

November 5, 2024

Dear Father,

Warm greetings from Aid to the Church in Need, Ireland. I hope this letter finds you well. I write to let you know about our plans for the second half of November, when we appeal to clergy, religious and laypeople across the island of Ireland to show solidarity with persecuted Christians and become more aware of their pastoral and material needs.

ACN International was founded in 1947, in the aftermath of the devastation of World War II to support those who were displaced and suffering. Over the years the charity has grown and today it has national offices in 23 countries, with the Irish office being established in 1989.

Last year, thanks to the collective generosity of our benefactors we were able to support almost 6,000 projects in 140 countries. The inspiration that drives and guides ACN's vital work is Christian faith, hope and love. For more information about the charity please read the accompanying special edition of the *Mirror* magazine.

As a papal charity serving the Holy Father's mission to the most vulnerable, ACN is committed to supporting the faithful wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in need so that Christianity can thrive everywhere.

An important part of the above objective is ACN's annual '**Week of Witness**' campaign which takes place every November, and at the heart of which is '**Red Wednesday**' when we seek to raise awareness and pray for all who are persecuted and discriminated against because of their Christian faith - see summary fact sheet enclosed with key findings from *Persecuted and Forgotten?* - a report recently published by ACN.

This year, ACN Ireland's **Week of Witness** takes place from **November 17 – November 24** with **Red Wednesday** falling on **November 20**. It is our earnest hope that as many parishes as possible will be able to mark this important week that is a concrete sign of our solidarity with the suffering Church.

To help raise awareness, we would be very grateful if at Masses in your parish on the weekend of **November 16/17** and on **Red Wednesday (November 20)** you would invite your parishioners to learn more about the work of ACN Ireland, and request prayers for all those whom the charity is privileged to serve. I hope the enclosed materials may be of some use to you.

Following on from the Week of Witness, might you also be willing to allow ACN Ireland to send you - or a parishioner or a member of your parish team nominated by you - free copies of the enclosed *Mirror* magazine (approximately 10 per church) that could be placed at the back of churches in your parish for interested parishioners to take home and read? If supportive of this initiative, please complete the accompanying reply card, and kindly return to me in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

▶ *continued overleaf...*





Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN IRELAND

To conclude, **did you know that 10% of the world's priests are currently supported by ACN through Mass stipends?** For many, this is their only source of income and a very important support especially for priests working in impoverished parts of the world where resources are scarce. I would be particularly grateful if you would consider these priests should you have any surplus Mass stipends. If so, these may be forwarded to ACN Ireland, either on a monthly or quarterly basis, to the address overleaf with a list of related intentions. Be assured that the entirety of the stipends we receive go to the priests we support, and that all Masses are offered as requested.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please God, in mid-November you will speak to your parishioners about the vital work being done by Aid to the Church in Need and encourage them to learn more about our mission and work.

With warm assurances of prayers and good wishes for your ministry from the team at ACN Ireland.

I remain, yours respectfully,

Harry Casey

National Director, ACN Ireland



ACN IRELAND

WEEK^{OF} WITNESS

FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

NOVEMBER 17 – 24, 2024

