgins. The award recognises her outstanding development and humanitarian work amongst the poor and marginalised in Kenya since 1976. Speaking about her award, Sr. Mary said with the typical humility of missionaries: "I accept the award not for myself but on behalf of all the people

who work with me now and in the past, and the donors and volunteers who have made my work possible for the marginalised and poorest of the poor. The greatest reward is to see deprived children being given an opportunity to explore their God-given talents and to live with some degree of dignity and respect". Sr. Mary is a native of Phibsboro in Dublin. She entered the Mercy convent in Blackrock at the age of 20 and trained as a teacher at Carysfort College. She studied theology at Milltown Park and catechetics at UCD during the 1970s while teaching at primary schools in and around Dublin. It was as a primary school teacher that Sr. Mary went to Kenya in 1976 to join the staff of Our Lady of Mercy primary school in Nairobi. Close by were the large slum settlements of Mukuru and it was not long before she became involved in trying to address the huge problem of the thousands of children unable to go to school. She initiated a diverse programme of education, health, and community services in Mukuru slums where 600,000 people live. Starting with a primary school, she developed the Mukuru Promotion Centre (MPC). This vast project now comprises four primary schools with 5,600 pupils, plus skills training in masonry, carpentry, plumbing, art, crafts, dressmaking, knitting, hairdressing, beauty, cookery, catering, hygiene, and vegetable growing. Importantly, it includes a school for special needs children, plus a secondary school for 660 students, health clinics that have treated 800,000 people, social work services, street children rehabilitation, a support group for HIV/AIDS, and business training. With a strong focus on personal empowerment, she has educated over 170,000 people - many of whom are now self-sustainable. Sr. Mary's involvement also extends to other organisations working in Mukuru, including: St Marian's Children's Centre, St Mary's Viwandani Secondary School, and Mukuru Slum Development Project. Sr. Mary was chosen to represent the slum populations of Nairobi in addressing their issues to Pope Francis during his visit in 2016 - an event covered by world media, thus, highlighting the issues of poverty in a powerful manner globally. RTE's Nationwide reported on her work in January 2017. Thanks to her commitment and leadership, MPC attracts a constant stream of visitors including the President of Slovakia in 2015 and President Mary McAleese in 2001. Many people from Ireland and other countries volunteer in the activities of the centre each year. Her reputation reaches far beyond Ireland and Kenya, a fact demonstrated by the 50-minute documentary "Sr. Mary of Nairobi" produced by Austrian State Television - ORF - and broadcast in February 2017. Gernot Lercher, producer of the documentary said: "From the first moment of meeting Sr. Mary, I was deeply impressed by her relentless and brave efforts in improving the difficult conditions of millions of slum-dwellers in Nairobi. The word "impossible" obviously doesn't exist in her vocabulary. Combative a person as I ever met, she is battling corruption and mismanagement in the Kenyan capital, always having the best interests of the poorest of the poor in her heart. I would even call her the "Mother of Mukuru", which is one of the largest slums in Nairobi". John Slattery, Chairman of Africa Direct which has a long-standing partnership with Sr. Mary says that "walking through the extensive Mukuru slums with her is akin to accompanying a soccer star. She is well known and popular with everyone.

A continuous flow of volunteers arrive to the Mukuru Promotion Centre from all over Europe, America and Canada. All are met at the airport, welcomed, shown around and facilitated to get involved wherever their skills can usefully be applied. Collaboration and goodwill in any form is encouraged. Religion is not a limiting factor, Muslims and others are welcomed in schools and services".

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 16 December 2018

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p225

2nd: p230

Share:p45

Family Offering: p418



Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Bridie Bridget Whelan (Month's Mind), Monica Conaghey, Tommy O'Brien, Maureen Dunne, Sean Mahony & Family, Ivy & John Henessy & Hennessy & O'Neill Families, Maureen & Dinny Byrne, O'Keefe Family, Marie & John Meier & Meier Family, Anthony Phillip, Jane & Paddy Stanley

Sun 11.30am: Kathleen Curran (1st Ann), Thomas & Mary Whelan, Timothy O'Sullivan, Ann Scallan (15th Ann), Annie Edmonds (Birth Rem), Cora & Brendan Gorman

Recently Deceased

Dermot Whelan, Vicky Costello



Apologies

The Family Offering Envelopes have been messed up again by our printer. There is an envelope for Sunday 23rd December—PLEASE IGNORE THIS and just use the Christmas Dues Envelope.



Reminder

There are two Masses on Christmas Eve: 6pm & 8pm. The choir sings at the 8pm Mass and the Infant Jesus is placed in the Crib. There is no 10am Mass on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day there is one Mass at 11.30am.



Pope Francis & World Peace day

"Peace be to this house!" In his greeting to the world for the 52nd World Day of Peace which is celebrated on 1 January 2019, Pope Francis takes up the words

proposed by Christ in the Gospel. The Holy Father notes that “the ‘house’ of which Jesus speaks is every family, community, country, and continent.” Pope Francis reflects on the role of “good politics at the service of peace.” Those who hold political office, he says, must exercise their office in service to others, basing their work on the foundation of charity and human virtues. At the same time, Pope Francis warns of the vices that can afflict politics, including corruption, xenophobia, racism, lack of concern for the environment, and contempt for exiles. “When the exercise of political power aims only at protecting the interests of a few privileged individuals, the future is compromised and young people can be tempted to lose confidence,” the Pope writes. He encourages politics to “foster the talents of young people and their aspirations” in order to promote peace, noting that “Everyone can contribute his or her stone to help build the common home.” The Holy Father repudiates a politics of intimidation and fear, and denounces “the uncontrolled proliferation of arms.” Peace, he insists, is based on respect for each person... respect for the law and the common good, on respect for the environment” as well as “the moral tradition inherited from past generations.” In conclusion, Pope Francis says that peace “is the fruit of a great political project grounded in the mutual responsibility and interdependence of human beings.” But, he says, “it is also a challenge that demands to be taken up ever anew” - a challenge that “entails a conversion of heart and soul.” Full [Text here.](#)



Recognition for local Liberties Scouting Group



Well done to the local 61st Merchants Quay Scout Group on receiving a Garda Youth Award for being an active youth group involved in the community.

The award recognises the section's active work with Kevin Street community Gardai to support and assist community life in the area.



4th SUNDAY SEASON OF ADVENT

A reading from the Prophet Micah

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalm 79

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. R/

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. R/

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. R/

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews

This is what he said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, ‘God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.’ Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia
 ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’
 ‘let what you have said be done to me.’
 Alleluia

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, ‘Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

