

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 Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30pm to 1pm.

14th Sunday of the Year – 3 July 2022 –

Your prayers are requested for
Recently Deceased: Ruby McDevitt

Months Mind:
Veronica Bintley, Johnny McAlorum

Anniversaries: Neil McKeown, Margaret Beck, Patrick McGreevy, Mary Brannigan, Patricia McKeivitt, Josephine McAlinden, Jack Rice, James McGrattan.

STOREHOUSE NORTH DOWN

Storehouse continues to help **St Vincent De Paul** provide non-perishable food for those in need. **Non perishable foodstuff donations, for Storehouse, have recommenced. Donations can be left in the receptacle in the Bishops Porch at the rear of the Church** or Storehouse welcomes donations of foodstuff at their premises, 12 Balloo Avenue, Bangor on Mondays and Thursdays between 10.00am to 3.00 pm. Cash donations are also very acceptable.

BAPTISM REGISTRATION

Please register online SIDE BAR under 'Sacramental Preparation'



BANGOR PARISH PODCAST

You can listen to the Parish Podcasts
Praying with the Icons by

clicking on the audio files on the website or
by searching for "Parish of Bangor Podcast"

in the apple or google podcast Apps.

Then subscribe to our channel so that you will receive all the latest podcasts straight to your device.

Bethany Bereavement Support Group
we are here to support and listen.
Confidential. **075 1085 2157**

St Vincent de Paul Helpline
077 0367 9384

SUNDAY MASS TIMES THIS WEEKEND

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH, DONAGHADEE

Sunday 3rd July @ 9.00am

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD

Saturday vigil 2nd July @ 6.30pm

Sunday 3rd July @ 10am & 12noon

Please note that the Covid sanitising regulations have not changed and will continue to be strictly observed.

DAILY MASS NEXT WEEK – 4th – 8th July

Morning Mass: Monday to Friday at 9.30am

A number of Masses including funerals are recorded.
These can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

www.churchservices.tv/bangor

Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed on 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.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO BULLETINS
IN JULY & AUGUST**

Update on repairs to Churches in Donaghadee and Ballyholme.

It is hoped that repairs to the Church in Donaghadee will begin very shortly. It is also hoped that the first tranche of repairs concerning the roof of the Most Holy Redeemer Church will begin towards the end of July.

PRAYING WITH THE ICONS

under **The Four Saints** found in 'Parish Today'

**This is a 8 Page Bulletin
so please scroll down!**

Full Copy Of The Sunday Missalette Can Be Found On The Parish Website Under "News"

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

Wed 1 June until Mon 15 August

(Sat 13th Aug is final day to begin the Pilgrimage). Lough Derg Three Day Pilgrimage. All booking info, www.loughderg.org, e: info@loughderg.org or t: (0353) 71 9861518.

Saturday 2nd July

All-Ireland Rally for Life takes place in Dublin. Make a stand to protect Ireland's unborn babies. Coaches travelling from towns across Northern Ireland. Book your seat today. Contact 02890278484/07592280522.

Monday 8 Aug – Fri 12 August

Singing for Boys, St Dominic's Grammar School. Email Mr James McConnell at schola@downandconnor.org Cost: £35 - Scholarships are available on request.

Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre

TEL: 028 3082 1964 E:

admin@dromantineconference.com

Friday, 19 August (5pm) - Sunday, 21 August (2pm) - THE LONG GOODBYE *Practical advice for caregivers of people living with dementia*

Saturday, 24 September (9.30am - 4.30pm) WHEN IT IS DARKEST *Understanding suicide*

Friday, 4 November (5pm) - Sunday, 6 November (2pm) CHURCH ABUSE: A UNIQUE BETRAYAL - *A call to listen, a call to action, a call to change.*

TRÓCAIRE thank you for your help. You can donate in the following ways:

- Online at www.trocaire.org. T: 0800 912 1200 (NI) By post: Trócaire, 50 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI).

Pilgrimage to Fatima – 2022, Down and Connor Diocese 8 - 15 SEPTEMBER 2022 |

For Bookings contact: Joe Catney 028 9071 4001 / 07776 425631 or Fr G McCloskey PP 028 4484 1208

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2022: Wed 13 – Monday 18 July

Full board in hotel: 5 nights (13-18 July) For further info contact the Pilgrimage Office on (028) 9077 0162 email: lourdes@downandconnor.org www.downandconnor.org/Lourdes

Knock Shrine - Daily Masses continue to be broadcast at 12 Noon and 7.30pm, with Rosary at 7pm. For further details, please see www.knockshrine.ie

A Journey Of Faith, Hope And Joy With St Patrick....

Poor Clares Sr Martina Purdy and Sr Elaine Kelly will lead you on an amazing five day pilgrimage that includes guided walks to sites associated with St Patrick in County Down. Downpatrick 02844 619000 Please see link below for more details.

[Saint Patrick Centre – Welcome to the Home of Saint Patrick](#)

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE is offering a programme of bereavement support in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast. Contact: 02890 207645 or Marie 07896119669

TRIP TO ITALY

Newtownards and Comber Parish Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Loreto, September 12-19 2022. **Less than ten places** on this beautiful trip remaining to be filled. Please contact Kieran or Laura on **00353 57 9355050 (mornings only)**, or email: info@myriam.ie

PARISH NOTICES

Unused Bicycles For Charity

The Rotary Club of North Down supports a Belfast charity, Bike Aid Africa. Contact: Greg McCourt – 07774672445

The Society of St Vincent de Paul offers practical and confidential help to those in need throughout the North Down Area. We know it can be hard to ask for help but please, if you need help call us on our.

Helpline: 077 0367 9384.

Update on repairs to Churches in Donaghadee and Ballyholme.

It is hoped that repairs to the Church in Donaghadee will begin very shortly. It is also hoped that the first tranche of repairs concerning the roof of the Most Holy Redeemer Church will begin towards the end of July.

Down & Connor – Vacancy

An opportunity has arisen within our Living Church Office, where we seek to recruit two Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development Workers. We see this as an exciting and challenging opportunity in the life and mission of the Church. The post holder will be required to support the Director of the Living Church Office, and work as part of a team to implement Diocesan Initiatives in pastoral renewal, evangelisation and faith development.

Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Monday 18th July 2022

Diocesan website at: <http://www.downandconnor.org> clicking on the tab: [job vacancies](#)

For more details on the different notices please go on to the parish website:

www.bangorparish.com

**DOWN and CONNOR DIOCESAN TRUST
VACANCY
PASTORAL RENEWAL and FAITH DEVELOPMENT WORKER
3 YEAR FIXED TERM CONTRACT
LIVING CHURCH OFFICE**

An opportunity has arisen within our Living Church Office, where we seek to recruit two Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development Workers. We see this as an exciting and challenging opportunity in the life and mission of the Church. The post holder will be required to support the Director of the Living Church Office, and work as part of a team to implement Diocesan Initiatives in pastoral renewal, evangelisation and faith development.

The terms are based on a 3 -Year Fixed Term Contract, working 35 hours per week, work pattern to be agreed.

Salary: Will be considered within the range of £27,500 to £32,500 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 Monday 18th July 2022

Please find below the link to the Safeguarding Office Spring 2022 E-Bulletin. Newsletter - available to view on our website <https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com/newsletters/>

DIOCESE OF DOWN & CONNOR **Singing for Boys, Summer 2022** Monday 8 August – Friday 12 August 2022 St Dominic's Grammar School, 135 Falls Road, Belfast BT12 6AE. The 5-day course is aimed at boys aged 8–16 who want to improve their singing voice and musical skills. It is ideal for boys who have a passion for music and want to take their singing training to the next level. The week concludes with a showcase in St Peter's Cathedral to which parents/guardians are invited to attend. The Guest Tutor is musical director, composer and voice consultant Matthew Reeve. Email Mr James McConnell at schola@downandconnor.org for an application or contact Cathedral House, St Peter's Square, BT12 BU. Cost: £35 - Scholarships are available on request.

A special edition of *Sharing the Good News* on the Synodal Pathway. In this issue, we profile Dr Nicola Brady's cover story interview from the June issue of *Intercom* magazine. This special edition also includes a piece on the Day of Prayer on Sunday 5 June which is being offered in thanksgiving for the Diocesan Phase of the Universal Synod. We also invite people to pray for the National Pre-Synodal Assembly taking place in Athlone and Clonmacnoise on Saturday 18 June. Also be available on www.synod.ie and on www.catholicbishops.ie.

UNUSED BICYCLES FOR CHARITY

The Rotary Club of North Down supports a Belfast charity, Bike Aid Africa, which collects second hand bicycles of all sizes, repairs and refurbishes them and then forwards them to a country in Africa for use by people of all ages as their only means of transport, e.g. to get to work or go to school. At the end of June, it will be sending a container of bicycles to Madagascar. If anyone has a bicycle no longer in use, please phone Greg McCourt on 07774672445 who will be pleased to collect it and delivery it to this worthy charity.

Knock Shrine - Daily Masses continue to be broadcast on the Knock Shrine website and Facebook page at 12 Noon and 7.30pm, with Rosary at 7pm. Sunday Mass is broadcast at 12 noon, Rosary at 2.30pm and Mass at 3pm. For further details, please see www.knockshrine.ie

**Pilgrimage to Fatima – 2022,
Down and Connor Diocese
8 - 15 SEPTEMBER 2022
| 7 NIGHTS**

Led by Bishop Noel Treanor D.D.
Pilgrimage directors: Fr G. McCloskey PP
and Fr Sean Gilmore PP - Return flights
from Dublin to Lisbon - Coach from
Belfast to Dublin airport - 7 nights at
Hotel Avenida - Breakfast, lunch and
dinner each day - Airport transfers -
20kg check-in bag per person - Free
travel insurance up to 79 years. **£689**
per person sharing.

For Bookings contact: Joe Catney
028 9071 4001 / 07776 425631
Pilgrimage Directors: Fr G McCloskey
PP 028 4484 1208 & Fr Sean Gilmore PP

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2022: Full
board in hotel: 5 nights (13-18 July) from £685. For
further information contact the Pilgrimage Office on
(028) 9077 0162 E: lourdes@downandconnor.org

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

www.bangorparish.com

LOUGH DERG THREE DAY PILGRIMAGE runs
Wed 1st June until 15th August (Sat 13th Aug is
final day to begin the Pilgrimage). Admission €80 |
Booking advised | Concessions available for
students, seniors and groups.
All booking info, including organised parish groups
available at www.loughderg.org,
email info@loughderg.org or telephone 0(0353) 71
9861518. *Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co Donegal, F94
N289*



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 Saturday – 25 June. Booking essential.
To find out more, contact Phil: 02890 207645 or Marie 07896119669.

All-Ireland Rally for Life takes place in Dublin on **Saturday 2nd July**. Make a stand to protect Ireland's unborn babies.
Coaches travelling from towns across Northern Ireland. Book your seat today. Contact 02890278484/ 07592280522.

CALENDAR OF SAINTS DAYS

JULY 2022

Tuesday 28 June

Saint Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

Wednesday 29 June

Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles

Thursday 30 June

The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Friday 1 July

Saint Oliver Plunkett, Bishop & Martyr

Sunday 3 July

14th Sunday of the Year

Monday 4 July

Saint Elizabeth of Portugal

Tuesday 5 July

Saint Anthony Zaccaria, Priest

Wednesday 6 July

Saint Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr

Thursday 7 July

Saint Maelruain, Bishop & Abbot

Friday 8 July

Saint Kilian, Bishop & Martyr

Prayer Online: Come and join us at... 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 Mother Teresa, St John Paul II, 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.
Come and join us and be part of the prayer movement online!

Saturdays at 8.30pm – Prayerful Reflections during Live Eucharistic Adoration. Meditations on the Catholic Internet
TV – Shalom World.org Just click on the following link to access this time of prayer. www.swprayer.org Please be
assured that I will be including all the parishioners and their families during these live intercessory prayers.

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The Society of St Vincent de Paul offers practical and confidential help to those in need throughout the North Down Area. We know it can be hard to ask for help but please, if you need help call us on **our Helpline: 077 0367 9384**.

To help us to help others you can make direct payments to Conferences Bank Account.
St Comgall's, Allied Irish Bank. Sort Code 93-82-03. A/C No is 25302098.
Most Holy Redeemer Ballyholme, Allied Irish Bank. Sort Code 93-82-03. A/C No. 06885061.

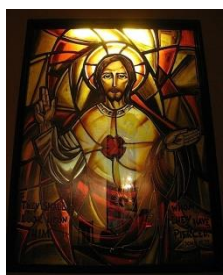
Donations can also be made to SVP Giving Page at www.svp-ni.co.uk. If you are a UK income tax payer please consider Gift Aiding your donation, which will enhance your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Gift Aid forms are available on the Parish website, or on request, via SVP Helpline number, as 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.

***We can now accept donations of Good quality furniture –
please call our Helpline or speak to a member of the Society.***

An Irish Pilgrimage Guide to the Holy Land is a new book by Michael Kelly, Editor of *The Irish Catholic* newspaper which explores the places associated with the life of Christ. Michael, who has led many pilgrimages to the Holy Land, says he hopes the book can also act as an 'armchair retreat' for people who cannot travel to the Holy Land bringing the Gospel to life for them. It is available now from all good bookshops, www.columbabooks.com or by calling 00353.1.687.4096 price €16.99/£14.99

A JOURNEY OF FAITH, HOPE AND JOY WITH ST PATRICK.... Come and be refreshed on ancient paths in the cradle of Christianity in Ireland. Poor Clares Sr Martina Purdy and Sr Elaine Kelly will lead you on an amazing five day pilgrimage that includes guided walks to sites associated with St Patrick in County Down. Stay in Tobar Mhuire Retreat Centre, visit with monks along St Patrick's Way, and capture the joy of the first Christians in Ireland. From £798 all inc meals, transport, activities. Details www.saintpatrickcentre.com or call centre Downpatrick 02844 619000.



14th Sunday of the Year – 3rd July 2022

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

Bangor group of Alcoholics Anonymous has restarted our Open Meetings. Open Meetings are, as the name suggests, open to everyone and anyone who wishes to know more about alcoholism, how it effects the individual and how they can recover. Bangor AA Open Meetings, The last Friday of the month, every month. Doors open at 8pm for an 8.30pm start. **Bangor Community HUB**, Hamilton Road, Bangor. BT20 4LF.

South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust Carer Support Service
Are you an unpaid carer who cares for a family member or friend?

You are invited to come along to the Carer Support Service Carer Hub in Bangor.

When: 1st Wednesday of every month

Where: North Down Community Wellbeing Hub, Main Street

Time: 10.30 – 1pm

No need to book, just call in at any time during the morning for carer information advice and guidance. Join us for tea/coffee and scones, we would love to meet you.



GREETINGS FROM DROMANTINE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE NEW WORKSHOPS 2022 - BOOKINGS NOW OPEN - Please contact Jacinta or Louisa to reserve your place: TEL: 028 (048 from ROI) 3082 1964 EMAIL: admin@dromantineconference.com

THE LONG GOODBYE

Practical advice for caregivers of people living with dementia
 Friday, 19 August (5pm) - Sunday, 21 August (2pm)

WHEN IT IS DARKEST

Understanding suicide
 Saturday, 24 September (9.30am - 4.30pm)

CHURCH ABUSE: A UNIQUE BETRAYAL

A call to listen, a call to action, a call to change
 Friday, 4 November (5pm) - Sunday, 6 November (2pm)

AID TO THE CHURCH

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

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MIRROR

The Precious Blood of Martyrs

FOLLOWING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN NIGERIA, FR. PETER REFLECTS ON THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN NIGERIA AND THE EXAMPLE OF TRUE WITNESS TO THE FAITH THEY PROVIDE TO US ALL.

By Fr. Peter Ewaoche Johnson

St. Francis Catholic church in Owo after the terrorist attack. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

The privilege of visiting the **Irish Mass Rocks** and saying mass on some of them is always an awe-inspiring and overwhelming experience. All at once, **one comes face to face with the authentic faith of our ancestors** as well as the cruelty of persecution. The harder the cruelty, the greater the resolve and commitment to the faith!

Fr. Peter celebrating Holy Mass at a Mass Rock in Co. Armagh. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

The **numerous martyrs who were either killed, jailed, or deprived of land and necessities of life**, and forced to perpetually live as second-class citizens in their own homes, chose this path of pain rather than compromise their faith. In the face of adversity, falsehood, and injustice of all sorts, they were even more daring. **With their blood and sacrifice, they delivered a pure and undiluted faith to their children and invariably to the whole world.**





Oh! how precious is the blood of martyrs! **When Charles Lwanga and his 21 companions were martyred in 1887 in Uganda, a year later, the number of catechumens quadrupled.** Today, Charles Lwanga is the patron saint of Catholic Action and of African youths, and the Ugandan Martyrs feast day is a public holiday in Uganda.

Martyrs never die in vain. Our life is not simply material existence but deeply spiritual, and our communion as Christians is deeper than can be imagined. **The faith and sacrifice of one faithful Christian bears fruit beyond borders and to eternity.** Oh! that Christians may know this and realise that their practice of the faith is not just for them but for humanity as a whole. **Any sacrifice you make today to defend the faith in the face of persecution not only connects with the saints but with generations yet unborn.** I believe the martyrs of old and those of our contemporary world are indeed enough evidence of this. Herein lies our strength and hope.

MARTYRS IN NIGERIA

The situation of persecution of Christians in Nigeria is worsening by the day as the plot to annihilate Christianity and entrench Islamism becomes clearer. **Almost every day a clergyman is kidnapped or murdered in Nigeria.** Worshippers are attacked continuously in churches and as the daredevils become emboldened by the complicity of the government, **no one seems to be safe anywhere now in the country.**

The recent Owo massacre in St. Francis Catholic Church, on Pentecost Sunday, is just one among many that are hardly reported in the news. On Trinity Sunday, it was Igama in Benue State and on the feast of Corpus Christi, **two other churches were attacked in Kaduna.** It is an endless saga of mayhem that hardly seem to have any end in sight. **The recent broad daylight lynching of Debora**

Samuel in Sokoto for alleged blasphemy is just one too many. The list is endless. It is no exaggeration that over the last decade, Nigeria has been the world's leading source of Christian martyrs. A report by Christian persecution watchdog group, Open Door, says that **Nigeria accounted for 90 per cent of Christians killed for their faith in 2018.** With the present situation of things, that figure must have increased to 95 per cent.

There is perpetual intimidation and disenfranchisement of Christians in Nigeria ranging from kidnapping to deprivation of jobs and admissions to schools. The political sphere is heavily Islamised as Islamist adherents seek to dominate the leadership of country and entrench Islamic practices over the public of Nigeria. **Today, the sharia legal system exists by side with the Nigerian penal code in some states in Nigeria.** The story seems an endless pit of woes, but it is not narrated here to foster despair. Rather it is told to testify to the richness of our faith call for witnessing.

Bishop blessing one of those injured in the Owo attack. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

During persecution, **the faith is challenged and tested** in many ways and many questions seek for answers in the heart of believers: where is God; why is God silent; how do we respond to protect and preserve our life and faith? There are no easy answers to these questions. However, the words of scripture and the rich heritage of the Christian faith provide great resources. **From the scriptures, we understand that our Master, the Lord Jesus anticipated the challenge His followers would face and prepared them ahead.** He tells us that we are sent out like sheep among wolves and that a time will come when killing His followers would be considered a righteous act. **Yet He assures us that every hair of our heads is counted, and we ought not to be afraid.** He tells us in John's gospel, **"In this world, you will have tribulations but have courage, because I have conquered the world"** (John 16:33). He assures us that those who stand firm to the end will wear a crown of glory.

Inspired by the testimonies of scripture and our rich heritage, **Christians in Nigeria have remained resilient.** They have continued to witness to their faith in many ways. **These include prayers, apostolic action of peaceful demonstration,** assisting one another to rebuild churches and destroyed structures; provision of relief services to victims; continuous appeal to the government to seek an end to the persecution; sensitization of her followers in the faith, through evangelical actions.



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life
side

and

IN SOLIDARITY WITH NIGERIA

Bishops visiting those injured in the Owo attack. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

The effort of the Nigerian Church needs great compliments from Christian brethren all over the world. This is most needed now as the persecution heightens. Many Christians have lost their sources of livelihood. Many have been displaced from their farmlands and today live in makeshift camps. **Great thanks to all who have contributed and offered to be benefactors of ACN. Your assistance continues to make a huge difference.** May we continue to heed the cry of our brethren.



Apart from the material assistance you provide, **continue to spread the consciousness of what is happening.** The world needs to know that in the twenty-first century, **at a time when the human rights of all to life and freedom of worship are advocated everywhere, Nigerian Christians are being deprived of that right every day.** We cannot keep quiet amidst this grand plan to destroy the Christian faith. **An assault on the Christian faith in Nigeria and in all places where the faith is persecuted is an assault on all Christians all over the world. Remember, we are all one in the faith.** Continue to pray for persecuted Christians all over the world and do not be afraid to stand up for what you believe. Let us all heed the words of St Peter: "Be calm but vigilant, because your enemy, **the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion looking for whom to devour.** Stand up to him, strong in faith" (1Peter 5:8-9). No one should intimidate us simply because we are believers. **With God on our side, no matter the threat, we shall triumph.**