

ANNUAL REPORT

2026



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST COLUMBAN



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03 OUR MISSION STATEMENT
- 04 LETTER FROM THE SOCIETY LEADER
- 05 OUR MISSIONARY WAY OF LIFE
- 06 WHERE WE WORK
- 22 IN GRATITUDE
- 23 GIVING BACK TO OUR BENEFACTORS
- 24 FINANCIAL SUMMARY
- 26 SOCIETY INVITATION TO MISSION
- 27 VOCATIONS AND SEMINARY LIFE
- 29 INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Cover image: Priscilla Magdalin, Interreligious Dialogue Coordinator for the Region of Oceania (front row, left) and Naanise Mo'unga, Columban lay missionary (front row, second from left) with friends and contacts from the Interreligious Dialogue ministry, join in prayer and communion during the Baisakhi celebrations.

On this page: Columban Fr Dong Lichun Peter visits Quan Jingshu Anna during the Lunar New Year. Anna is a Korean-Chinese woman who moved to Korea in 1996. At 92 years old, she is no longer able to walk. Every day, she writes one hundred times: "Lord, thank you. Our Lady, thank you."



OUR MISSION STATEMENT



The Missionary Society of St Columban is sent by the Church to proclaim and witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. We cross boundaries of country, language and culture, living in close relationship with the poor while fostering care for our common home, the Earth. We are called to:

- ◆ Establish the Church among peoples to whom the Gospel has not been preached
- ◆ Accompany local Churches as they mature until they are able to evangelize their own and other people
- ◆ Promote dialogue between Christians and those of other religious traditions
- ◆ Facilitate exchange between local Churches, especially those from which we come and those to which we are sent
- ◆ Foster in local Churches an awareness of their missionary responsibility, particularly in the areas of justice, peace and care for creation

We strive to build collaborative relationships with our supporters in order to nurture their faith, while encouraging them to provide spiritual and financial support for our missionary endeavours.

Columban lay missionaries Lilibeth Sabado, Arlenne Villahermosa and John Din (front row), with participants from various Church and civic groups, schools, clergy, religious communities and other organizations, join the Anti-Corruption March in Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, Philippines.





LETTER FROM THE SOCIETY LEADER

As the international leader of the Missionary Society of St Columban, I am pleased to share with you, our dear friends, benefactors, and supporters, this Annual Report 2026, and to thank you for the role you play in our missionary journey.

The stories and initiatives presented in this report reveal the heart of Columban mission today: walking alongside people and communities on the margins, proclaiming the Gospel through humble service, and responding with faith, compassion, justice, and hope to the needs of our world. They tell of a mission expressed through accompaniment, dialogue, education, healing, advocacy, formation, and care for creation.

In this report, you will see young people encouraged to explore faith, mission, and their responsibility for justice and peace. You will see migrants, refugees, and displaced families welcomed with dignity and pastoral care. You will see vulnerable communities supported in their efforts to secure food, shelter, education, safety, and belonging. You will also see initiatives to promote interreligious dialogue, reconciliation, and peace in places marked by division and conflict, as well as projects that respond to the urgent call to care for our common home through ecological education, biodiversity protection and restoration, climate action, and a renewed commitment to live more simply and responsibly.

At the centre of all these efforts is a commitment to the dignity of each person, the integrity of creation, and the conviction that God's love is present wherever people choose to stand with one another and all creation. Columban mission continues because missionaries, co-workers, volunteers, and local communities share their gifts generously, often in difficult and challenging circumstances. Yet this mission is also sustained by you. Your prayers strengthen us, your generosity enables our presence, and your trust encourages us to keep responding where the need is greatest.

Every child taught, every family accompanied, every meal shared, every tree planted, every young person inspired, and every life restored carries within it your kindness. May this report be a reminder that your support continues to bear fruit in countless ways.

On behalf of the Missionary Society of St Columban, thank you for your continued trust and partnership. We remember you and your loved ones with gratitude in our prayers, and we pray that God blesses you abundantly for your kindness and generosity.

REV. ANDREI PAZ



WATCH VIDEO



OUR MISSIONARY WAY OF LIFE

As missionary disciples of Jesus, we are called to a way of life that is deeply rooted in communion and living out synodality. We see our mission as a shared participation in the Mission of God. We strive to foster right relationships with God, one another, and all of creation by listening attentively to the cries of the marginalized and the wounded Earth. As cross-cultural missionaries, we discern and embrace our calling with humility, responding to present challenges despite diminishing resources. Our commitment is expressed through two key priorities: outreach to migrants and refugees, and the protection and restoration of biodiversity in collaboration with people of other faiths and worldviews. With an unwavering faith, we embark on this transformative journey, accountable to God, our fellow missionaries and those we serve. We embrace ongoing formation and personal renewal, understanding that external changes must be accompanied by deep inner transformation. We commit ourselves to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ with simplicity, dialogue and unwavering solidarity. In communion with all people of goodwill, we strive to embody a synodal way of life, one that is transformative, empowering and faithful to the Spirit's call in mission.

Columban Fiji Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Coordinator (Region of Oceania), Noa Tuivunilagi, presents to Years 6, 7, and 8 students on how small actions can make a big contribution to our common home, during a Laudato Si' awareness session at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School in Suva, Fiji.

Columban Fr Ryu Sunjong Andrew (left) and lay missionary Joan Yap (right), with accompanying priests, sisters, and volunteers, visit migrants at Sanxia Detention Centre in Taiwan to share hope and joy during the Christmas season. Staff and volunteers from the Hope Workers' Centre regularly visit the detention centre to listen to migrants' concerns and provide help where needed.





WHERE WE WORK



AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Columban Fr Tom Rouse with the two prize winners from Sacred Heart College: Miss Jazarrah Tala and Miss Lexi Brickell won first prizes in the categories of Poetry and Art (PC: Columban NZ)



The Columban Schools Partnership Programme in New Zealand was revitalised in 2025, creating meaningful opportunities to engage young people in mission awareness and Catholic social teaching. A highlight was the visit of Columban priests to Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt, where students responded enthusiastically to conversations about missionary life and global mission experiences. These encounters sparked deeper interest, leading to further engagement with students and staff.

The programme has been reshaped to reflect the Columban mission priorities of biodiversity protection and advocacy for migrants and refugees, while aligning with school curricula. Working closely with Religious Education coordinators, sessions are designed to integrate spirituality, learning, and action, helping students connect faith with real-world challenges.

Across New Zealand, the programme is building strong partnerships with schools, fostering collaboration, and inspiring a new generation to engage with Columban mission through reflection, creativity, and a growing awareness of justice, peace, and care for our common home.



WATCH VIDEO

FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ Maintained engagement with approximately 1,800 Far East magazine subscribers, continuing a long-standing tradition of mission storytelling and awareness.
- ◆ Achieved a significant increase in website engagement, with user traffic growing by over 50% and online donations rising accordingly.
- ◆ Strengthened parish and supporter connections through regular newsletters and appeals, fostering ongoing support for Columban missionary work worldwide.

AUSTRALIA

The Columban presence at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025 was a vibrant expression of mission, engaging young people in faith, culture, and global awareness. Over three days, the Columban booth became a welcoming space for dialogue, reflection, and joyful encounter. Interactive activities such as the Scripture Quiz and Spinning Wheel encouraged participation while opening conversations about discipleship and missionary life.

A significant highlight was the Interreligious Dialogue (IRD) session, where Columban Fr Patrick McInerney, Regional Director of Oceania and Director of the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations, contributed to a panel exploring dialogue as a pathway to peace, mutual respect, and understanding in an increasingly diverse world. This session resonated strongly with young people seeking ways to live their faith in a multicultural society.

The Fijian Masi cultural activity further enriched the experience, inviting reflection on care for creation and solidarity with vulnerable communities. Together, these engagements fostered a deeper appreciation of Columban mission and inspired young Australians toward justice, peace, and care for our common home.



WATCH VIDEO

During the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Columbans Fr Patrick McInerney, Fr Francis Xavier Nwbi La Aung and Fr George Hogarty blessed the Tanoa, a traditional wooden bowl used in Fiji for preparing and serving kava, a ceremonial drink.

FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ Reached over 23,000 benefactors through the Christmas and Mid-Year Appeals, strengthening ongoing donor engagement and support for global mission.
- ◆ Engaged thousands of young people at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival through interactive activities, promoting mission awareness, justice, and interreligious dialogue.
- ◆ Produced and distributed multiple digital and print resources, including *The Far East* magazine and regular e-bulletins, expanding outreach and strengthening connections with supporters across Australia.



BRITAIN

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, a declaration from the Second Vatican Council that transformed the Church's relationship with non-Christian religions, Columban Interreligious Dialogue Coordinator, Mauricio Silva, helped to organise three events to reflect on the progress in dialogue between Christians and Jews, Muslims and Dharmic religions in Birmingham.

St. Columban's in Solihull hosted eco-retreats for primary school students. Columban Justice, Peace and Ecology Coordinator, James Trewby, trained teachers to design retreats centred on protecting and restoring nature, inspired by the papal encyclical Laudato Si'. Activities included bee trails, pond dipping and writing letters of solidarity to communities affected by climate change.

While in Salford diocese for the annual Mission Appeal, Columbans co-organised a pilgrimage walk with people from local parishes and schools, walking from the diocesan Laudato Si' Centre to the Cathedral. Social media in Britain featured a 'Pilgrims of Hope' series to show how Columban missionaries and partner organisations are keeping hope alive for people in need.

Carol Beck and Columban Fr Pat Sayles, founders and curators of The Prayer Trust, celebrated 25 years of 'sharing prayer everywhere' in 2025. They are here pictured at The Prayer Trust office in St Columban's, Solihull.

FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ 3,300 educators and young people participated in formation and campaigning events, including a lobby of Parliament, festivals of encounter, and faith in action days responding to the 'cry of the Earth' and to the challenges facing refugees arriving in Britain.
- ◆ The Prayer Trust celebrated 25 years with the publication of a special booklet expressing thanks to the thousands of people who have distributed its many prayer books, cards and bookmarks to family, friends, neighbours and to all who believe in the power of prayer.
- ◆ Five bee hives at St Columban's in Solihull are home for up to 250,000 bees in the summer months. In 2025 they produced 100lbs (45kg) of honey! Our bees survived the winter, but many local colonies did not. There is an urgent need to protect bee populations in Britain.



CHILE

Columban Fr Cho Sung Kun Genovio (back row) with some of the parish volunteers who served at the Winter Soup Kitchen in June 2025.

The Columban parish of San Matías is located in one of the poorest and most dangerous areas of Santiago and all of Chile. Many immigrants and homeless people live here, facing great hardship. To provide them with a hot meal filled with God's love during the harsh Chilean winter, between June and August, the parish set up a soup kitchen.

At the soup kitchen we have the support of about 40 volunteers who take turns serving around 100 people who come to us for lunch each day. The children receive additional attention with hot chocolate milk and nutritious bread so that they can have a healthier day.

Our volunteers are not wealthy, but by serving those even poorer than themselves they say they feel God's love more intensely. That's why, despite the many difficulties, we continue to run this soup kitchen every year.



WATCH VIDEO



FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ The Columban parish of Our Lady of the Rosary is located in the Municipality of Independencia in Santiago, which has the third highest percentage of migrants among all 346 municipalities in Chile. Around 50% of the population are migrants, most are from Venezuela, Peru, Colombia and Haiti.
- ◆ The Columban parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the municipal area of Alto Hospicio is located in the Atacama desert. This municipal area has the highest percentage of migrants in the country, the highest percentage of young people, the highest percentage of shanty towns and one of the highest rates of overcrowding.
- ◆ Columbans promote Care of Our Common Home and biodiversity in various parish workshops. They incorporate this theme into liturgies, catechetical classes, sacramental preparation, retreats, pilgrimages and spirituality as well as celebrating the Season of Creation.

CHINA

Columban Fr Dan Troy with Chinese people during a Saturday class on Laudato Si'

In response to Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*, the Columbans in China have sought opportunities to engage with Chinese people on what Pope Francis calls 'care for our common home'.

Since November 2023 we host a class on Saturday afternoons at Holy Family Catholic Church, Wuhan to discuss *Laudato Si'*. A feature of the class is that it includes people from many parts of society, Catholics as well as people who have had no previous connection with the Church.

A meaningful discussion took place when we read paragraph 84 of the encyclical. In that paragraph, Pope Francis encourages us to return to our special places of memory because he says that "the history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places". The participants prepared artwork and spoke movingly about the places of their early childhood, usually places of great simplicity, but places that had helped to shape their personalities in those early years. At the end of those discussions, we could certainly agree with the words of Pope Francis that "revisiting those memories does us much good".



WATCH VIDEO



FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ Since the publication of *Laudato Si'* in 2015, Columbans in China have hosted five ecology workshops in which participants study the beauty and diversity of God's creation, combining lectures with using hand lenses and microscopes to see into the depths of small flowers and admire the beauty of the smaller creatures of our world. Most of the participants of these workshops have been sisters and priests, and they then are able to share their learning with people in their own places of ministry.
- ◆ Columbans have sponsored the establishment of ecological educational spaces in five retreat houses, diocesan centres or convents. These ecological educational spaces provide residents and visitors with books about the beauty and wonders of the natural world as well as how such beauty is rooted in God's love which is the source of our material universe. One microscope and several hand lenses are part of each ecological educational space.
- ◆ 18 Chinese people regularly attend a Saturday afternoon class in Wuhan where Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* is studied.

The Columban mission in Fiji continues to advance Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) and Interreligious Dialogue (IRD) through contextually grounded and meaningful initiatives. The IRD programme fosters mutual understanding and respect among diverse faith communities by engaging schools and parishes in dialogue, awareness-building, and experiential learning. These efforts promote peaceful co-existence, reduce misconceptions, and encourage collaboration around shared human values such as dignity, compassion, and care for creation.

At the same time, JPIC initiatives respond to pressing social and environmental challenges, including drug abuse, rising HIV cases, and ecological vulnerability. Through partnerships with schools and local communities, programmes inspired by *Laudato Si'* promote ecological awareness, youth formation, and community action. Outreach to remote areas and parish-based ecological groups strengthen grassroots engagement and reinforces stewardship of creation. Together, these ministries contribute to building a more just, peaceful, and inclusive society in Fiji.

- ◆ *Supported Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) programmes, reaching local communities through advocacy, awareness, and practical initiatives.*
- ◆ *Advanced the Partnership Programme, engaging schools and young people in mission awareness and global solidarity activities.*
- ◆ *Delivered many Interreligious Dialogue (IRD) workshops, bringing together diverse faith communities to promote mutual understanding, peacebuilding, and social cohesion.*

Columban Fr Carlo Jung joining parishioners from Holy Family Parish, Labasa, Fiji at the clean-up campaign on September 27, 2025.



WATCH VIDEO



IRELAND



Columban Fr Ray Collier stands beside the new monument in the Cemetery in Dalgan (Ireland) commemorating Columban Missionaries who died violently on mission, including Fr Ray's uncle, Fr Anthony Collier, who refused to abandon his parishioners and was executed by North Korean soldiers on the 27th June 1950, the first recorded foreigner to die in the Korean War. Photo: ColumbanMissionImages

VIDEO:

History was made when three bishops from the Catholic Church in China visited Dalgan in September 2025 to honour the role Columbans played in the faith in China. It was the first Chinese episcopal delegation to visit Dalgan since the Society was founded in 1918.



WATCH VIDEO

Martyr's Memorial Blessed: We celebrated the 80th anniversary of the deaths Frs John Heneghan, Patrick Kelly, Joseph Monaghan, Peter Fallon and John D. Lalor who were killed in Malate, the Columban parish in Manila, as well as the 75th anniversary of the deaths in Korea of Frs Tony Collier, Jim Maginn, Patrick Reilly, Patrick Brennan, Tommie Cusack, Jack O'Brien and Frank Canavan along with anniversaries of Frs Tom Murphy (Burma: 1945) and Thomas Flynn (Philippines: 1950). To mark the occasion, we unveiled a memorial in the cemetery in Dalgan to all Columbans who died violent deaths. It features an engraved image of each of those commemorated.

The Columban publication 'Those Who Journeyed With Us' ensures that every deceased Columban missionary is always remembered in our Masses on their anniversary.

FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ **Sustainability.** We have embarked on an ambitious restoration programme, in partnership with Inland Fisheries Ireland, of the aquatic life in the rivers that run through our property in Dalgan. Over 40 tons of sand were placed in salmon spawning grounds and new trees were planted.
- ◆ **Retired Columbans.** Ireland is blessed with many retired Columban Missionaries. Some are sick and require nursing home-care, others seek rest after their labours on mission. All have been able to cross boundaries of language and culture in their lives. Their reflections on life are inspiring.
- ◆ **Visitors.** In October 2025 the President of Fiji, His Excellency Ratu Naigama Lalabalavu, and First Lady, Madam Emily Lalabalavu, visited Dalgan to acknowledge the contribution and service of Columban Missionaries to the people of Fiji.

JAPAN

Japanese is probably the most difficult language in the world to write. In addition to two different scripts, it uses Chinese characters. With this complicated writing system, it is possible to make written puns. This leads me to the number 77. When written, it can look like the character for 'JOY'. Hence 77 denotes a joyful year!

2025 was the 77th year of Columban mission in Japan. In 1948, only 3 years after the end of the Second World War, the first Columban Missionaries dedicated themselves to building community in over 50 parishes throughout Japan. With steeples pointing skywards, people's hearts were uplifted and as Pope Francis wrote, 'The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.' It has been our great honor to accompany Japanese people as they first hear the gospel message and come to know Jesus.

A ministry that Columbans have taken up in Japan is care for migrants, welcoming Catholics from other countries and making efforts to help them feel at home.

After 77 years of mission in Japan, our Columban presence is fading out. However, we have had 77 joy-filled years and more moments of joy yet to come!



WATCH VIDEO



WATCH VIDEO



WATCH VIDEO



Bishop Rafael Masahiro Umemura (right) of the Diocese of Yokohama presents a blessing from Pope Leo XIV to Columban Fr Barry Cairns (centre) on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of his ordination. They are photographed with Columban Fr Leo Schumacher (left) during the joyful celebration on the 6th of December 2025.

FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ 77 - The number of completed years that Columban Missionaries have worked in Japan.
- ◆ 77 - By 1957, a total of 77 Columban priests had been assigned to Japan, but now we are down to 11.
- ◆ 77 - Columban priests and lay missionaries have worked in over 77 parishes in six dioceses.

- ◆ *Around three to five young people have joined the monthly vocations gathering.*
- ◆ *In May 2021, the Columbans initiated a Chinese Mass in Gwanghmun, Seoul. Last year over 800 people regularly attended this Mass.*
- ◆ *The 2025 Christmas party for North Korean immigrants at our mission centre was attended by 60 people. This important celebration has already been hosted for a number of years.*



KOREA

Columban Fr Gonzalo Borquez (right) with (L-R) Jacqueline née Creaven d'Towey, Michelle Winthrop (Irish Ambassador to Korea), Seán Canney (Irish government representative), Yang Dong Hyeok, and Yoon Jun Sik at the Korean War Memorial Hall on March 12, 2026.

The turmoil of the past year—both within Korea, including the failed military coup, and globally through wars driven by powerful nations—has given new urgency to the Peace Ministry in the Region. Columbans have been active in peace efforts such as the Easter 2026 Walk for Peace to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and raising awareness of Korea's role in the arms industry. They also support BDS Korea, formerly the Palestine Peace and Solidarity Group, joining rallies and pickets at the Israeli Embassy condemning war crimes in Gaza and the conflict in Iran.

One unique initiative was the Columban Martyrs Memorial Tapestry. Commissioned in Ireland by Jacqueline née Creaven d'Towey, cousin of Fr Francis Canavan, the tapestry commemorates Columbans killed in the Korean War. Jacqueline brought it to Korea, exhibiting it in Gwangju and Chuncheon Dioceses where the missionaries had served.

Rich with Irish and Korean symbols, the tapestry reflects Gospel values and the martyrs' commitment to remain with their people during war. After much discussion, it was donated to the Korean War Memorial. With support from the Irish Embassy, the Memorial agreed to place it on permanent display. Unveiled on March 12, 2026, it now invites millions of visitors each year to reflect on peace rather than war.

MYANMAR

In St John's Gospel, when Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, he tells people to unbind him (Jn 11:44). At the Rebirth Rehabilitation Centre (RRC) in Myitkyina, Kachin Land, Myanmar, we identify with this Gospel message as we seek to help people unbind themselves from the chains of addiction. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has identified this part of northeastern Myanmar as the world's biggest producer of heroin and methamphetamines. Every family in the area is affected. The ongoing war has made the situation worse. Our clients are mostly poor people, many from rural areas who have been displaced by the war. At RRC we treat addiction as a disease, seeking to treat our clients with the same love and respect that Jesus showed to others. We offer them various kinds of support, including the spirituality of 12-step programmes, to help them find a new life, free from addiction. Through the generosity of our donors, a growing number of men and women are being restored to their families and communities. Even in a war zone, recovery from addiction is possible.



WATCH VIDEO

A joyful gathering at Prat Nnan Rehab Centre, celebrating a resident's recovery milestone. Joined by Columban Fr Eamon Sheridan and our dedicated staff and volunteers, as people of faith, we honor the power of community and the resilience of the human spirit.



FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ At Prat Nnan (New Life Rehab Centre), 101 men and 10 women are currently in recovery. Vocational training is provided to 35 men and three women. Drug awareness programmes were conducted in nine locations, reaching a total of 471 participants—264 men and 207 women.
- ◆ A total of 622 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) completed a workshop which featured sessions on trauma management and rebuilding resilience. This programme adopted a trauma-informed approach to empower participants in facing their challenges.
- ◆ The Columbans are dedicated to supporting orphanages and rural communities, specifically in Palana, Namti, Nawkying and Lung Sha Yang. We provide essential nutritional support and sustainable solar lighting systems to facilitate healthier growth and uninterrupted education for the children in these areas.

PAKISTAN

In the Pakistan Mission Unit, education lies at the heart of our mission and serves as a pathway to lasting transformation. While addressing immediate needs of the poor and most vulnerable people of Interior Sindh, we seek to empower individuals and communities with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to build a better future. Through educational initiatives, awareness programmes and community outreach, we help people recognize their inherent dignity and God-given potential. Our efforts also encourage a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of all life—human beings, animals and the environment we share. By fostering this awareness, we promote responsibility, compassion and respect for creation. We believe that education not only transforms lives but also inspires people to become active stewards of their communities and our common home. Through learning and engagement, we aim to nurture a culture of care, solidarity and hope, empowering individuals to contribute positively to society and work together for a more just, sustainable and compassionate world.

FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ *In 13 Columban-run schools in the Dioceses of Hyderabad and Karachi, 1,420 students from Hindu, Muslim and Christian backgrounds, many of whom are members of tribal indigenous communities, are in mainstream education. Education offers a means to break the cycle of poverty that their families have been trapped in for generations.*
- ◆ *Last year in Badin, 1,113 patients were examined at our health clinic, of whom 97 were diagnosed with TB. These patients include parishioners and poor people of various cultural and religious backgrounds, all part of our faith-based commitment to an inclusive community outreach.*
- ◆ *During Lent, Joti Centre hosted seven workshops in the Diocese of Hyderabad. The workshops introduced the Environmental Stations of the Cross and provided printed materials to be used in parishes, schools and institutions during Lent. Over 400 people attended the workshops.*



WATCH VIDEO

Columban Fr Dan O'Connor with the pastoral team, teachers and supporters during the School Exam Results Day at Pak Nobel Elementary School in Gharo

PERU

Sometimes our gifts lie hidden, waiting for a safe time and a safe place to be uncovered. This heartfelt understanding is at the centre of the Migrant Ministry. At the Columban Centre for Education and Mission (CCEM), we didn't come to teach—we came to create space. Around tables, with flour on our hands and stories in our hearts, participants remember who they are. Cooking workshops become more than recipes; they become moments of sharing ourselves.

However, the deeper goal was always empowerment. We wanted each person to see themselves as a leader, ready to stand and speak when the appropriate time came. From the very first invitation, every participant said yes. They said yes to sharing what we learned together, yes to stepping into leadership, yes to becoming the first inspiration for another migrant who might think, "If they can, maybe I can too."

When we dig together, we don't just find our own treasure—we help each other to unearth gifts. In sharing what we discover, we become more than individuals: we become a community of leaders, rising together. That is the gift of the Migrant Ministry, continually unfolding in every story, every meal, and every life touched by those who say yes.

Columban Fr Erl Dylan Tabaco (4th from right) and Elena Gonzales, baking workshop instructor (4th from left), with parish volunteers during a workshop held at the Santissima Virgen del Rosario community in October 2025.



WATCH VIDEO



FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ Between April and September 2025, the Columban Centre for Education and Mission (CCEM) trained 39 migrants in pastry-making and hairdressing. Later these participants became leaders of new workshops in outlying areas.
- ◆ In the Parish of San Marcos Apóstol, although just recently established, 140 young people have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and 80 adolescents received their First Holy Communion.
- ◆ The Missionary Youth on Outreach carried out their first mission in a northern city, guiding 55 young people who are now active in their parish, Santa Teresa de Ávila. Together with Columban Missionary Collaborators, they visited families, encouraging pastoral engagement and strengthening community ties.

PHILIPPINES

The Santuario de San Columbano, a major reforestation initiative of the Negros Nine Human Development Foundation, stands as a living testament to justice, healing, and ecological renewal. Founded in 2000 by survivors of the “Negros Nine” activists and clergy, including two Columban Missionaries, who were falsely accused of murder in the 1980s, the foundation first focused on social justice and organic agriculture. Over time its mission expanded to embrace the care of creation, particularly the restoration of 70 hectares of land within the watershed of Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.

Today, in partnership with the Columban Missionaries in the Philippines, the project continues to rehabilitate the remaining areas and advocates for their inclusion in the island’s protected landscapes. More than a tree-planting effort, the Santuario seeks to restore an entire ecosystem where forests, wildlife, farms and human communities flourish together.

The project covers a 57-hectare watershed area, managed through an agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and a 12-hectare permaculture farm owned by the foundation. The initiatives include planting 40,000 native trees, rebuilding wildlife habitats and protecting water sources. Collaboration with the Diocese of Kabankalan, government agencies and local schools strengthens these initiatives. In October 2025, the Columbans and the Negros Nine Foundation formalized their partnership to enhance biodiversity restoration and climate resilience.



WATCH VIDEO



WATCH VIDEO



WATCH VIDEO



Ritual for the Tree-Growing Activity led by Columban Lay Missionary Arlenne Villahermosa, together with the Diocese of Kabankalan, Columban Missionaries, mission partners and friends, government agencies, local schools, and the Negros Nine Foundation, on November 22, 2025, at the Santuario de San Columbano, Bantolinao, in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Columban Mission in Negros

FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ July 2025–March 2026: 1,424 participants (35 groups), mostly students from the schools in the Diocese of Kabankalan, used the San Columbano Retreat & Mission Centre for retreats, seminars, meetings and training workshops.
- ◆ 750 native trees were planted at the Santuario de San Columbano organic farm during the 75th anniversary celebration of Columban Mission in Negros, with more than 100 participating elementary & high school students, Church groups, non-government organizations, Columban Missionaries, mission partners and supporters.
- ◆ A group of 12 Laudato Si’ Animators and 20 Integral Ecology Coordinators from the Divine Mercy Vicariate and key persons from six parishes of the Divine Mercy Vicariate did an evaluation of the Plan of Action of the Integral Ecology Ministry of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro to which they belong.

TAIWAN

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, the Hope Workers' Centre (HWC) continues the mission of the Columban Missionaries who pioneered migrant ministry within the Hsinchu Diocese. A significant milestone occurred last year when over 8,000 migrants gathered for a historic event, celebrating their identity not merely as labourers, but as active missionaries sharing their faith and culture.

HWC works closely with new immigrant families, empowering them to proactively participate in parish life, enabling them to take on leading and independent roles within the Church community. We also support the second generation of new immigrants, providing them with English catechism classes and various activities so that they can embrace their immigrant parents' cultural heritage and faith for balanced growth.

Beyond spiritual care, the centre collaborates with NGOs to advocate for the rights of caregivers and domestic helpers. As the government is currently planning to ease hiring regulations, the centre emphasizes the urgent need for systemic reform to prevent exploitation. By offering both legal advocacy and pastoral support, the HWC provides a vital sanctuary and comfort for those facing high-stress environments, ensuring they are treated with the dignity they deserve.



WATCH VIDEO

*2025 Migrants and Immigrants
Gathering in Taoyuan Arena*

FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ Around 40 immigrant children in the Filipino community, aged from five to 16 years old, attend English Catechism classes facilitated at the HWC. Classes are divided into four groups: preschool, preparation for First Communion, preparation for Confirmation, and a Bible sharing group. Classes are held every Sunday, followed by the Children's Mass.
- ◆ In Taiwan, caregivers and domestic helpers are not covered by the Labour Standards Act. For the past three years, the HWC has provided pastoral services to a group of caregivers and domestic workers, mostly from the Philippines. The group has grown to 10–15 regular members who gather monthly for support and community activities.
- ◆ During the past year, the HWC provided shelter to 35 migrant workers from the Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia. They sought assistance for a range of reasons, including human trafficking, requests for employer transfer, labour disputes, and medical needs. Those we supported are employed in sectors such as factory work and caregiving.



UNITED STATES

Within the Columban mission in the United States, parish ministry and social justice ministry are closely linked. Through parish work—celebrating the Eucharist, preparing children and adults for the sacraments, and accompanying couples and families in marriage preparation and retreats—we enter the daily realities of the people we serve. That pastoral closeness, especially within the Hispanic ministry, often reveals the burdens many migrant families carry: uncertain legal status, discrimination, family separation and fear. As a result, sacramental and parish ministry often leads naturally into social justice outreach through Know Your Rights seminars, Family Plan for Security workshops, detention centre accompaniment and other practical forms of support. In this ministry, migration is not treated as an abstract issue but as a pastoral reality affecting families, faith communities and the dignity of real people.



WATCH VIDEO

video credit: @itsrosiooo



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Columban Fr Chris Saenz with Marriage Encounter participants in March 2026

FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ *Columbans initiated the celebration of a Spanish Mass at St Mary's Church in Bellevue, Nebraska, that now welcomes between 120–150 parishioners each Sunday.*
- ◆ *During the past year, the Columban migrant ministry in Omaha served more than 60 families, offering hospitality, accompaniment and practical support to migrants and refugees.*
- ◆ *On January 1, 2026, St Mary's Parish in Fontana, California, consecrated its new church, following 13 years of planning and fundraising in which Columbans were deeply involved. The parish serves more than 5,000 registered families. The consecration was celebrated with 3,000 parishioners in attendance.*



IN GRATITUDE



Lupita Garcia as Mrs Claus and Juan Carlos Garcia as Santa Claus are photographed with (L-R) Ibrahim, Moise, Vanessa and Alexandra, children of a family of refugees from Romania. They have been members of 'Omaha Welcomes the Stranger' for two years.

Each year in Omaha, the Columban migrant ministry hosts a Christmas celebration for migrant and refugee families. Parents and their children gather and share in a warm friendly atmosphere. Santa Claus and Mrs Claus stop by to give gifts to every child, making the season special for all.

This celebration is possible because of our generous donors who help the ministry bring dignity, joy and a feeling of belonging to families confronting difficulties. Their support goes beyond material help. It shows Christian solidarity and answers the call to stand with those on the margins. Their kindness reveals God's visible love, restores hope and reminds families that they are seen, valued and appreciated.

Volunteers make this event happen by giving their time, energy and care. Their hospitality, planning and cheerful presence help create a celebration rooted in charity and respect. Their service spotlights our mission's social justice dimension by building community and honouring everyone's dignity.

Most of all, we are truly grateful to the migrant and refugee families. Their presence is the greatest gift to this ministry. Their faith, resilience and hope show us the face of Christ and renew the spirit of the Columban community. They are not just receiving care. They bless this ministry in many ways, inspiring greater solidarity, humility and an increased sense of God's presence among the poor and displaced.

GIVING BACK TO OUR BENEFACTORS



In Korea, the Missionary Society of St. Columban is supported by 17,000 benefactors who accompany us by their prayers and material contributions. In gratitude, we stay connected with them by sending them monthly text messages, including baptismal anniversary greetings and notices of Columban deaths, and by sending them the Korean Columban Mission Magazine three times each year.

We meet benefactors regularly through monthly spiritual talks and Masses in Donam, Myeongdong, Bupyeong, Wongok, Haan, Wonju, Busan, Mokpo, Suncheon, Jeonju, Gwangju, and Jeju. With permission from local pastors, we also visit parishes for mission appeals to introduce the Columban mission and invite participation. Recent appeals in the Daejeon Diocese welcomed around 150 new benefactors, and we plan to continue these visits throughout the year.

Each year, we organize an outing for benefactors. On October 30, 2026, we will visit the Hwahyeon Yi Byeok Holy Site in Pocheon, with about 100 participants expected. At the 2025 Thanksgiving Masses in Donam, Bupyeong, and Wonju, we expressed our appreciation to our benefactors by sharing a meal with them and giving them Columban eco bags, reaffirming our commitment to caring for the earth.

We also provide annual retreats in several regions, with plans to expand further. During Holy Week, benefactors join us at the Columban centre house in Seoul, enriching the liturgies through their generous service.

With Heartfelt Thanks to Our Columban Benefactors

We sincerely thank you for your unwavering support, prayers, and generosity. Your faith and kindness are a profound source of strength for our mission as we continue working together to spread God's love.

May the Lord bless you abundantly with grace, peace, and joy always.

***With deepest gratitude,
Columban priests, lay missionaries, co-workers, and seminarians***

2025 - 2026 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

APPLICATION OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Society received U.S.\$30.19M in revenue.
Total funds received were used in the following manner.

MISSION EXPENSES

MISSION APOSTOLATES

76.82%

ADMINISTRATION

11.96%

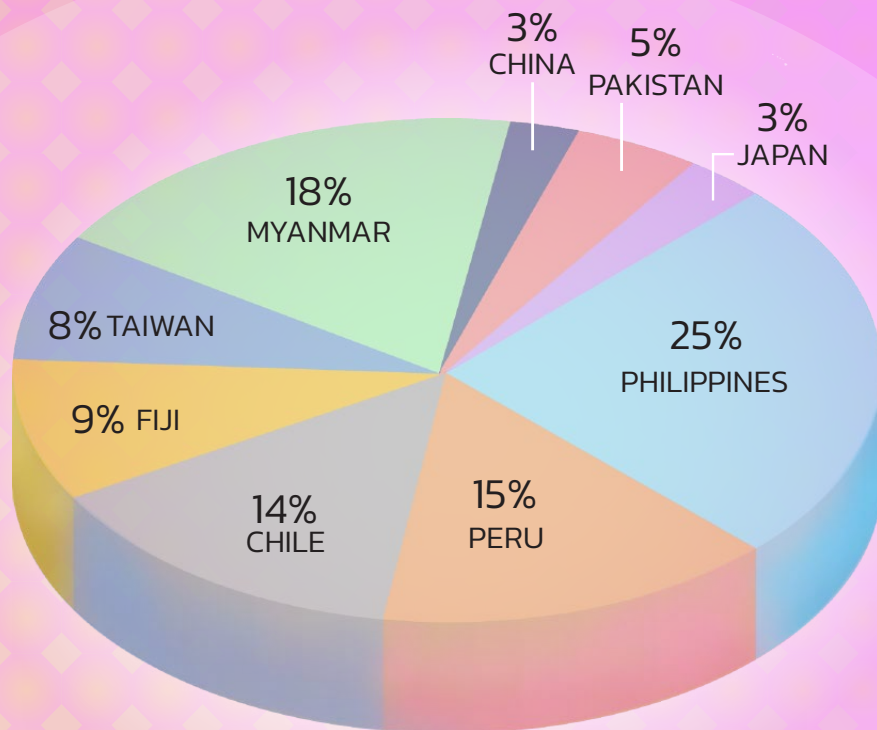
FUNDRAISING
AND DONOR-DEVELOPMENT

11.21%

At a wedding in Mariamnagar, a Parkari Kohli village in interior Sindh Pakistan, Columban student Jinwook Kim (in a green shalwar kameez) observes as the groom's father places a traditional headpiece called the "moor." Worn by the groom and later on attached to the bride before the wedding rite starts, is a face-covering symbol—named after the peacock—highlights the groom's prominence and reflects the rich cultural traditions of Parkari Kohli weddings .



FUNDING OF VARIOUS MISSIONS



Our missionary endeavours in Australia, Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, South Korea, and the U.S./Mexico are self-funded.

The expense associated with each mission country reflects the number of Columban Missionaries ministering there, the cost of living, and the level of support the local Church can provide.

Over the past year, the Society Invitation to Mission (SIM) continued to provide opportunities for people to encounter the Columban charism and mission through SIM exposure and volunteering programmes.

Through collaboration between the Regions of Ireland and the Philippines, a participant from Ireland joined a SIM Exposure, experiencing the Columban Mission in Malate, Manila, and in Batang, Negros Occidental, highlighting close accompaniment, hospitality, and relationships with local communities.

The Taiwan Mission Unit led a Youth Mission Exposure and Pilgrimage in Jeju, Korea, bringing together young people from Taiwan and China. Through visits to Columban ministries, pilgrimage sites, prayer and cultural exchange, the programme focused on mission awareness, faith reflection and intercultural experience.

In the British Region, the Faith in Action Volunteer Programme continued to engage young adults in Columban mission through accompaniment of migrants and refugees, interfaith initiatives, and justice and peace education. The China Mission Unit and the Pakistan Mission Unit remained committed to facilitating individual visits and mission encounters, sustaining relationships that often continue beyond the initial SIM experience.

Participants from Taiwan and China at the Columban House in Jeju during the Youth Mission Exposure and Pilgrimage in Jeju, Korea



SOCIETY INVITATION TO MISSION

New SIM Coordinators were appointed for the Korean Region and the United States Region, with the U.S. Region forming a SIM Committee, opening possibilities for future SIM-related programmes. Looking ahead, the South American Region and the U.S. Region are exploring local SIM initiatives within their own regions, such as young people from Peru visiting Columban ministries and engaging in programmes in Chile. Initial conversations have also begun around World Youth Day 2027 in Korea, opening further possibilities for youth engagement in the Columban mission.

Alongside these activities, SIM reviewed its Guidelines, strengthened safeguarding practices and enhanced collaboration across Regions and Mission Units, ensuring that SIM experiences remain safe and rooted in the Columban mission and charism.



A SIM participant from Ireland explains a sports game to students at a school in Batang, Negros Occidental

VOCATIONS AND SEMINARY LIFE



Dominic (2nd from right) with his homestay family on Christmas Eve at their home in Antipolo Community, Barra Parish, Cagayan de Oro.



The following are accounts of the experiences of two Columban students. One is currently on First Missionary Assignment (FMA) in Mindanao, Philippines, and the other one is finishing Initial Formation in Manila, Philippines.

My name is Dominic Lum Zawng and I am from Myanmar. I am currently assigned to Mindanao, Philippines, for my First Missionary Assignment. The purpose of the FMA is to provide Columban seminarians with a two-year opportunity to participate in Columban mission in another country.

Since November 3, 2025, I have been studying the Cebuano language in Davao City. These past four months have been both humbling and enriching as I learn to communicate in a new language while gradually building meaningful relationships with the people I meet.

Alongside my language studies, I had the blessing of staying with a local family during Christmas. Living with a family of six became an experience of generosity and genuine care. Although we had only two bedrooms, they generously offered one to me. Feeling uncomfortable, I suggested that their only daughter use the room instead, and that I would sleep in the living area. Yet they warmly replied, "It is our joy to offer you what we have; please accept it." Those words deeply moved me and opened my heart.

Through this experience, I glimpsed the beauty of missionary life, humbly embracing what is offered with gratitude and joyfully sharing whatever we have.

"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16

**Dominic Lum Zawng
Myanmar Seminarian in the Philippines**

Dominic (left) with his two language teachers and classmate, a priest from the PIME Congregation, at the language school in Davao City following the celebration of the weekly Mass.



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VOCATIONS AND SEMINARY LIFE



Mosese (2nd from right) relaxes with his fellow Columban brothers after completing his theology examinations



Mosese (centre) with classmates at the Loyola School of Theology

My name is Mosese Yacalevu and I am originally from the Fiji Islands. This is my tenth year in Columban Formation and every facet of my journey has been awe-inspiring for me. The various aspects of formation have brought out the best in me, and at the same time given me the sacred space to work on my areas of growth. In this way of life, the uniqueness and richness of our cultural, personal, and communal diversity continues to shape my life, especially at this juncture. Inter-cultural living with brothers from various countries of Columban mission has enabled me to go about life in a more flexible, nuanced, and fully embracing way.

“Doing something beautiful for God every day” as meaningfully shared by Mother St. Teresa of Kolkata is something that keeps me going, especially during the lows of my life. I will be forever grateful to my fellow brothers in formation, my formators, spiritual directors, my pastoral companions, the Columbans, and my beloved family for their guidance, inspiration, generosity, and prayerful support over the years. I am now approaching the end of my initial formation. Looking back, it has been a journey of profound learnings and immense growth. The vulnerability that was unearthed in me has been the source of my inner strength, propelled by the Spirit.

The beauty of Columban Formation lies in the very fact that we are in a space of growth, renewal, and lived communion. Thus, every Columban student is invited to be open to the vicissitudes of such a way of life, meeting the realities of our time in a more constructive and endearing way. Vinaka and God bless.

Mosese Biuduadua Wasai Yacalevu
Fijian Seminarian in the Philippines



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INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

GENERAL COUNCIL (HONG KONG)

SOCIETY LEADER	FR ANDREI PAZ
SOCIETY VICAR	FR PETER O'NEILL
SECOND COUNCILLOR	FR KIM YOUNGIN GREGORIO
THIRD COUNCILLOR	FR SALUSTINO VILLALOBOS MONDRAGÓN

COLUMBAN LAY MISSIONARIES CENTRAL LEADERSHIP TEAM (HONG KONG)

COORDINATOR	SHERRYL LOU CAPILI
TEAM MEMBER	KIM SUN HEE
TEAM MEMBER	FR KIM YOUNGIN GREGORIO

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL

BURSAR GENERAL	FLORENCE TSUI (HONG KONG)
INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR JUSTICE PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC)	AMY W. ECHEVERRIA (U.S.)
SOCIETY ARCHIVIST	FR PATRICK O'DONOGHUE (IRELAND)



• Front row (left to right) Sherryl Lou, Fr Salustino, Sun Hee
Back row (left to right) Fr Peter, Fr Andrei, Fr Young In



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