

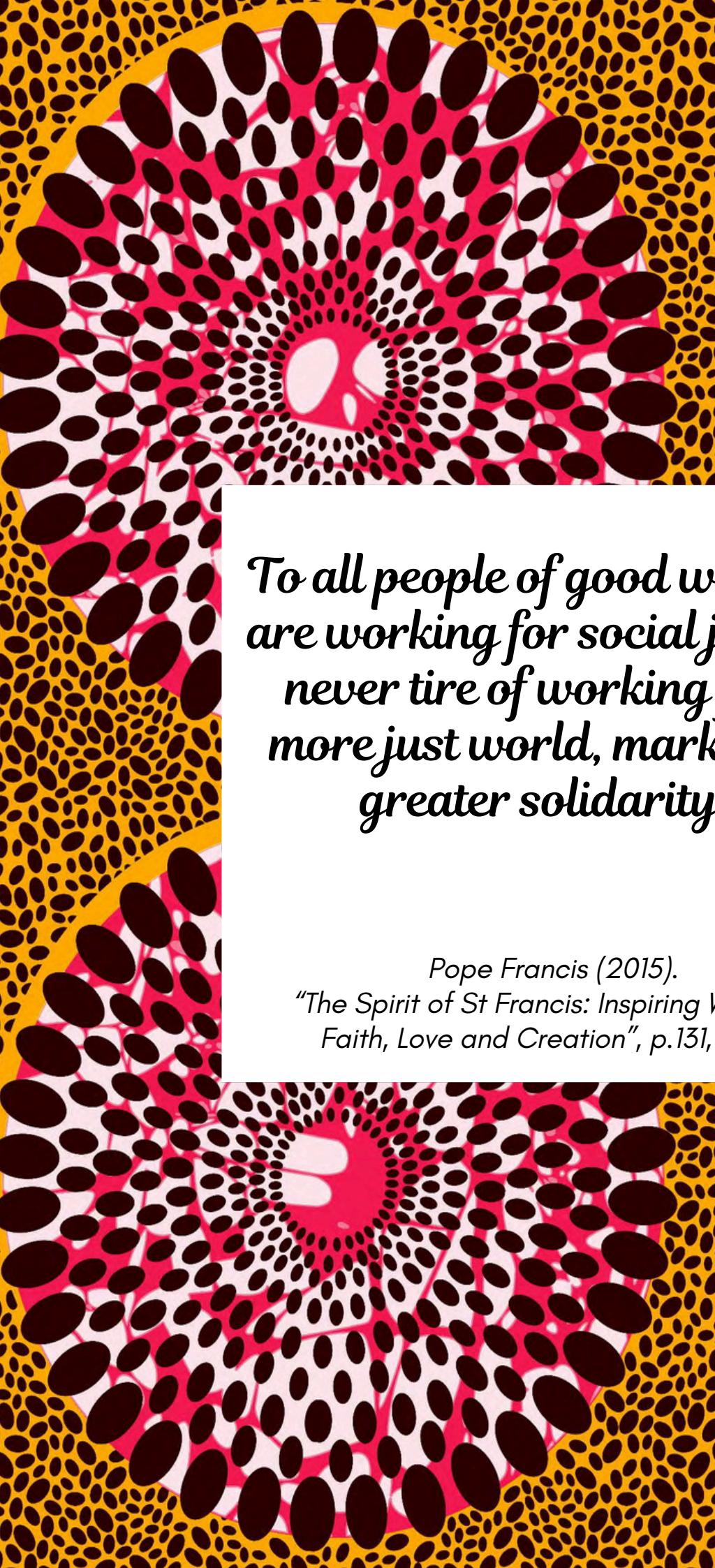
PROJECT REPORT



Hope Tree
Group



A JOINT INITIATIVE OF
The Parishes of Singleton and Branxton
St Catherine's Catholic College, Singleton
Rosary Park Catholic School, Branxton



*To all people of good will who
are working for social justice:
never tire of working for a
more just world, marked by
greater solidarity!*

Pope Francis (2015).
"The Spirit of St Francis: Inspiring Words on
Faith, Love and Creation", p.131, SPCK

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BACKGROUND

During Lent in April 2019, a notice was put in the bulletin for interested parishioners to join a Social Justice Group. This group would focus on creating a better life for others through direct assistance. The first meeting of interested parishioners and student leaders from St Catherine's Catholic College was held on 5 June 2019 at the College with the purpose of the meeting being to discuss the creation of a social justice/mission group for the Parish of Singleton. Fr Thomas Chirackal gave some examples of those in need who he had been asked to assist. They all only needed small amounts of Australian dollars to make a big difference to their lives. The group was asked to come up with a name as the words Social Justice and Mission can sometimes be confusing. Many names were put forward with the group voting as a majority for the name 'Hope Tree Group'.

This name was nominated by the students. The vision of the group is to fulfil the commandment of Jesus to love our neighbour, to be the light of the world by making a difference in the lives of people who experience darkness of any sort. The aim of the group is to serve the needy anywhere in the world, reaching out to the unreached people who have no access to any other funding.

The group would provide direct assistance to the beneficiary without cost for administration. The group would be a joint venture of the Parish and the College. The process and methodology which was agreed upon would be that the group would receive small-scale requests or projects with an overview and photos. These requests could come locally or internationally. The group would then assess the requests and make a decision on the level of support (if any). Fundraising would be via donations, a collection box in the church and school, sale of items, and other ideas of the group. All collected funds would be banked to a designated account for the Hope Tree Group. A description of the project to be funded would be displayed clearly near the collection box so that parishioners fully understand what they are donating to. The money would be transferred directly to the beneficiary or to a local mediator via Western Union (if international). The beneficiary would be asked to provide periodic updates so these could be published in the bulletin for parishioners. The Hope Tree Group would run their projects away from the appeals from Catholic Mission, Caritas, and Vinnies.





PROJECT 1

Evelyn Fabiane Moses



Evelyne Fabiane Moses was born on 8th September 1999 in Kigoma, Tanzania. She was studying at Kigamboni City College, completing a 3-year course for a Diploma in Clinical Medicine. Evelyne's single mother worked selling vegetables and sugarcane to be able to pay her school fees. Her business was doing well while Evelyne was attending primary and secondary school. During her first year of college, her mother's business started declining and she was accumulating debts, one of which was Evelyne's college fees.

They were able to borrow money from a family member so Evelyne could pay the fee for the exam to enter the second term of the course, but no money for the yearly fees. Evelyne's mother had remarried and her new husband was abusive and controlling of her money. Evelyne was unable to find the funds to buy basics such as exercise books, clothes, toiletries, or food at school. Evelyne had to leave college for non-payment of fees.

To be able to return to school, Evelyne requested:

- ▶ 2,280,000 shillings (\$1,515 AUD) for 2nd year fees
- ▶ 800,000 shillings (\$500 AUD) for unpaid 1st year fees
- ▶ \$100 AUD had been paid to allow her to return

The Hope Tree Group agreed to support Evelyne with \$450 of her fees. This project was to be in place for two months with whatever funds raised to be transferred to her. Donations were received from the closed Parish Mission Group, a parishioner from Branxton and the donation box totalling \$648.

A transfer of 626291.13 shillings (\$453 AUD) was made to Evelyne Moses on 5 July 2019.

A thank you letter was received from Evelyne. She was able to complete her final exams for the term without any issues and received good marks. During the holidays she was completing field work at a local hospital. Although school was going well for Evelyne, her family was still having issues with paying her fees.



PROJECT 2

Esta Liliani Samweli



Esta is studying in Form 4. She is from Kasulu, Tanzania. Her Mother who is her primary carer, is a tailor and receives a minimum wage. Esta required \$300 AUD which is nearly half of her yearly tuition fee.

Rosa is a single mother who is blind who lives with her brother in Kasangezi, Tanzania (Fr Thomas' former parish).

Fr Thomas had assisted her to attend a school for the blind while he was in the parish there.

Rosa was unable to gain employment in her village before she attended the school.

She was selling oil in the market. She needed to decant the oil from a large container into bottles to sell to her customers. The income from this is not sufficient to meet her needs.

Rosa would like to expand her stall to include more items to sell. She would like to purchase more oil, soap for washing clothes and peanuts for cooking.

She needed approximately \$200 to help her with this.

An amount of 630,353.20 shillings (\$510 AUD) was transferred on 25 December 2019 to assist these projects.

PROJECT 3

Rosa Pascali



PROJECT 4

A House for Rosa



After Rosa was assisted with increasing the products she could sell at her market stall, she used the money she made to start building a house for herself and her daughter.

An amount of 272,562.87 shillings (\$170AUD) was donated for her to purchase building materials.

Once she had a nearly complete structure 164,167.35 shillings (\$100 AUD) was transferred to Rosa for her to pay for flooring, windows, a door, pointing on the bricks and a mattress for her bed. This was a very satisfying project to be able to see the house built from the ground up and the happy faces of her and her daughter.

A further 216,922.40 shillings (\$130 AUD) was transferred to Rosa to complete the house.





PROJECT 5

Electricity for Bene Maria Convent



The Bene Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary started their convents in Tanzania in Kigoma Diocese 50 years ago. They serve the parishes of the diocese by working in the parish office, teaching religion in schools, leading Sunday liturgy in the absence of priest, supporting the RCIA program and running tailoring centres. They also provide a 3-year course for girls to acquire life skills. The Convent in Kasangezi parish also provide these activities. Fr Thomas worked in this parish for 9 years.

The sisters in Kasangezi also help the handicapped. Sr Vesta Kahere is our contact person and she helped organise the construction of the house for Rosa, who was assisted by our Parishes in Project 4.

Until now there has been no electricity in Kasangezi village. Recently, the government has commenced a project to supply electricity to the village. The Sisters are not in a financial position to install the electricity in their convent. The electricity will enable the Sisters to provide further training for the people of the village. The cost for the installation is more than 1,500,000 Tanzanian Shilling, that is approximately \$1000 Australian Dollars.

A thank you note was received from Sr Theophila acknowledging the donation and thanking all the parishioners for their kind donations which were used for the electricity connection.

1,669,786.72 shillings (\$1000 AUD) was transferred in two amounts on 12 November 2020 and 18 November 2020 via Sr Theophila.

Another 403,971.17 shillings (\$230 AUD) was transferred on 31 December 2020 to complete the work.

BENE MARIA NUNS

KASANGEZI WORKS CONVENT





PROJECT 6

Fees for Elia Ericki

When the Hope Tree Group started assisting Elia Ericki he was a student of form 4 in Sinai Puma Junior Seminary Singida in Tanzania. His parents live in Dar es Salaam. His mother Priska has a small business and looks after her two boys. She was formerly in the parish Fr Thomas served in when she was a girl, living with her disabled mother and he had helped them to build house. The boy's father does not have anything to do with them.



In October 2022, Elia enrolled for 3 years in a diploma course at a government agricultural training institute.

Fr Thomas has been helping with Elia's education since 2016. Since 2019 a sponsor has been providing the money for his school fees. Since 2020 the sponsor has been sending the money through our Hope Tree Group and so Elia has now been included in the Hope Tree Group projects.

An amount of \$200 AUD was transferred on 2 January 2021, and then 266382.30 shillings (\$150 AUD) was transferred on 17 February 2021 to cover Elia's fees and \$700 in 2022. Tution fees were paid by the sponsor until he finished his diploma in agriculture in 2025

CHRISTMAS 2020



Adopted Orphans

A request was received from the Franciscan Sisters in the Diocese of Dar Es Salaam to assist three orphan children who have been adopted or were being supported by their convent community. This project was the sole beneficiary of the Christmas Collection for 2020.

Maria Goreth was found on the border of Burundi and Tanzania as a baby, where her and her mother had been beaten. Her mother passed away in hospital. She is now attending a Montessori English school and staying in the convent with the Sisters.

Maria was assisted with the following school needs:

- ▶ Exercise books, pens and pencils
- ▶ School bag
- ▶ School uniforms as showed in the pictures
- ▶ School shoes and socks

Christopha Julius' mother was mentally ill and he was born on the streets. She passed away when he was 6 months old and was taken to live in the convent with the Sisters. He is now 15 and in Form One at St John Paul Secondary boarding school.

For Christopha to commence school he was assisted with

- ▶ School Books
- ▶ Exercise Books
- ▶ School uniforms
- ▶ School shoes

Claire Francisco's mother was also mentally ill and left her in the streets after her birth. She was taken to hospital by some good Samaritans and then she was taken into the care of the Sisters. She is now 6 years old and ready to start primary school at the Montessori English school.

Before starting the school year Claire received the following school needs:

- ▶ Exercise books, pens and pencils
- ▶ School bag
- ▶ School uniforms as showed in the pictures
- ▶ School shoes and socks

The children were assisted with a total of 1,054,536.66 shillings (\$600 AUD) in two installments on 31 December 2020 and 2 January 2021.





PROJECT 7

Help for Amos



Amos Ndaleouye, is a needy man from Tanzania, who has HIV/AIDS and is living alone.

His condition made him very weak and unable to work so he depended on neighbours for food and other needs.

He was finding it difficult to get food, he was in need of clothing and the roof of his house was leaking. He had asked the Sisters to find someone to help him and they approached Fr Thomas.

With a donation of \$150 from the Hope Tree Group funds, the Sisters were able to assist him by providing pants, shirts, blankets, some food items and the grass needed to repair his roof.



PROJECT 8

Urine Analysis Machine for Franciscan Sisters' Health Centre



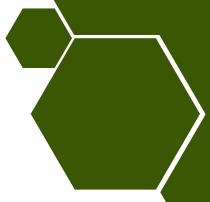
The Franciscan Sisters of the Reign of Jesus Christ in Mbagala, Tanzania, recognized the urgent need for a private health care center in their region. This facility would serve individuals who cannot afford to travel to Dar es Salaam or those who are unable to be treated at the government health centers, which are overwhelmed with patients. The area is rural, with a population drawn from numerous villages.

An alarming rise in both contagious and non-contagious diseases has emerged as the leading cause of death in this region, primarily due to the lack of accessible medical care. This issue has persisted for some time, prompting the Sisters to establish the Saint Clara Health Centre. Currently, the center is focused on a program called 'Mother and Child.' Families unable to receive treatment at the government center have been coming to the Sisters' clinic, where they are provided care at no cost, placing a strain on the center's available funds.

Due to these limited resources, the Sisters have struggled to acquire equipment that would enhance the laboratory services offered on-site.

Fr. Thomas received a request for the Hope Tree Group to provide assistance of 1,531,000.00 Tshs (AUD \$900) for the purchase of a Urine Analysis machine and related equipment. This amount was transferred from the Hope Tree Group account on July 29, 2021.

PROJECT 9



Income Generation for Noelia

Noelia Paulo is a single mother from Kasangezi, Tanzania. When her husband passed away in 2018, he had been constructing a house for his family.

Unfortunately, it was not completed. The flooring and doors still need to be finished. Noelia is unemployed. She has two children who attend school, and she is not able to pay the fees.

She currently makes some income buying and selling farm products in the market and making and selling baskets. She could supplement her income by selling the sweaters she knits, but her knitting machine is damaged.

She is asking for \$500 AUD to assist her in having the knitting machine fixed or replaced.



An amount of 823,085.75 shillings (\$500 AUD) was transferred to assist Noelia on 29 September 2021.





PROJECT 10

Poultry Production at Bene Maria Convent



A request for funding was received from the Bene Maria Sisters to assist with establishing a chicken and egg production facility at the convent.

The demand for eggs, chicks and chicken meat is very high as the result of a lack of hatcheries and egg production centres within the Kigoma region.

The facility would house laying hens to enable them to sell eggs and day-old chicks to neighboring clients and farmers.

In recent years there has been a progressive increase in the number of people who are employed in the poultry production sector, especially women and youth. However, despite the increase in demand for layers, currently there is no one who supplies layer chicks in Kigoma and as a result farmers have difficulty in getting chicks as they need to order them from dealers in Dar es salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and sometimes outside the country like Nairobi and Burundi.

This outside ordering increases the costs due to transport and often the chicks die in transit.

The Bene Maria Sisters believed this gap in the market would be of financial benefit to their convent community and in turn would enhance the availability of high quality, safe and wholesome eggs and meat for public consumption. It would also increase the living standard of their convent and neighbouring layer farmers in line with Tanzanian strategy of food Self Sufficiency.

To bring the project to realization the Sisters will need 3,000,000 shillings (\$1800 AUD) to assist with:

- building materials
- feeding equipment
- drinking equipment
- food and water
- purchasing chicks
- vaccines and medicines
- lighting
- labour
- veterinary assistance

The Sisters have completed the chicken coop and report that the residents are all very happy with their new lodgings.

822,158.33 shillings (\$500 AUD) was transferred on 4 Oct 2021

823,085.75 shillings (\$500 AUD) was transferred on 6 October 2021.

680,873.27 shillings (\$400 AUD) transferred on 27 October 2021

664,356.52 shillings (\$400 AUD) transferred on 14 January 2022

165,062.17 shillings (\$100 AUD) transferred on 24 April 2022

PROJECT 11



Vimala's Liver Transplant

Mrs Vimala Kakkanattu and her husband Antony are members of the St Mary's Church, Kuttampuzha, India.

The Hope Tree Group was approached by Fr Thomas Anthony Vattathottathil to assist Vimala as she was suffering from third stage liver cirrhosis and urgently needed a liver transplant.

The community had been rallying around the family and running different fundraising events to help them with the costs of the transplant.

The approximate cost provided by the hospital for the surgery and hospitalization of both the Recipient and Donor was 16,000,000 Rupees.

An amount of 26,655.80 INR (\$500 AUD) was transferred to Mr Kakkanattu on 21 January 2021 to assist.



CHRISTMAS 2021



Ratheesh the Artist



Donations from collections at 2021 Christmas Mass were used to assist Ratheesh in India.

Ratheesh Pushkkaran is a young, Hindu, disabled man. He is an artist, living with his mother and his child, as his wife left him.

During floods in 2021, his motorbike was damaged as well as his laptop, on which he does his artwork. He is now going to his office by taxi and is left with nothing after paying for the taxi.

A new laptop for him to complete his work and continue to earn money will cost approximately \$1200 and repairs to his bike will cost approximately \$500.

Pictured is Ratheesh on his motorbike and example of his work and his new computer.

An amount of **89,775.36 INR (\$1700 AUD)** was raised from the Christmas Collections and from further Hope Tree Group donations and sent to Ratheesh on 11 January 2021.





PROJECT 12

Gas Stoves for the Burundi Community



The Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (BeneMariya) is a missionary congregation founded in 1958 and located in the Diocese of Ngozi, Burundi, East Africa. Bene-Mariya's mission is "to help families to live according to the Christian Spirit. They have communities in four countries in Africa, including Burundi, Tanzania, Chad, Niger and in Italy.

Burundi shares its borders with Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania. Burundi (called the heart of Africa) is a country located in East Africa, south of the equator and is a total of 27,830 square kilometres in size. The population is approximately 12,541,010. The political capital is Gitega.

In the city of Bujumbura, the sisters have five communities of the BeneMariya sisters, and they are ministering in different places to serve God's people.

The sisters are asking for assistance with the purchase of gas stoves for these communities. Changes have recently been made to transportation due to the large number of deaths of people who ride bicycles, motorcycles and three-wheeled cars. The government has decided to stop the use of any of these vehicles in the city of Bujumbura, where the sisters live.

These vehicles were often used to transport goods cheaply within the city. So now the cost of getting firewood or charcoal is very expensive due to the dangerous nature of transporting.

The Government is also promoting the use of gas stoves to decrease deforestation, causing climate change. Large numbers of trees are cut down every day for firewood and to make charcoal.

The use of natural gas stoves by the Sisters will be more cost-effective and far better for the environment.

Each stove will cost \$630, so for five stoves the total is \$3,150. The sisters can buy the gas in the city of Bujumbura, and they estimate using 25kg per month at a total cost of \$122.26/month.

An total of \$3742.80 AUD was donated to purchase stoves in 2023.

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, BURUNDI

WORKS





PROJECT 13

Playground for Anugraha School

Anugraha special school for the mentally challenged was started in 2000. Managed by Sangli mission society of MST Missionaries. The name Anugraha means *Blessing*.

The school is situated in a remote village named Khed, in the state of Maharashtra. After a survey in the area in 2000, it was found that there are many mentally challenged children who have no access to education or other services.

It was after the findings of this survey that the Sangli mission society decided to open the school to serve these children. At present there are 55 students at the school. Students are given training in ADL (activities of daily living), physiotherapy, speech therapy etc. Students are from poor families, so they are only able to contribute very little towards the fees.

The school relies on donations from benefactors to continue teaching the students and stay open. They do not receive any government grants towards running of the school.

The first principal of the school was Sr Rosebel. In 2001 she put up a playground for the students. After serving the school for about 15 years she was transferred to another school in Kerala state. Now she has come back to the school and found all the play equipment for the children in a dilapidated condition. She wants to repair and make a better playground for the students.

Photos of the old equipment



Playground for Anugraha School

Sr Rosebel sent through her wish list order. St Catherine's Catholic College, Singleton rose to the challenge hosting a series of fundraisers at school and they raised enough to donate \$2600AUD - which is INR143,443.00 of the required INR216,000.00.

The amount of \$2600 AUD (plus transfer fees) was donated to put towards the purchase of the playground equipment.

The playground was opened and blessed in July 2023.

*New Equipment installed
and being enjoyed*



CHRISTMAS 2022



Children's Hostel Beds



Sr Cecile of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Bene Mariya in Burundi, asked our Parishes to help with purchasing new mattresses for their hostel beds.

The Sisters run the hostel and house students who attend the local school in their dormitories. They have 25 students from primary and high school staying with them.

The students are not sleeping well due the poor condition of the mattresses on their beds. The mattresses are old, worn and falling apart. Some students sleep on the floor as it is more comfortable than their bed or they don't have a mattress.

New mattresses would improve the health and well-being of the students, in turn improving with their classroom learning.

25 mattresses are needed at a cost of \$45 AUD each.

All collections taken at our 2022 Christmas Masses were donated to this project.

An amount of \$1389 was raised from the Christmas Collections and sent to Sr Cecile on 18 January 2023.



PROJECT 14



Martha's Piggery



Martha is a single mother living in the village of Tabora, Tanzania. Her mud-brick house, with a makeshift roof made of leaves and other materials, is in poor condition.

She has four children. One of them, Monika, was born healthy in 2002 but became severely disabled after an illness and has been bedridden since. She suffers from multiple conditions, and her medications are costly.

Martha also takes care of her 11-year-old relative, Yohane, whose mother suffers from mental illness and wanders the village begging for food and money.

Martha struggles to care for all the children, relying solely on her income from working in other people's fields. She also grows maize and beans to provide some food, but the income is not enough to cover clothing, medical, and other basic needs.

She is seeking assistance to start a piggery project to increase her income and support her family sustainably. Estimated cost: 2,800,000 Tanzanian Shillings (\$1800 AUD).

\$700.99 was sent on 14 December 2023

\$1000.99 was sent on 20 December 2023

\$200.99 was sent on 25 January 2024



CHRISTMAS 2023



Home Care for the Disabled



Sr Dhanya is working as a teacher in a special school for the mentally challenged in Madhya Pradesh, central India.

She visits villages and helps disabled children and their families. She teaches ADL (Activities of Daily Living) skills to children and trains parents to provide these to their children.

She gives physiotherapy to children and trains the parents to give it too. She helps them to obtain disability certificates and other government documents which will entitle them to get a pension of \$20 per month and other travel concessions. The government does not provide any other assistance to the disabled, so she provides help as needed.

She assists with clothes, food, wheelchairs, and crutches and other needs.



An amount of **\$1925.96** was donated from the Christmas Collections and sent to Sr Dhanya on 25 January 2024.





PROJECT 15

Alikutty Kuriakose Hospital Expenses

Financial assistance was requested to help cover hospital expenses for a poor woman, Aliyakutty Kuriakose.

An amount of \$400 was transferred on 14 December 2023 to assist her.

PROJECT 17

Goats for Joji

Joji, a casual laborer, had a small number of goats that provided supplemental income. Unfortunately, all his goats died due to illness. Financial help was given to purchase new goats.

An amount of \$1000 was transferred on 20 June 2024 to assist him.



PROJECT 18

Toilet for Priska

Priska, the mother of a student previously supported by the group, requested help to repair their toilet, which collapsed during heavy rain

\$200 was transferred on 14 August 2024 and \$200 on 27 August 2024.



PROJECT 16



Study Materials

Donations received enabled the transfer of \$2200AUD to enable these resources to be purchased for the students and a further \$100 for battery and gas lights in April 2024



Project 16 for the Hope Tree Group was to provide financial assistance to purchase study materials for 500 underprivileged students in the state of Odisha, India. Odisha is one of the poorest states in India.

It was in Odisha that Australian Baptist missionary, Graham Steins, and his two sons were burnt alive while sleeping in their car in a remote village. On 24 December 2007, extremist Hindu organizations carried out a brutal assault on Christians during Christmas celebrations in the Kandhamal district of Odisha. The aftermath saw the destruction of 400 churches, 4,000 houses, and claimed 500 lives, with over 75,000 people displaced.

In 2018, Missionary Society of St Thomas (MST) Missionaries took up the challenge of evangelisation in this area and started working in over 90 remote villages in Kandhamal and few other nearby districts in the state.

The missionaries focused on educational and charitable initiatives together with establishing new Christian communities. The government schools are not running properly in these areas. In most of the primary schools only one or two teachers come few days each week and teach. Children go to school to have the midday meal supplied in the school. Missionaries established 42 tuition centres in these villages, offering remedial classes to over 1000 children.

Fr Joseph Cheriampanat, Episcopal Vicar for the Mission, requested funds to buy education materials like slates, pens, pencils and notebooks. In remote villages children still use slate and pencil for learning.

While he was in India, Fr Thomas took a 2000km round trip to visit the schools and present some packs to the children. They were all very grateful for the assistance from the Hope Tree Group. He was also able to visit some of the churches and homes that have now been rebuilt after being destroyed in the 2007 assault.

PROJECT 19



Water Tank for Hostel in Burundi



Sr Cecile from the congregation of Immaculate Heart of Mary (Bene Maria) in Burundi has contacted the Hope Tree Group to assist with installing new water tanks at the hostel in Gitega, where students stay to attend school.

Their rainwater tank rusted and became unusable. Public water supply is unreliable, forcing students to fetch water from a river and transport back to the hostel to use.

An amount of \$1700 was transferred on 6 September 2024 to purchase and install a new tank.

PROJECT 20



A Tricycle for Rehema

14-year-old Rehema lives in Tanzania with her widowed mother, and due to a disability, she needs to use crutches to get around.

To assist her with greater mobility, the Sisters would like to purchase a hand-pedalled trike for her to use. She often helps the Sisters with their Rosary making so this trike would give her some freedom to get to them more often

An amount of \$485 was transferred on 16 January 2025 to assist with the purchase of her trike.



CHRISTMAS 2024



Medical Camps - Odisha India



The Christmas collection was used to support conducting free medical camps in several villages of Koraput District, in the state of Odisha, India. These communities face numerous health challenges due to the absence of primary healthcare centers and limited access to medical services. The residents often suffer from infections caused by contaminated water, malnutrition, anemia, and other health issues, which remain unaddressed due to the lack of medical facilities.

The primary goal of these free medical camps is to provide free healthcare services, raise health awareness, and offer basic medicines to those in need. The specific objectives of the camps are:

- Vital signs check-up: To identify prevalent health issues.
- Health Education: To guide hygiene practices, nutrition, and preventable diseases.
- Provide medicines: To provide basic medicines for common ailments and refer individuals for further medical care if necessary.

Key health concerns in these villages include:

- Malnutrition: Many children are underweight, have stunted growth, and suffer from anemia.
- Infectious Diseases: Respiratory infections, and skin conditions like scabies and impetigo.
- Women's Health: Musculoskeletal issues, anemia, headaches, and dental problems.
- Men's Health: Respiratory issues, orthopedic problems, anemia, and hypertension.

To address these concerns effectively, they plan to conduct two medical camps per month, offering Vital signs check-ups, distributing medicines, and conducting awareness sessions.

An amount of \$1700 was donated from the Christmas Collections and sent on 6 March 2025.

PROJECT 21

Medicine for St Clara Dispensary



Previously, the St. Clara Dispensary in Tanzania received urinary analysis equipment. They now sought help to stock their pharmacy with essential medicines to provide free treatment to poor patients.

\$200 AUD was donated to on 21 July 2025.

PROJECT 22

Medical Help for Anitte Maria



On 24 December 2024, Anitte Maria was hit by a bus while going to work and suffered a severe leg fracture, requiring multiple surgeries. The total expenses exceeded ₹400,000, but insurance coverage was minimal. She received assistance to help cover part of the surgery cost. Fr. Thomas visited her during his holidays and reports that she is recovering well and undergoing physiotherapy. She is expected to return to work in a few months

\$1500 AUD was donated to on 31 March 2025.

PROJECT 23

Laptop for Jeswin

Jeswin, the son of Joji (who earlier received goats), achieved high marks in his secondary school exams. He plans to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Computer Applications but didn't have a laptop.

An amount of \$850 was transferred on 27 March 2025 to assist him.



PROJECT 24

Seminary Support for Bernard

Bernard, the brother of Elia (who is completing his agriculture diploma), has joined Sinai Seminary in Singida. A former sponsor of Elia is now supporting Bernard's seminary education.

\$1150 has been donated via sponsor.

PROJECT 25



Re-Opening Village Pharmacy



Hilda Moses from Muzye, Tanzania, previously ran a village pharmacy. After a serious illness and hospitalization, she had to shut it down due to financial strain. She requested support to restart the pharmacy.

An amount of \$400 was transferred to assist Hila on 23 April 2025.





PROJECT 26

Furniture for Landslide Victims

On July 29, 2024, a landslide in Vilangad, Kerala, destroyed the home and property of Sonia and her family of seven. They now live in a rented house but lack basic furniture. Hope Tree Group supported them in purchasing essential household items.

An amount of \$100 was transferred on 23 April 2025 to assist with the purchase of furniture.



PROJECT 27



Completing House Construction

Fr. George Mullappillil, formerly the parish priest of Singleton and now serving in a parish in the Idukki diocese of Kerala, India, began building a home for a needy family with help from donors. As he prepared to move to a new parish, he hoped to finish the house so the family could move in. A final amount of \$1500 was needed to complete the windows, doors, and toilet.

An amount of \$1500 was transferred on 10 June 2025 to assist with the completion of the home.



PROJECT 28



Support for Pratheeksha Special School in India

Patheeksha Special School in Vilavade, Maharashtra, India. provides education and care for 40 children with intellectual disabilities, all of whom reside in the hostel. The institution is sustained entirely through the goodwill and donations of benefactors, without any financial assistance from the government.

Money was used for the celebration of Rakshabandan, purchasing bedsheets for the dormitory.

\$500 was donated to the school for the various needs of the children on 18 August 2025.

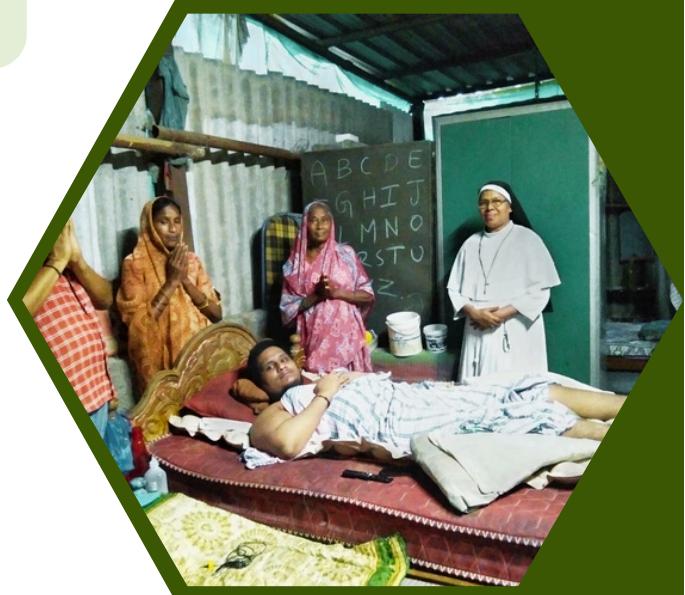


PROJECT 29

A House for Bharath

This project was to support Mr. Singarapu Bharath Kumar, aged 26, of Chinthakani Parish, Khammam Diocese, Telangana, India.

Five years ago, on his way home from work, a serious accident left Bharath completely bedridden. He has undergone more than 20 major surgeries.



He was the sole earner for his family. After the accident, his wife left him. Now, his elderly parents and grandmother struggle daily labouring in the fields, often forced to beg for money to cover Bharath's medicines and basic needs, while his father stays home to provide full-time care. They currently live in a temporary shed.

Construction had begun on a small, dignified house for them, using funds the local Sisters had been able to raise and a government grant, but the funds have now been exhausted.

Finishing this stage is vital so they can then secure further government grants for the roofing.

\$1000 was sent in two payments on 6 November 2025 and 23 December 2025. Further assistance will be given as needed

CHRISTMAS 2025



Empowerment & Health Care

Collections at 2025 Christmas Masses were used to help fund two projects in Odisha, India through the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle.

Entrusted with the mission *ad gentes* work in the State of Odisha under the Archdiocese of Shamshabad, the Missionary Society of St Thomas currently serves across nine mission centres. Their work is carried out through the Jyoti Marg Educational and Charitable Trust, dedicated to the cultural, educational, and social upliftment of those in the most interior villages. They envision a compassionate society where everyone—regardless of caste, age, or religion—has access to healthcare and education.

Empowerment at the Little Flower Social Action Centre, Kundra

Under the direction of Fr. Tony Kizhakkemuriyil, the tailoring program empowers women from poor farming families to earn a sustainable livelihood. Following the success of training 25 women in 2025, they are launching a new 3-month session in Dangarappalli village for 20 participants. Most are illiterate and struggle to meet basic needs; this skill allows them to work from home and support their families. Funding is needed for: *Tutor Salary for 3 months; 2 Sewing Machines; Materials (Cloth, thread, etc.); Refreshments and Travel.* With the total goal being \$1000 AUD.



Rural Health-Care Program, Laxmipur Social Action Centre

Under the direction of Fr. Binish Kuzhiyadiyil, two sisters from the Medical Sisters of St. Joseph (MSJ) run the centre's dispensary, providing life-saving care to children, women, and the elderly in remote areas. From medical camps to home visits, and preventive care for children and the elderly, they provide the only healthcare many of these villagers will ever receive. Funding is needed for: *Medical Tools: Haemoglobin machine, Nebulizer, Glucose strips and Clinical Items: Wheelchair, Injection & Dressing trolleys, rubberized bed sheets, and color-coded waste bins.* With the estimated cost being \$1950 AUD.

An amount of \$3900 was donated from the Christmas Collections in Singleton, Branxton and Greta and \$1500 was sent for the Little Flower Social Action Centre and \$2400 was sent to the Rural Health Care Program on 14 January 2026.





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HOW TO DONATE

- 1** Payment can be made at the parish office in cheque or cash
- 2** Envelopes or money can be placed in the Hope Tree Group collection boxes at church.
- 3** Payment can be made via electronic transfer using these account details:

Account Name: CDF Agent 5565 (Hope Tree)

BSB: 062 815

Account Number: 0032 8161

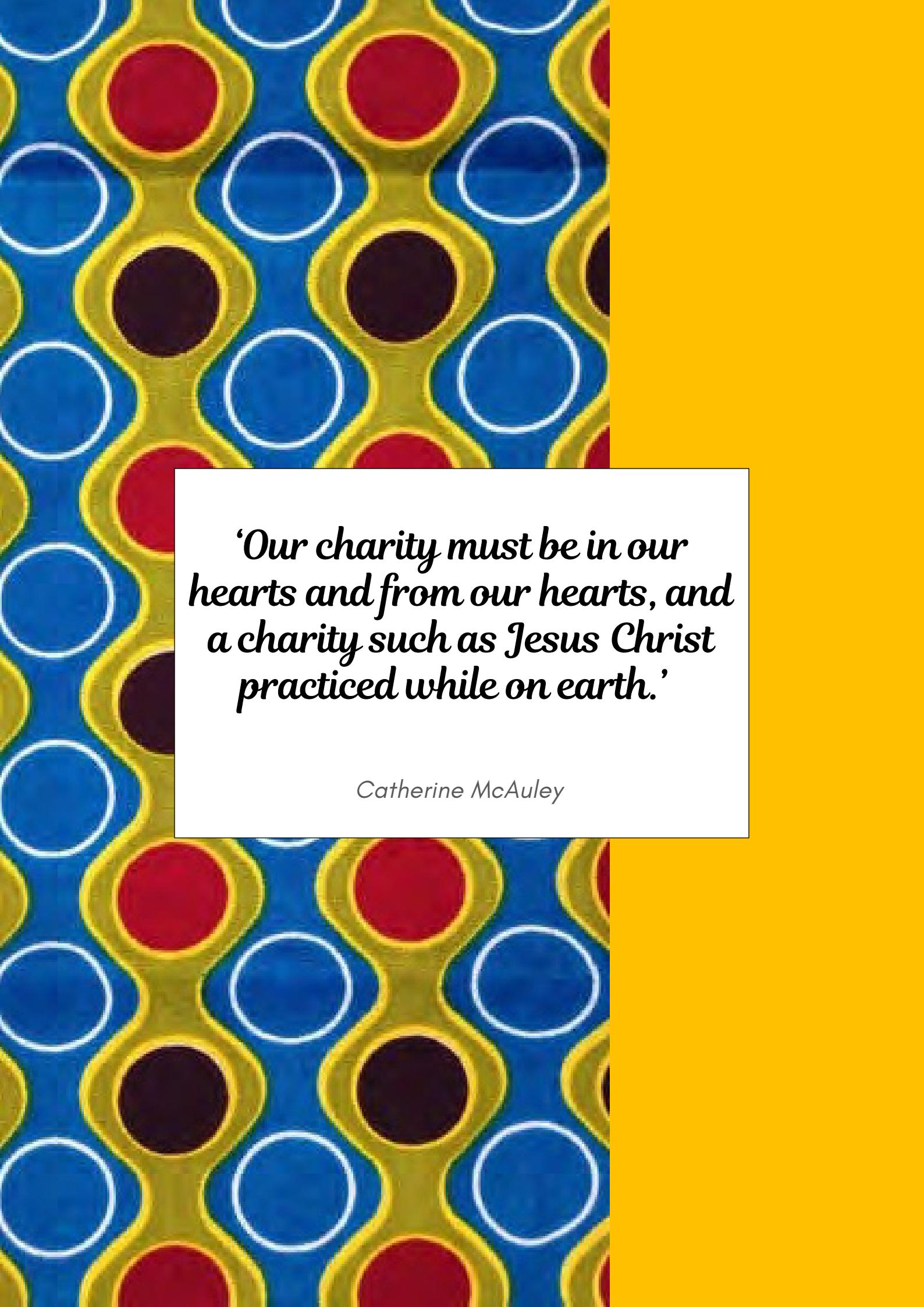
Reference: Singleton Hope Tree Group {Surname}

- 4** Credit Card payments can be made online via the Diocese website

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/parish/singleton/>

Click the Parish Payments button

In the payment notes please write *Hope Tree Group*



‘Our charity must be in our hearts and from our hearts, and a charity such as Jesus Christ practiced while on earth.’

Catherine McAuley



ST PATRICK'S
P A R I S H
Singleton



ST BRIGID'S
PARISH
BRANXTON AND Greta



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