

A Thiarna, Déan **TRÓCAIRE**

I found a superb phrase on the Trócaire website, and it captured truly good news in a few words. *'Trócaire turns the compassion of Irish people into life-changing support for some of the world's poorest people.'*

For some it's pretty ancient history, but it was as recently as 1967 that the Bishop of Rome, Pope Paul VI, called his fellow disciples to be not just attentive to the needs of poorer folk but to do something to help them out of their poverty. It has been an amazing story now of helpful care from Irish Christians for nearly 50 years, but reality and news broadcasts tell us *today's* poor and helpless are just that, new, and they are struggling, to put it mildly. This means the need for support is fresh each year for people who just won't make it out of a crisis without help.

We do feel sorry for ourselves, here in the West of Ireland, as Covid-19 limits contacts and of course limits travel. But what Trócaire has been doing has been somehow ahead of what we could imagine: being with people, families and communities where social distancing is frankly a pipe-dream, so deprived are so many people of resources and of options.

May I salute the immensely generous contribution Irish disciples of Jesus have made over the last 40+ years to the work and campaigns of Trócaire, from Kenya to Uganda, from Ethiopia to Rwanda, from Zimbabwe to Southern Sudan... and of course also – beyond the African continent – also in Nicaragua and in Myanmar, whose people have suffered so severely in the last couple of decades.

Irish help has been life-saving for many over the decades, and it's worth noting that some whose lives were turned around at least partially by help from Trócaire have gone on to dedicate their own energy and time to helping others. It did my heart good to learn (again, online) how much work Trócaire has enabled in terms of human rights, of women's empowerment, justice and peace issues in the countries named and elsewhere.

Our help and our financial support are still required... When you see the impact and change Irish help has managed to effect over nearly half a century, then you will not hesitate – either to admire such charity or to join in it too... this year, this Lent!

THOMAS MCCARTHY, OP

TROCAIRE BOXES with information pack available in Claddagh Church. Please take one. Every donation is welcomed.

TROCAIRE VOLUNTEER

To-day(Sun 21st Feb) we welcome Regina Flynn to speak at Mass (10.00am and 12.00noon) on behalf of Trocaire.

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

In response to Pope Francis calling the year of St Joseph, I'm inviting people to make the 33 Day Consecration to St Joseph online and and to pray for vocations through his intercession.

Every day at 8pm - for 33 days - there will be an open invitation to anyone who would like to join on Zoom for the daily readings which have been set out in preparation for the Consecration. We will

begin on the [15th of February](#) and finish on the Feast of St Joseph, 19th March. (Invite from Fr. Colm Mannion, OP)

MCN Media. Our thanks our service providers for coverage of Mass on Webcam. There was a brief disruption of service during Mass on Ash Wed. MCN apologised for technical hitch, but it was corrected immediately.