

November 2025

I am composing this letter from the safety of a train travelling from Kyiv to the Polish border town called Chelm. You will be wondering what reason I have for visiting Ukraine, especially at this time. The one word that springs to mind by way of explanation is 'solidarity', a definition of which is 'mutual support within a group with common interests'.

Earlier this year Father Luca, an Italian Consolata missionary, was appointed as the first Missio National Director in Ukraine. Fr Luca invited me to visit him in Kyiv and I accepted the offer as an act of solidarity, something that all the people we met there appreciated without reservation.

The Catholic Church in Ukraine is very small, with most people embracing the various Eastern Orthodox Churches. At 1% of the population, there are around 380,000 Catholics in this vast expanse of a country.

**For the first time ever, the Catholic Church in Ukraine celebrated World Mission Sunday this year and this is due to Fr Luca's encouragement. I am inspired by the Church's resolve that in a country fighting for its very existence, the faithful find the strength to stand united with missionaries throughout the world in prayer, solidarity and giving.**

I hope you also had the chance to celebrate and support World Mission Sunday in your parish; your support is a lifeline for missionaries and communities in places of great poverty, conflict and turmoil.

The enclosed *Mission Today* Calendar is sent as a small token of thanks for your support. It is also a way of encouraging prayer for missionaries, and our sisters and brothers in our global family, throughout the year.

At the front of the Calendar, I invite you to read about how missionaries in Cambodia are working together with local communities to promote education and care for children

with disabilities. The Church, though small, is a vital source of hope, compassion and healing. Through the selfless example of missionaries, people come to understand Christ's love for them.

A form is included as usual, as people like to give at different times of the year. If you feel able to, please consider making a gift to our Christmas Appeal supporting children in Cambodia and throughout the world.

Nearly everyone loves Christmas as a time to bring family and friends together, to feast and celebrate the gift of life in a time of chilling darkness. For us Christians, we celebrate the world-changing event of the Incarnation when, in solidarity with us, God became one among us as the person of Jesus Christ.

I need to find time to reflect on this great mystery, alongside the commercial frenzy that accompanies us all through December. The season of Advent gives us the time and space to contemplate in what is something like a pregnant silence, a gentle silence that does not threaten but invites us to a daily celebration of a loving God who lives always in solidarity with us.

**Please join me in praying for all missionaries, and the people of Cambodia, Ukraine, Russia and all the places in our world that are in desperate need of healing. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, may hearts and minds be transformed by the power of God's love.**

For some, Christmas is a sad reminder of the absence of loved ones, living and dead. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Please send me your prayer intentions using the enclosed form, which will be brought to the Lord during Mass in our Missio chapel.

May Jesus the Emmanuel, God-with-us, bless you abundantly with hope and joy,

*Father Tony.*

**Fr Anthony Chantry**  
Missio National Director

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*It is a great way to hear about the difference you are making throughout the year.*

**P.S.** If you have recently sent us a gift, thank you! I apologise if our communication has crossed in the post.

**P.P.S.** Throughout the year, please join us in praying for the Holy Father's monthly intentions. Together with your prayers and gifts, we can share in God's great mission to bring about peace in our world.

