



The Redemptorist Provincialate,  
St. Mary's Monastery, Clapham,  
SW4 7AP

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Missionaries, Associates, Friends & Benefactors,

We are well on the way of our Lenten journey! To encourage us on the road I think this quote from Pope St. Paul VI, given in the recent document sent to us from Rome, 25th March 2025 from the Secretariat for Evangelisation, speaks strongly to us today.

*"Let us therefore preserve our fervour of spirit. Let us preserve the delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing, even when it is in tears that we must sow. May it mean for us - as it did for John the Baptist, for Peter and Paul, for the other apostles and for a multitude of splendid evangelizers all through the Church's history - an interior enthusiasm that nobody and nothing can quench. May it be the great joy of our consecrated lives. And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the Good News not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervour, who have first received the joy of Christ, and who are willing to risk their lives so that the kingdom may be proclaimed and the Church established in the midst of the world." (Evangelii Nuntiandi, No. 80).*

As I was writing this I was sitting in our monastery here in Munich, where I have been the last few days meeting with the other Provincials of Northwestern Europe. We have now had the last meeting of the four Provincials, and the next meeting which is scheduled for May 25th - 28th in Attnang-Puchheim (Austria) is for the newly appointed Federation Council. We very much look forward to this. The membership of the Federation Council will be announced in May once all the Candidates have been appointed.

At our last EPC meeting the Council appointed **Fr Elias Gweme CSsR** as a member of the **Federation Council**. There were other names proposed and discussed, however Fr. Elias's knowledge of our reality in Zimbabwe and our

reality here in the Province made him the strongest candidate. Fr. Elias will sit on the Council, as will I, in his own right. Please feel free to contact him with any concerns, suggestions or indeed good wishes.

The death of Fr Francis “Dickie” Dickinson CSsR has left a lot of sadness amongst us. While we are all delighted that the Lord came for him, we do feel his loss in a special way. Let us continue to pray for his eternal repose.

His requiem and burial was celebrated at Bishop Eton in Liverpool and Fr Timothy Buckley CSsR preached very well.

At the end of the week in Erdington there was another Requiem Mass celebrated for Fr Dickie and this gave the Birmingham parishioners a chance to express their gratitude and their tears for many years of ministry. Fr Elias Gweme CSsR had the opportunity to preach and speak of their relationship.

Let us also pray for Frs Tom Molloy CSsR and James Casey CSsR, both of whom have lost a brother. We pray for their eternal rest and we remember our confreres and their families at this sad time.

Someone from within ‘our family’ sent me this reflection supposedly penned by Pope Francis during his time in hospital. I offer it for some inspiration.

*“The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than churches...*

*They have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports...*

*It is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor.*

*A privileged doctor saving the life of a beggar...*

*In intensive care, you see a Jew taking care of a racist...*

*A police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care...*

*A wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant,*

*ready to receive the organ from a poor donor...*

*It is in these moments, when the hospital touches the wounds of people, that different worlds intersect according to a divine design.*

*And in this communion of destinies, we realize that alone, we are nothing.*

*The absolute truth of people, most of the time, only reveals itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss.*

*A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are, in their purest essence.*

*This life will pass quickly, so do not waste it fighting with people.*

*Do not criticize your body too much. Do not complain excessively.*

*Do not lose sleep over bills. Make sure to hug your loved ones.*

*Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless.*

*Material goods must be earned by each person —  
do not dedicate yourself to accumulating an inheritance.*

*You are waiting for too much: Christmas, Friday, next year, when you have money, when  
love arrives, when everything is perfect...*

*Listen, perfection does not exist.*

*A human being cannot attain it because we are simply not made to be fulfilled here. Here,  
we are given an opportunity to learn.*

*So, make the most of this trial of life—and do it now.*

*Respect yourself, respect others. Walk your own path,  
and let go of the path others have chosen for you.*

*Respect: do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere.*

*Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely!*

*And leave the rest in the hands of the Creator.”*

### **Zimbabwe update...**

The trip that Fr Elias, Br David and myself had with the confreres in Zimbabwe last month was truly a wonderful time and an incredibly busy period, moving from one project to another. The confreres there are extremely busy and engaging with people across the board. In and of themselves they are proudly carrying the Redemptorist name with pride and with zeal.

To give a short picture of the situation in the country...

There are two deaneries in the city of Harare, the Inner City and the Outer City. The Deans of these two Deaneries are our confreres, **Fr George Hama CSsR** and **Fr Francis Kunaka CSsR**.

The newly elected **President of the Conference of Religious** in Zimbabwe is our confrere, **Fr Kenneth Macharaga CSsR**.

The Spiritual Director of the Society of St Vincent de Paul for the Archdiocese of Harare is our confrere **Fr Victor Bushu CSsR**.

Many others are busily engaging in their ministry all for the glory of God!

Attached pictures show some of the other places we visited during our trip -

the **Redeemer Rock Shrine** of Perpetual Help in Charlotte Brooke;

the land in **Hatcliff**, Harare on which we shall build a church, a community and a school;

the land in **Chiweshe** where we shall build a community.

All these trips were made with many kilometres of un-tarmacked road!

One of the highlights of the trip was the day of the **Priestly Ordinations** of two of our CSsR men and two OFM Franciscans. Large groups of people came from all over the city and from many other places around the country. This was humbling and proves the people's love of the Priesthood and our Ministry. Our congratulations go to

**Rev'd Fr Celestino Magwenzi CSsR & Rev'd Fr Ngonidzashe Magaya CSsR**

Part of the visit also included a meeting and lunch with the new Apostolic Nuncio and a celebration with the whole Region as we gathered from the different communities to join together in Tafara.

I can truthfully say that I arrived exhausted and left exhausted; but with great joy in my heart.

**Final Vows** The OPC had six letters from confreres in Harare asking for permission to Profess their Vows Perpetually later this year. Upon reading the very positive reports from the Ordinary Regional Council and from our recent meetings with these confreres the OPC voted unanimously and positively. We offer our congratulations to Brs Terrence, Noel, Phillip, Elvis, Sylvester, and Bothwell CSsR as they now begin their preparations for finishing their initial studies and preparing for Perpetual Profession.

**Liverpool.** At the request of the community in Bishop Eton, **Br Michael Duxbury CSsR** has generously agreed to move back to the community in Liverpool, meaning now that he will have to say good bye to Birmingham and start afresh! The community really feels the need of another pair of hands and Br Michael knows the community well. I sincerely thank Br Michael for his generous and dedicated service.

**Erdington.** Some news from Birmingham, **Fr Kieran Brady CSsR** has taken on the role of 'sub dean' and is assisting the Dean in this now larger Birmingham Deanery.

**Fr Gideon Sidinga CSsR** is now fully emerged in the life of the community and the parish.

**RLSS AGM** in Northamptonshire was attended by three confreres and all reported positively on the content and input. These meetings are very good for getting new and updated information, networking and renewing old friendships.

**Retreat** - Kinnoull 21st - 26th July 2025, Director Fr Andrzej Wodka CSsR

**Celebrets** will be issued during Holy Week.

**Missions** galore have been going on in various cities in Harare and up and down the country here in England. Fr Royston's illustrated map gives a good and accurate 'picture' of how the missions are coming in; please keep this intention in your prayers.

At this stage it only remains for me to wish you every blessing and success in the few weeks that lie ahead before we celebrate the Paschal Mystery. Let us remember one another in our prayers especially during the Holy Week. We remember those who may be suffering in any way; pain be it physical or psychological. Let us stand close to our blessed Mother.

Peace,

*Richard Reid CSsR*

Richard Reid CSsR  
Provincial Superior

30 iii 2025

Attached: Photos from Zimbabwe, Photos from Missions, Presentation of RLSS