St. Patrick’s Missionary Society
Ireland

Annual Report 2021
Mission Statement

We are a small Society but we have a big dream: we are committed to making a difference in the world through the power of Jesus’ counter-cultural vision of life: of love and truth, of freedom and hope. It therefore means working for unity and reconciliation in such a way that ethnic, religious, national, cultural and historical divisions are overcome. It means crossing boundaries created by culture, language, and world view. It compels us to seek out the least, the last and the lost, to accept people’s uniquenesses and recognise the special gifts bestowed on them by God’s Spirit. We strive for a more just, inclusive and compassionate world.

“We have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor.”

Pope Francis

Annual Report 2021

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Message from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees

St Patrick’s Missionary Society has been proclaiming the Gospel message for the past eighty-nine years to different people around the world, nurturing Church communities, offering education, facilitating development, and relieving the burden of poverty for many people in countries in Africa, and in Brazil and Grenada.

Over twenty-five years ago, our Society decided to invite young men from Africa and Brazil to join us. Currently we are educating over eighty-five seminarians in Africa and we have witnessed a new surge of life and energy in the Society through the priestly ordination of over forty African members over the last fourteen years.

During the year, as well as doing our normal missionary work, we have continued our focus on implementing the principles of Pope Francis, outlined in *Laudato Si’* on Care for the Earth. In the conflict areas of Northern Nigeria and South Sudan, we have assisted in educational projects in Bauchi and in Torit respectively.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused great suffering for many millions of people. To assist in alleviating the hardship that people are enduring, we created a Covid-19 Emergency Fund in April 2020. Through this fund, we assist thousands of forgotten people living in the remote areas in which we work.

We remain very grateful to our benefactors and supporters; with their continued help and prayers, the priests and members of St Patrick’s Missionary Society remain committed to spreading the Gospel message and to improving the living conditions for many people in our world.

Rev Victor Dunne
Society Leader

Message from the CEO of SPMS Ireland

2021 was a very challenging year. The COVID pandemic continued to cast a long shadow over all the activities of SPMS Ireland. Family Day which had become such an important event in the life of SPMS Ireland over the years had to be cancelled as in 2020.

There was no promotion work on behalf of SPMS Ireland in any Irish diocese during 2021. Thankfully the reduction in income through our promotion programme was not as significant as was expected. We are very grateful to our benefactors who have remained loyal to us and who continue to surprise us with their generosity. A special word of thanks is due to all involved in the Promotion Work of the Society in Ireland.

SPMS Ireland is committed to providing quality care to our elderly and ill members who return to Ireland after many years of missionary activity. As a result of the Review of Care carried out in the early part of 2021 a decision was made by the Trustees to appoint a Director of Care to begin in January 2022.

SPMS Ireland continues to support many development programmes and projects as part of our commitment to heralding the message of the Gospel. As this report shows proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ can find expression in many forms, such as building communities, churches, houses, schools and clinics.

SPMS Ireland continues to face the future with confidence and hope.

Rev Tomás O’Connor
Irish District Leader
Brazil

Fr Dermot Daly works in São Paulo, Brazil. In 2021 he worked in Santa Cruz parish with a group of volunteers who prepare food at weekends and distribute hot meals to the people who live on the streets. The number of families living on the streets has increased greatly. St Patrick’s Missionary Society helped support this project.

Fr Kieran Ridge works with the Casa São José Project. It is a therapeutic community for young adults, who are victims of drug and alcohol abuse. It is run in conjunction with the São João Batista Parish where Kieran is parish priest. Below: An Open Day for the families in Casa São José. São João Batista Parish projects include music group for the youth, distribution of food parcels and a Special Needs Group.

Grenada

Fr Seán Doggett works in Grenada, West Indies. The beneficiaries of the following projects were chosen by Fr Seán after consultation with trusted parishioners and others. The principal consideration in the choice of a beneficiary was the wellbeing and safety of the children and the ability of the beneficiary to change their circumstances. All housing projects were implemented by Caritas Grenada in 2021.

Alvina Andrews has five children, one of whom is physically disabled. The wooden house in which she and her children were living was old and structurally damaged by termites. Alvina takes on whatever work she can get and her present partner and father of her youngest child is a casual labourer, at present unemployed. Right: Alvina Andrews’ house under construction.

Corrine Mitchell is a single parent with four daughters, the oldest of whom is fifteen years. Her partner, the father of her children, was murdered about three years ago. She was living with her children in a house left to her and her brother, who also has a family, by their deceased mother. The house which was in very bad repair, was too small to accommodate both families. Sharing cooking and toilet facilities was a constant source of friction. This project provides Corrine and her children with separate independent quarters with all the amenities without the need to share facilities. Left: Entrance to Corrine’s new apartment with new toilet facilities at the rear.

Shineil Williams has four children, the eldest of whom is a twelve-year-old boy. She was living in a one-room dilapidated shack without sanitary facilities. Shineil, who is somewhat mentally challenged, takes on whatever work she can get but depends mainly on the generosity of her relatives and neighbours. Her children were taken into care by the Social Services department in 2020 because of the living conditions. They have since been returned to her and her relatives have undertaken to monitor and supervise the living conditions. Right: Shineil’s house was extended to add a new bedroom, improved kitchen and living areas and new toilet and bath facilities.

Authentic development includes efforts to bring about an integral improvement in the quality of human life, and this entails considering the setting in which people live their lives. These settings influence the way we think, feel and act. In our rooms, our homes, our workplaces and neighbourhoods, we use our environment as a way of expressing our identity. We make every effort to adapt to our environment, but when it is disorderly, chaotic or saturated with noise and ugliness, such over stimulation makes it difficult to find ourselves integrated and happy. 

Ecology of daily life, Laudato Si’ (147)
Fr Robert Psinon reports on projects funded by St Patrick’s Missionary Society in St Luke’s Parish, Miya, Bauchi, Nigeria: Covid-19 intervention Relief, Solar panel installation and building of chapel projects. “Many thanks to those who are working tirelessly in our mission support offices. We extend our sincere gratitude to our benefactors for their prayers and benevolence to our missions. St Luke’s Catholic Church is located in Ganjawa local government area of Bauchi State with a population of more than five thousand people. It is a rural settlement with predominantly African traditional worshippers, Christians and Muslims. The bulk of the population live in remote places where they have little access to social services. They depend largely on farming for their livelihood. Sometimes due to prolonged drought, their crop dries causing hunger and starvation. Currently prices of food stuff are very high in the market. Everything in the market has increased in Nigeria due to high rate of inflation which stood at 16.91% by end of last year 2021. Most families especially the poor find it difficult to put food on the table. With the Covid relief funds (pictured below, left) we managed to buy food materials such as rice, beans, guinea corn, maize, palm oil, vegetable oil, salt and maggi. Our target groups were widows, widowers, the sick, poor and orphans. The people here were very thankful and appreciative to SPMS for remembering them around these hard times.”

Nigeria

Fr Felix Mlauzi (right) works in Bauchi, Nigeria. He reports on improvements to his parish in 2021.

The building of St John’s Church (below, right): “The community of Zul is a community of peasant farmers. They worked hard to build their own new church because the old one was becoming too small and too congested due to growing numbers. They built up to lintel level but had no funds to complete the building. The project was stalled for a while. That was when we requested for mission support funds to complete the church. The funds came and the church is complete and now the people of Zul have a place of worship. They are grateful to SPS and we all thank our benefactors for supporting our mission in remote areas. Their support is contributing to the growth of God’s kingdom here in Bauchi. We have received a number of traditionalists who have converted to Christianity in the Catholic Church.”

Catechists’ Motorcycles (above): We received funds for four motorcycles for our catechists. The local roads are in bad condition and are even worse during the rain season making it difficult for priests, catechists and village evangelists to access some outstations. These motorcycles will help with means of transport as cars cannot reach some villages.

Parish pavilion (below): “We have a growing community but we had no parish hall. Most of our outdoor events took place at the pavilion. The old pavilion was damaged due to heavy winds and the roof was blown off. There was a need to rebuild. When mission support funds came we completed the project. We are now making use of the pavilion. We hold parish council meetings, deanery events, Legion of Mary gatherings, Rosary prayers, and many church societies and organisations hold their programmes there.”

Covid-19 Aid (above): In our parish we have a lot of widows, orphans and single mothers. We have needy families too. Most families are struggling to put food on the table, to buy farm inputs, pay rent, hospital bills and school fees. Covid-19 funds go a long way to support such people and thanks to the generosity of SPS and their benefactors many people have benefited from Covid-19 relief funds. We are grateful to our benefactors and donors. May God continue to bless them.”

Above, right: Miya is largely a farming area where most people live on agricultural products for livelihood. The small scale farming in this area cannot sufficiently meet the needs of the farmers. The income therefore in St Luke’s Catholic Church is not enough to do major projects like building the chapel and prayer house. We applied for funds to help us build the chapel we needed. The chapel so far is complete and is currently in use.

Left: St Luke’s Catholic Church is in Miya pastoral area. There is a poor supply of electricity in Miya and we largely depend on solar power. The solar batteries and the solar panels were insufficient. We needed more in order to keep up with power demands in the house. Solar power is needed for light, to power the fridge and other electrical appliances. The solar installation has been successfully done and it is up and running. We now have enough power supply in the house throughout the day and night.
St. Patrick’s Missionaries have worked in: Since:
- Brazil - 1962
- Cameroon - 1989
- Grenada - 1970
- Ireland - 1932
- Kenya - 1951
- Malawi - 1970
- Nigeria - 1932
- South Africa - 1989
- South Sudan - 1983
- Zambia - 1973
- Zimbabwe - 1989 to 2019
- Ghana - 2014 to 2019

With promotion offices in Ireland, UK and USA.
Zambia

Fr Samuel Mwathi Gichanga reports on the progress of projects in Good Shepherd parish, Moomba, Zambia. Right: To mark the start of the building of St Ignatius, outstation church of Moomba Parish, Fr Samuel blessed the foundations: “We included symbols of our faith, a small Bible, rosary beads and a daily newspaper on the corner stone. I got this idea as a student during the blessing of foundation stone at Theology house in Nairobi. We thank God for our benefactors. God bless.”

Above and right: Recently roofed Kayosha Secondary School in Moomba Parish with mission support fund from St Patrick’s Missionary Society. The classroom block is in use after roofing.

Above: The parish priest’s house was fitted with solar geysers. Right: Health officers from Kayosha Clinic, Ms Mable Mutemwa Doogan and her colleague teamed up with the local priest on Sundays to reach out to the outstations to make COVID-19 vaccines available to many parishioners in Moomba Parish. Members of St Ignatius Moomba Parish queue to receive their COVID-19 vaccine.

Ireland

Covid-19 Vaccine

One of the highlights of 2021 was when our members in the Care Unit, together with other residents in St Patrick’s, Kiltegan, received their COVID-19 vaccines.

The community in St Patrick’s is very grateful to the HSE and its staff for the excellent service provided to everybody in Kiltegan. Other members of the Society throughout the Irish District also received their vaccines in due course.

Society members responded very generously to the UNICEF Get a Vaccine/Give a Vaccine campaign and in total €10,000 was contributed to the campaign.

Above and right: Society members in St Patrick’s, Kiltegan, receive the Covid-19 vaccine.
Financial Data

**OUR FINANCES**

Our benefactors continue to be generous and faithful to us. Their support enables us to continue all our mission commitments. Our 2021 audited financial statements show an income of €9.3 million (2020 – €11.7 million). They can be summarised as follows:

- **INCOME 2021**
  - Irish Promotion Work 26%
  - Donations & Bequests 33%
  - Restricted Income 18%
  - Income from Investments 8%
  - Other 4%

- **EXPENDITURE 2021**
  - Mission & Promotion 24%
  - Support & Care of Members 20%
  - International Development and Projects 50%
  - Administration & Governance Costs 2%
  - Raising Funds 5%

Our financial statements are available on request from our office. If you look closely at our financial statements, a number of key observations can be noted:

- Income decreased from 2020 to 2021 by 20%. There has been a 25% decrease in the number of donors in the last 6 years.
- Restricted Income is income that can only be used for particular purposes specified by donors.
- It is the Society’s policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard the continuity of its commitment to long term mission projects together with caring for the retired members of the community and at the same time committing the maximum possible resources to current programmes.
- As our members age and return home from the missions, this financial burden will increase and we are preparing for this increase in costs by judiciously maintaining our reserves.
- At the end of 2021 reserve funds had been designated for specific purposes as follows:
  - Commitments to Ongoing Projects €3m
  - Property Fund €8.5m
  - Overseas Support of Members €10m
  - Formation and Training €4.5m
  - Mission Development Office €10m

Promotion and Mission Awareness

The promotion of mission awareness is coordinated from our head office in Kiltegan, Co Wicklow which has a staff of nineteen. Our Society is allocated two dioceses in Ireland every year where our priests visit every parish to speak on our mission and to appeal for financial help. Due to Covid-19 restrictions there were no parish visits in 2021. We depend on such voluntary donations from Ireland, UK and USA for our income. For almost 90 years our generous and faithful benefactors have provided us with adequate resources to carry out our mission work and to provide support for the poor and underprivileged.

We promote mission awareness by publishing nine issues per year of our Africa magazine. It has a circulation of 23,000 copies (per issue) and is distributed in Ireland, UK and USA.

St. Patrick’s Mission Circle began in the 1950s. As a member of our Mission Circle family, all family and friends, living and deceased, named on a Mission Circle card, are remembered in three daily Masses, monthly novenas and our daily prayers. Deceased members are especially remembered in November. Members make a voluntary annual contribution. Some of our supporters have been Mission Circle members for over 60 years.

**Occasion Cards:** Another method of fundraising is through the use of our Occasion Cards (available in Ireland, England, Scotland and USA). These are a prayerful way of including family and friends in our daily Masses and prayers. We have specially designed cards to cover all occasions. The names enrolled are remembered in the daily Masses and prayers of the Society for one year. Supporters give a donation towards the Society.

**Website and Social Media:** Our website www.spmso.org and Facebook pages cover all areas of promotion: Mission Circle, Occasion Cards, Christmas cards, Mission Appeals, Prayer leaflets and Africa magazine. We have built up an online following of support for the Society, both spiritually and financially.

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**Our Society at a glance:**

- **St. Patrick’s students studying for the priesthood in 2021:** 98
- **Priests ordained for the Society since 2007:** 42
- **Mission Circle Members since 2007:** 31,000
- **Subscribers to Africa Magazine:** 23,000
- **Occasion Cards used per year:** 250,000
- **Expended Income and Expenditure:** €1.7m
- **Total Irish Promotion Income 2021:** €2.4m
- **Working in overseas missions:** 95
- **From Europe and America:** 182
- **From Africa:** 40
- **Promotion and Mission Awareness:** 221
- **Expenditure spread across countries worldwide:** 14
Leadership

St Patrick’s Missionary Society Ireland is registered with the Charities Regulator in Ireland. RCN: 20004231.

It has been granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland and has a charitable tax exemption number: CHY 3397.

Registered Address: St. Patrick’s, Kiltegan, Co Wicklow, Ireland.

Trustees
Rev. Victor Dunne, Rev. John Marren, Rev. Seamus O’Neill (Secretary), Kevin Carroll, Rev. David Walsh

Victor Dunne (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1979. He worked in education, formation and pastoral ministry. He was elected Society Leader and appointed Chairman of the Trustees in 2014.

John Marren (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1978. He worked in administration, leadership and pastoral ministry. He was elected Assistant Society Leader and appointed a Trustee in 2014.

Seamus O’Neill (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1973. He worked in education, leadership and pastoral ministry. He was appointed as a Trustee and Secretary of the company in 2015.

Kevin Carroll (Irish) has worked in international development with Irish Aid, Trócaire and Concern. He retired from the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2014. He was appointed as a Trustee in 2021.

David Walsh (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1973. He worked in pastoral ministry, promotion, leadership and administration. He was appointed as a Trustee in 2018.

Governance

We are compliant with the Charities Governance Code and have completed the Annual Compliance Form. In the Directors Report for 2021 we continue to observe the six principles of the Code with all their practical, legal and regulatory implications.

The Charities Governance Code is assisting us to become more transparent and accountable to our stakeholders, donors, staff and the general public. In this way we hope to build trust, to become a more efficient and effective organisation and thus achieve our stated purpose, mission and objectives with integrity.

DATA PROTECTION
We have a comprehensive Data Protection Policy. The aim of the policy is to ensure that all personal data is collected in a fair and lawful manner, that it is handled and stored securely and that we comply fully with all the legal requirements of the Data Protection Acts. We have trained and appointed a Data Protection Coordinator (email: dataprotection@spms.ie). Our Privacy Policy is available at www.spms.org

GUIDELINES FOR CHARITIES FUNDRAISING FROM THE PUBLIC
In order that our supporters and benefactors will continue to have trust and confidence in us and in how we govern our charity, we have adopted the good practice set out in the Guidelines issued by the CRA. This involves following the law and the recognised standards, protecting ourselves from undue risk and showing respect for our beneficiaries, donors and the public. For more details see our Donor Charter at www.spms.org