



Dear Friends,

I wish you a truly joyful and grace-filled Christmas after what has been a most unexpected and challenging year for everyone world-wide.

Here in Australia we have felt the impact of the pandemic in so many ways. This past year has certainly highlighted the importance of supporting each other through such difficult times. Thankfully, we currently seem to be on track to regaining some normality with lockdown restrictions lifted to enable families to reunite and enjoy each other's company and to celebrate this Holy Season of Christmas.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your generous support of our work overseas. Don Bosco's Salesians are helping many in the poorer nations. In most locations, their work is directly related to those hurting from COVID-19 where their challenges include providing food, water, health services etc.

Pope Francis often reminds us of the necessity of our service to the poor and what we can do for others. As many nations struggle to deal with the impact of the global pandemic, may we collectively support in our own small way the Salesians working in those areas with our prayers and generosity.

Yours sincerely in St John Bosco,

Michael Lynch

(Br) Michael Lynch
December 2020

PRAYER

Gracious God, as we celebrate the Lord's coming this Christmas, may we prayerfully:

Give thanks anew for your providence and presence:

Seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 to cope with the challenges that we may face in the future:

Ask you to strengthen and sustain all persons in great need:

Help us to be more sensitive to the wants of other and have a generous heart:

Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our personal lives, our families and friends, the Church, and our leaders:

Request your blessing on those we assist through Salesian Missions in low income countries who are greatly impacted by the current world crisis.

Amen.

Visit our Website: www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

SAMOA

The two Don Bosco Schools are making a real difference to the future prospects of their students. Next year in Alafua a new trade in wood carving as an art form will be introduced where students will create sculptures, figures, furniture and architectural decorations. In Salelologa, Certificate 1 Trade Foundation Skill students displayed many projects they have been working on throughout this year for the community and available for purchase.



GUATEMALA

In November, Guatemala was hit hard by tropical storm Eta and hurricane Iota, causing widespread flooding and mudslides. The ongoing effects of COVID-19 and the floods have left many homeless. Australian Salesian Fr Tony de Groot, explained "We have never had such disastrous flooding in living memory. Almost all the low-lying areas have been completely flooded, whole communities have been cut-off and devastated, many crops have been lost."





INDIA

Don Bosco Salesians provide assistance through food parcels, hygiene products and education during the pandemic. Out-reach programs have been established to ensure the homeless, elderly, internal migrants, unemployed, remote villages and children are cared for. Lockdown measures have partially eased however the impact will be felt for a great number of years.



TIMOR LESTE

The Don Bosco Orphanage and Salesian Community in Los Palos have improved their sustainability by utilising available land for agriculture. The produce from this year's bountiful crops were consumed by the boys and the community. Surplus vegetables were sold at the local markets which provide funds for running expenses.



PACIFIC

Support for the work in Samoa and Fiji, which are part of the Australian – Pacific Province, are always welcome. Your assistance helps young men and women acquire skills to build a better future.



VIETNAM

With the generosity of the Australian Vietnamese Community the 'Food Crisis Charity Project' has provided supply packs to the most needy and supported flood victims in central Vietnam.



SOUTH SUDAN

Don Bosco Missions have provided support during COVID-19 to Internal Displaced People who are homeless due to inter-boarder conflicts. Over 3500 families received emergency items such as food, tents, medicines, and sanitary materials. Outreach programs were also established to share COVID-19 safe preventative information via radio broadcasting and community education.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Can be made through our secure website www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

A tax-deductible receipt will be sent to your email address.

BANK TRANSFER

to Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund

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Please send your donation to:



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Donations to this Fund of \$2 and over for development projects are tax deductible.

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(Subdiv. 30-BA ITAS 1997, item 1)