

# Parish of Bangor, Member of Ards Pastoral Community

Parish Priest: Very Rev Joseph Gunn St Comgall's Presbytery, 27 Brunswick Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT20 3DS  
T: (028) 9146-5522 E: bangor@downandconnor.org W: [www.bangorparish.com](http://www.bangorparish.com) Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30pm to 1pm.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – 29 January 2023 –

Your prayers are requested for

**Recently Deceased:** Leo McBrien  
**Months Mind:**  
Helen Jackson, Mary Carville.

### Anniversaries:

Prof James Dunwoody, Freddie Bailie, Paul Fox, Hollie Hall, John McMullan, Rosaleen Lennon, Comgall Storey, PC Joy, Gerard Cassidy, Mary Bunting, Leo Gribbin, Mollie Sullivan, Mary Bunting, May Gallagher, Patricia Hagan, Winfred Savage, Patricia Simpson, Kathleen McMullan.

For more details on the different notices please go on to the parish website:  
[www.bangorparish.com](http://www.bangorparish.com)

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**Mass is Live Streamed and can be accessed via the Parish Website**

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**Holy Hour** in St Comgall's Donaghadee – every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month @ 2.45pm

<https://www.bangorparish.com/the-parish-today/the-columban-sisters/>

LINK FOR: 🙏 Sr Maura's PRAYING TOWARDS... SUNDAY REFLECTIONS on the HOLY SCRIPTURES.

### Update on Repairs to Most Holy Redeemer

The one item of good news is that a new burglar alarm has been fitted. The next of the news is simply frustrating. After having waited for six months for the installation of gas we welcomed the contractors who started their work and ceased almost immediately on discovering that their map of what was under the surface of Lyle Road was incomplete. For fear of cutting electric cables, pipes etc they decided that the road would have to dug by hand rather than mechanically, to do this they have secured the closure of the road on February 14<sup>th</sup>. In the belief that the gas supply would have been installed the plumber had been engaged to fit a new boiler on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. Not wanting to incur further delay it has been decided to keep to this date. When the gas eventually flows and the boiler is producing heat the process of drying out the church can begin so that the electrical lighting work may be safely carried out and internal plaster work be dealt with. This is as much as I know and I will keep parishioners informed of future progress and catastrophes as they occur. Fr J Gunn.

This is a 7 Page Bulletin. Full Copy Online....

### ST COMGALL'S CHURCH, DONAGHADEE

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 @ 9.00am

### ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD

Sat Vigil 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6.30pm and  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10am & 12noon

### MASS TIMES FOR:

**DAILY MASS NEXT WEEK – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan to 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Morning Mass:  
Monday, to Friday at 9.30am

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A number of Masses including funerals are recorded. These can be accessed by clicking on the link below:  
[www.churchservices.tv/bangor](http://www.churchservices.tv/bangor)

**Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** takes place every Monday. Adoration will last from after Morning Mass until **4.00pm** with the intention of prolonging it later until 9.00pm as heretofore subject to there being sufficient adorers on the rota. Please let us know if you are interested in being part of the evening rota.

### **Parish Get-together to Celebrate Our Two Canons!!**

We are having a Celebration in the Parish Centre on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February, after 12noon Mass for Canon Joseph Gunn and Canon Daniel Whyte. Music and light refreshments, all welcome!

**Bethany Bereavement Support Group** we are here to support and listen. Confidential. New No. 07732 513400

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB** reopens on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Full Copy of The Sunday Missalette can be found on The Parish Website Under "News"

**BAPTISM REGISTRATION** Please register online SIDE BAR under 'Baptism Registration'

We pray this weekend for all those who died in the tragedy on **31<sup>st</sup> January in 1953** on the **MV Princess Victoria Liner.**

**PARISH CENTRE – PARISH GROUPS 2023**

<b>MONDAYS</b>	<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>THURSDAYS</b>
<b>BRIDGE CLUB</b> at 7.15 until 9.45pm	<b>FRIENDSHIP CLUB</b> at 10.00am	<b>MENCAP</b> Every fortnight at 6.00pm	<b>St Comgall's Guide Unit</b> (Girls aged 6-18) at 6.30pm
<b>YOUTH CLUB</b> 6.30pm – 8.30pm	<b>IRISH DANCING CLASSES</b> at 6.00pm	<b>YOUTH CLUB</b> 6.30pm – 8.30pm	<b>IRISH CLASS &amp; CEILI DANCING</b> at 7.00pm
<b>LECTIO DIVINA GROUP</b> 7.30pm – 8.30pm [St Dymphna's Room]	<b>SENIOR CHOIR</b> Starting 11 <sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm	<b>BADMINTON</b> Every fortnight at 8.00pm	

**BOOKING OF PARISH CENTRE:**

Contact Thomas on T: 07305 746 263 or Email: [mcmullanthomas481@gmail.com](mailto:mcmullanthomas481@gmail.com)

**If you have a parish group and wish to advertise the times of starting or day in this Parish Newsletter please contact the parish office by email on: [bangor@downandconnor.org](mailto:bangor@downandconnor.org)**

**AT A GLANCE – NEWS ITEMS IN THE PARISH AND AROUND THE DIOCESE**

To see the fuller details please go to the parish website 'Parish Newsletter'

**St Brigid's Day Lecture**

**Date:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm, **Venue:** St Bride's Parish Centre (38 Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast)

**Guest Speaker:** Michael Kelly (Editor of The Irish Catholic).

**DOWN and CONNOR DIOCESAN TRUST**

**VACANCY - PARISH CENTRE CLEANER, BANGOR PARISH**

We are seeking to recruit 2 Parish Centre Cleaners within Bangor Parish, (St Comgall's Parish Centre, Brunswick Road, Bangor). The post holders will be required to provide an efficient and comprehensive cleaning service to the Parish to ensure the Parish Centre is clean, tidy and in an orderly condition at all times.

The terms of each role are based on a permanent appointment requiring 8 hours attendance each week, work pattern to be agreed. Ability to work flexible hours is required from the post holders from time to time.

Rate of Pay - £9.50 gross per hour.

Full details relating to the vacancy can be found on the Diocesan website at: <http://www.downandconnor.org> clicking on the tab: **JOB VACANCIES** and on the Community NI website, where terms and conditions relating to the role can also be accessed by way of a Role Profile and Employment Application form.

Application packs can also be obtained from the Bangor Parish Office.

We welcome applications from anyone who feels they meet the criteria and are interested in playing an active part in the Parish. **Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Monday 6th February 2023**

*Down and Connor Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer*

**DOWN and CONNOR DIOCESAN TRUST**

**VACANCY - DIOCESAN CURIA OFFICE, 'EXECUTIVE SUPPORT OFFICER'**

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the recruitment of an Executive Support Officer, to join the Down and Connor Diocesan Trust team based at 75 Somerton Road, Belfast, BT15 4DE. The Executive Support Officer will be required to provide a full portfolio of support to the present Apostolic Administrator and the future Bishop of Down and Connor, Senior Clergy and the Management Team, by way of expert secretarial, clerical, administrative and diary management services. **Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7th February 2023**

**St Vincent de Paul Helpline 077 0367 9384**

**The Society of St Vincent de Paul** offers practical and confidential help to those in need throughout the North Down Area. Donations can also be made to SVP Giving Page at [www.svp-ni.co.uk](http://www.svp-ni.co.uk). If you are a UK income tax-payer please consider Gift Aiding your donation, which will enhance your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Gift Aid forms are available on the Parish website, or on request, via SVP Helpline number, as above.

The Society is always on the lookout for new Members, and if you are interested and can spare a few hours per week please speak to a Conference Member, or leave your name and contact number on the Helpline and we will return to you promptly. You will be warmly welcomed and full training will be given.

**St Comgall's Primary School** has been awarded the **Down and Connor Spirit of Catholic Education Award 2023.**

We are delighted and wish all the staff congratulations on their achievement!

**NOTICE FOR NEW AND EXISTING ALTAR SERVERS – BANGOR PARISH**, St Comgall's Church, Brunswick Road  
It is hoped to revive the custom of having Altar Servers at Mass. The parents of any interested boy or girl who is aged 8 or over and who has received their First Holy Communion are asked to leave the name and the contact details of a **parent/guardian** in the parish office in person before 1pm Monday to Friday or by email on [bangor@downandconnor.org](mailto:bangor@downandconnor.org) Details concerning training will be announced later.

## **DIOCESAN NOTICES:**



The annual 4 Corners Festival has announced its dates for 2023 and this year's theme which will be Dreams...Visions for Belfast.

The festival will feature a range of art, music, discussion, sport and faith-based events from January 27 to February 5 in venues across the city.

Now in its 11th year, the festival was conceived as a way to inspire people from across the city to transform it for the peace and wellbeing of all.

It features innovative events designed to entice people out of their own 'corners' of the city and into new places where they will encounter new perspectives, new ideas and hopefully meet new friends.

**The full programme is now live, for more information go to [www.4cornersfestival.com/the-festival](http://www.4cornersfestival.com/the-festival)**

### ▪ **D & C LIVING CHURCH COMMITTEE - Faith Development Conference, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

It has been wonderful to see people gather in their parishes once again over the past year. As we continue to build on this the Living Church are hosting a Faith Development Conference for all our Parish Leaders and Clergy. It will be held in the **Crowne Plaza Hotel, Shaw's Bridge, Belfast, on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. This course will equip you with the skills and resources to lead faith development programmes in your parish, with your prayer group or organisation. Five excellent Programmes are being showcased and there will be an opportunity to meet with the developers and presenters of the programmes in taster sessions that they will run. Our keynote speaker will be Mr David Wells. David is an international speaker and author and has worked with Dioceses internationally encouraging and inspiring people to be leaders and sharing the Joy of the Gospel in their local parish communities. Each delegate will receive lunch and will take home resources to support the delivery of five programmes that can be delivered in the Parish. For more information, or to book online, go to:

[www.livingchurchevents.com](http://www.livingchurchevents.com). Or to request an application form, contact Claire at the Living Church Office, 02890690920 or [livingchurch@downandconnor.org](mailto:livingchurch@downandconnor.org)

It would be wonderful to see you there!

### ▪ **St Brigid's Day Lecture, Belfast – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

**Date:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm, **Venue:** St Bride's Parish Centre (38 Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast)

**Guest Speaker:** Michael Kelly (Editor of The Irish Catholic) **Theme:** "When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on earth? – the future of Irish Catholicism" *All Welcome!*

### ▪ **SAINT PATRICK CENTRE, Downpatrick - 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February**

St Brigid is calling. Come and learn all about Ireland's patroness, and how to make the iconic St Brigid's cross! The Saint Patrick Centre in partnership with Brigid Watson, of Sustainable Journeys Ireland, is hosting a Legacy of St Brigid Experience on February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup> in Downpatrick Refreshments, and exhibition IMAX film are included. Ticket information is available at the Saint Patrick Centre 02844 619000 or book online

<https://sustainablejourneysireland.com> In the Spirit of Saint Brigid there are a limited number of free places available for Ukrainian refugees interested in the cultural experience. Bookings can also be made on *Eventbrite*.

### ▪ **TOTUS TUUS EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE 2023 – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

IS LIVE ON RADIO MARIA IRELAND FROM 2PM. Speakers include FR. COLUMBA MARY TOMAN OP, FR. PATRICK CAHILL O.J.S.S, FR. PATRICK LAGAN (DERRY DIOCESE), MAURA MURPHY (HOLY FAMILY MISSION). Radio Maria Ireland can be listened to by downloading the Radio Maria Ireland APP, Saorview Channel 210 or listen live at (01)4373277

### ▪ **BEGINNING EXPERIENCE IS A PEER MINISTRY**

to the bereaved, separated and divorced, based within the Family Ministry of the Diocese of Down and Connor. The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. Beginning Experience is offering a programme of bereavement support in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast on **three Saturdays (February 18<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup> 2023)** Booking essential. Residential weekend in Drumalis, Larne, 10/12<sup>th</sup> March. To find out more, contact Phil: [02890 207645](tel:02890207645) or Marie [07896119669](tel:07896119669) or email [belfastbe@yahoo.com](mailto:belfastbe@yahoo.com)

**DOWN and CONNOR DIOCESAN TRUST**  
**VACANCY - DIOCESAN CURIA OFFICE, 'EXECUTIVE SUPPORT OFFICER'**

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the recruitment of an Executive Support Officer, to join the Down and Connor Diocesan Trust team based at 75 Somerton Road, Belfast, BT15 4DE. The Executive Support Officer will be required to provide a full portfolio of support to the present Apostolic Administrator and the future Bishop of Down and Connor, Senior Clergy and the Management Team, by way of expert secretarial, clerical, administrative and diary management services.

If you are an individual with excellent communication skills and the ability to deal with sensitive and confidential matters in a professional manner, then we see this as a unique opportunity to join the Down and Connor Diocesan Trust Team.

The terms are based on a permanent appointment for 35 hours per week. Monday to Friday from 9.00am – 5.00pm; additional out of hours may be required from time to time.

Salary: Will be considered within the range of £27,000 to £30,000 gross per annum – commensurate upon experience.

Full details relating to the vacancy can be found on the Diocesan website at: <http://www.downandconnor.org> clicking on the tab: [job vacancies](#) and on the Community NI and [nijobs.com](#) websites, where terms and conditions relating to the role can also be accessed by way of a Role Profile and Employment Application form.

We welcome applications from anyone who feels they meet the criteria as presented and are interested in playing an active role within the Diocese of Down and Connor.

**Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7th February 2023**  
***Down and Connor Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer***

**OTHER NOTICES:**

▪ **NI CANCER PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES, Sun 28 May to Fri 2 June 2023**

The price of £799 (with price reduction for Cancer Patients) will include: Return flights from Belfast International Airport, operated by Northern Star Travel Ltd. Full board and accommodation at the Hotel Agena in Lourdes for five nights based on twin/double/triple rooms. Service of JWT guides in Lourdes. The party will consist of patients, ex-patients, relatives and friends accompanied by medical, nursing and other staff. To enquire or to obtain a booking form please speak to a member of the committee on Tel. **07846 88388** or email [mail@nicancerpilgrimage.org.uk](mailto:mail@nicancerpilgrimage.org.uk)

▪ **COLUMBANUS ACROSS EUROPE**

Dear Friend of Columbanus Bangor, An Italian Columbanus friend sent me the link below which is a beautifully illustrated copy of a children's book written by Giovanni Caselli about the journeys of Columbanus across Europe through the eyes of a young trainee monk called Finbar. <https://rotharroutes.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/columbanus.pdf>

▪ **FOSTER CARE SERVICES AND SUPPORT**

'There are children in crisis today in our local communities – children of all ages and all abilities. Can you spare an hour a day, an overnight or a weekend or more to make a difference in a child's life? If you can, then contact the Regional Fostering Team at [www.adoptionandfosteringcare.hscni.net](http://www.adoptionandfosteringcare.hscni.net) or on 0800 0720 137....remember ,every child is just one caring adult away from success'.

▪ ***Greetings from Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre***

**'NODDING OFF'** *How to sleep deeper and better for longer*  
Saturday, 18 February (9.30am - 4.30pm) 2023 £40.

**'DIFFICULT PEOPLE'** *How to bring out the best of people at their worst*  
Saturday, 11 March (9.30am - 4.30pm) £40

Please contact Jacinta or Louisa to reserve your place: TEL: 028 (048 from ROI) 3082 1964  
EMAIL: [admin@dromantineconference.com](mailto:admin@dromantineconference.com)

**Friday 27th to Monday 30th January 2023 11am-7pm**  
**Exhibition in Donaghadee Community Centre**  
**Princess Victoria Disaster & Donaghadee lifeboats**

**Friday 27th January 7.30 pm**



**The Princess Victoria Disaster**  
**a talk by Stephen Cameron**



**Donaghadee Community Centre Entrance £5 (refreshments included)**

**Sunday 29th Jan. 3pm at Donaghadee Harbour**

**Memorial Service to commemorate the 70th anniversary**  
**of the loss Of MV Princess Victoria on 31 January 1953**

**Refreshments served afterwards in the Community Centre**



**Sir Samuel Kelly Lifeboat Shelter will be open during the weekend**  
**Details of times available at exhibition**  
[www.donaghadeeheritage.com](http://www.donaghadeeheritage.com)



**DONAGHADEE**  
**HERITAGE**  
**PRESERVATION**  
**COMPANY**



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Lord Jesus, you have said, 'Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.'** I come to you in faith and trust, in love and hope. Let me know your closeness to me and your care for me and for all who are dear to me.

**My intention:** Hear my prayer (*mention intention*); grant what I ask, and may I always trust that in all that happens in life, you will be close to me as my friend, guide and saviour. And so, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

**Penitential Act:** I confess to the almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**PRAYERS AT HOLY COMMUNION**

**Spiritual Holy Communion Prayer**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and  
I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you have already come,  
and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen.  
*composed by Saint Alphonsus Liguori*

**ANIMA CHRISTI**

**Prayer to the Most Holy Redeemer**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, embolden me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesus, hear me.  
Within your wounds hide me.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.  
From the evil enemy defend me.  
At the hour of my death call me  
and bid me to come to you,  
that with your Saints I may praise you  
for age upon age. Amen

**Prayer Online:** Come and join us at... [www.soulparemission.com](http://www.soulparemission.com) Who are we? We are a new interactive prayer website created by Jacinta Crockford DipTH, Spiritual Director living in Down and Connor. What's on offer? A variety of PDF meditations on Scripture, Mother Teresa, Ignatius Spirituality to name but a few. Lots of content to Dive into! There you will find - Podcasts on Faith, Friendship & Knowledge; Rosaries, Prayers and Marian Consecration, Videos of Reflective Prayers during Adoration. Come and join us and be part of the local prayer movement online!

## CALENDAR OF SAINTS DAYS

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

<b>Thursday 26 January</b> Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops	<b>Tuesday 31 January</b> Saint John Bosco, Priest
<b>Friday 27 January</b> Saint Angela Merici, Virgin	<b>Wednesday 1 February</b> Saint Brigid, Abbess, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Patron of Ireland
<b>Saturday 28 January</b> Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church	<b>Thursday 2 February</b> The Presentation of the Lord
<b>Sunday 29 January</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year A	<b>Friday 3 February</b> Saint Blaise, Bishop, Martyr
<b>Monday 30 January</b> Saint Aidan (Ferns), Bishop	<b>Sunday 5 February</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year A

### AID TO THE CHURCH

<https://www.acnireland.org/n-donate>

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## From ISIS prisoner to Catholic bishop

**FATHER JACQUES MOURAD LIVED AS A PRISONER OF THE ISLAMIC STATE FOR FIVE MONTHS BEFORE MANAGING TO ESCAPE TO FREEDOM. NOW HE HAS BEEN APPOINTED SYRIAC CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF HOMS.**

By Filipe d'Avillez

Fr. Jacques Mourad speaking at an ACN event in Spain. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

"Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) rejoices at this decision. **During his ordeal Fr Jacques remained a solid example of Christian values, supporting his faithful and bearing witness to those who persecuted them.** As a bishop he is in a great position to continue to encourage Christians to remain in their homelands and be true to their beliefs, but also to engage in dialogue with Muslims, working towards peaceful coexistence", says Regina Lynch, head of projects at the pontifical foundation.

Fr. Jacques Mourad celebrating Holy Mass in Spain. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

Archbishop-elect Jacques Mourad was born in Aleppo, Syria, in 1968. He did his seminary studies in Lebanon, and has degrees in Philosophy, Theology and Liturgy. **He has been a priest since 1993, and speaks Arabic, Syriac, French, English and Italian.**

For many priests, being appointed a bishop can be a frightening prospect, but it is hard to scare **a man who spent months locked in a bathroom, threatened daily and who was even subjected to a mock execution for refusing to renounce his faith.**

**Father Jacques Mourad was head of the monastery of Saint Elias, or Mar Elian, Syria, in 2015, when the region**



**was overrun by jihadists from the Islamic State (IS or ISIS).**

During his time as priest in neighbouring Al-Qaryatayn and Mar Elian **he worked closely with ACN**, which funded a number of projects, including restoration and construction of infrastructure at the monastery and provision of food, medicine, and other aid to the local population.

**The terrorists first abducted Fr Jacques and a postulant, Boutros, before taking almost the entire Christian population of Al-Qaryatayn, to whom he had ministered as a priest.**

Fr. Jacques Mourad on pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Virgin Mary of Montserrat. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

The Christians were subjected to psychological and physical torture, but they **did not renounce their faith**. "I was harangued, **threatened several times with beheading, and subjected to a mock execution for refusing to renounce my faith**. In those moments Our Lord's words resonated within me: **'My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness'**. And in the midst of this situation, I was also happy to be able to concretely live these words of Christ from Saint Matthew's Gospel: **'Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who ill-treat and persecute you'**", Fr Jacques told participants in the Night of Witness, in Paris, 2017, at an event organised by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN France).

**Eventually the entire Christian community was returned to what was left of Al-Qaryatayn**, and the monk was allowed to return to his monastery, and even to conduct religious services, but they were forbidden to leave.

Soon after, however, fearing the situation could again worsen, Fr Jacques escaped. Once freed, he managed to coordinate the escape of the rest of the community. "I asked a Muslim friend there whether he would bring me to safety on his motorcycle. We headed out, straight through the desert, and miraculously nothing happened. **Three days later we were able to free 58 people, a few at a time, until all the Christian hostages had escaped through the desert – always with the help of Muslim friends and neighbours!**", he explained in a 2016 interview with ACN. Fr Jacques moved to Europe for a time, where he advocated for an end to the war and defended a non-violent approach to Christian-Muslim relations, recalling how the peaceful attitude of the small community had surprised and impressed their captors.

Now, eight years after his ordeal, **the Syriac Catholic Church to which he belongs elected him Archbishop of Homs**, the diocese which includes the monastery of Mar Elian and the community of Al-Qaryatayn. Even though jihadists are no longer an immediate threat, Syria is beset by a deep financial crisis which continues to drive many Christians to emigration.



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soaring prices of  
essential commodities  
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that the cost of feeding children with Mary's Meals has risen by 20%.

We know that the escalating cost of living is causing much pain for both people here in the UK who make our work possible and the children who eat Mary's Meals.



Together, we are reaching  
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ever before**



There is still time to  
**double your love**

If you can [give any amount today](#), please know that this will be received with deep gratitude – particularly because our income is not growing at the same rate as the cost of feeding children. You can read about the challenges we face in [this blog](#) from our executive director, Daniel Adams.