



# **Annual Report 2024**

**1960-2025**

**Celebrating 65 Years of Viatores Christi in Ireland**

**Our Vision:**

A world of freedom, peace and justice, where marginalised and vulnerable people have greater opportunities to realise their goals.

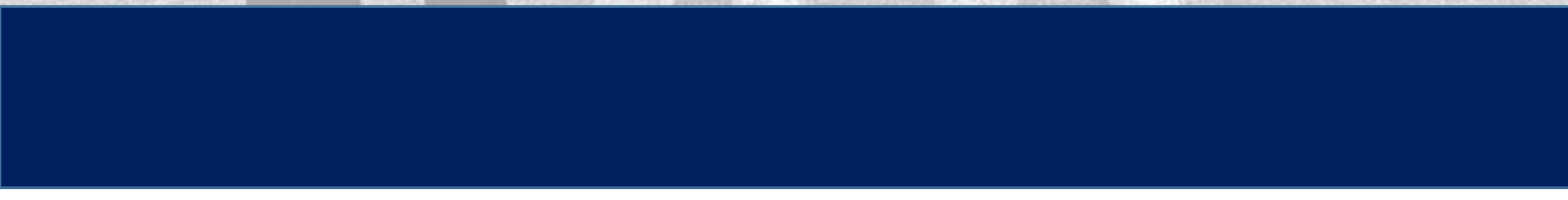
**Our Values:**

*True to our Christian roots, we are committed to these key values:*

- **Inclusion**  
All are welcome in our global interconnected family. Inclusion is reflected within all levels of our association and our work.
- **Compassion**  
Support, empathy, love, honesty, and respect are at the centre of all that we do.
- **Justice**  
We work to achieve a just world where people can realise their human rights in an ecologically sustainable way.

**Our Beliefs**

- We celebrate our Catholic roots while embracing diversity.
- We believe in the dignity and rights of all people.
- We warmly welcome and work with all regardless of faith, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, race, culture, nationality, or ethnicity.
- We believe in environmental stewardship by taking a holistic approach to the protection of our common home.
- We believe in local-led decision making.



# CONTENTS

1. Introductions from President Pauline Conway and CEO Shane Halpin
2. Strategic Report from VC
  - VC's Strategic Plan 2024-27
  - News and Updates from the Year
    - MMG Project Roll Out
    - Volunteer Programme
  - Membership Update
    - Mission Awareness Programme Dromore Diocese
    - *Gangs and Guns* by Gena Heraty
  - VC Partners take Environmental Action
  - VC projects under MMG by sector
  - VC Culture Explored – A report on
  - *Future for Lay Missionary Work* by Shane Halpin
  - Financial review
    - Our thanks to Donors
3. Financial Statements 2024



**VC Members who attended the Knock Retreat in Co Mayo in May 2025**

**Front cover picture:**

*The President of Ireland, Mr. Eamon De Valera and Archbishop Charles McQuaid with one of VC's founding members Ivo O'Sullivan at the opening of the VC headquarters at Harcourt Terrace, Dublin in 1968.*

## Foreword by the President –

Dear VC Members and Friends,  
Welcome to VC's Annual Report for 2024, which also includes activities during the first half of 2025.

You will find on page 23 a very vivid description of the situation in Haiti called "Gangs and Guns", written last March by our colleague and friend Gena Heraty. As you will know, Gena and seven of her Haitian colleagues - including a disabled child – were kidnapped by an armed gang on Sunday 3 August 2025 and are currently still being held. Gena is an extremely brave woman, who has worked in Haiti for over 30 years, dedicating her life to children and adults with disabilities through her leadership of the NPFS (Notre Petits Freres et Soeurs) Special Needs Programme. Her commitment, compassion and steady presence have made a lasting difference to many families in the region. VC has supported NPFS's work for a number of years and has seen at first hand the impact of Gena's efforts. We are in close contact with our partners on the ground and remain hopeful for her safe return. Please join us in continuing to pray earnestly for the safe and speedy release of Gena and her colleagues, for their families, for the staff of NPFS and for peace in Haiti. As Gena's poem ends:



*"Gangs and Guns  
Threaten to kill Hope  
But Hope Springs Eternal  
And one day the guns will be silenced.  
One Day."*

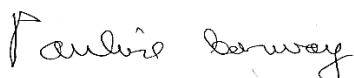
Gena is an outstanding example of the dedicated lay people who have contributed to the work and achievements of VC over the last 65 years, since it was founded by a group of university students in Dublin in 1960. Our AGM on 20 September 2025 will be an opportunity to mark this milestone, share memories of volunteering overseas and recognise the attainments of VC's current Partners. This annual report provides interesting information of the impact of support provided, for example to elderly people in Fort Portal, Uganda and highlights recent innovations, such as a new focus on environmental sustainability, including celebration of Africa Environment Day, by several projects in Uganda.

2024/2025 is the first year of implementation of VC's 2024- 2027 Strategic Plan and the joint staff/ Council/members working groups which were established to progress key areas have achieved concrete results. These include a new financial sustainability strategy and the recruitment of a part-time in-house accountant; , a renewed focus on long-term volunteering and development of an advocacy strategy. The report also

details how implementation of the first year of VC's three- year Member Managed Grant (MMG) from Misesan Cara has progressed and how this has developed and deepened VC's relationship with our Partners. VC is also preparing to implement a new EU -funded European Solidarity Corps (ESC) volunteer programme, working with faith-based volunteer agencies in Germany and Italy to send 31 volunteers to Uganda, Costa Rica and Bolivia to work on climate action initiatives.

Council and its Committees met regularly during the year. The activities of the Membership and Finance Committees and the Mission Awareness (PPP) Programme are detailed in this report. In January 2025, Council welcomed two new co- opted members, Mamohapi Byrne and Prince Banda,, who were recruited with assistance from Boardmatch Ireland. Mamohapi, from Lesotho, is a qualified accountant with significant experience in the Irish financial services sector. Prince, from Zimbabwe, works with an international development NGO. Council is happy to inform you that, once again, VC's Auditors have given a clean and unqualified report on the 2024 accounts and have recognised the strength of VC's financial controls. Council is satisfied that VC is in a financial position to continue as a going concern. It will be strengthened by implementation of the new financial sustainability strategy.

Since I've completed three years as President of VC, I'll step- down at the AGM in September. It has been a privilege to serve in that role. I'm most grateful to all who have been embers of Council during this time for their support and cooperation and to Shane and the staff team for their invaluable assistance. I'm happy to inform you that Anthony Hannon, current Vice- President and Treasurer, has agreed to be nominated as President and I wish him every success in this new role. Ruth Bracken, currently Secretary, has decided to retire from Council and we are most grateful to her for her hard work and contribution as a Council member.



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Pauline Conway  
**President**

## Overview by the Chief Executive Officer

This past year marked a pivotal and energising chapter in our organisation's journey. The period 2024–25 saw the commencement of our new Strategic Plan 2024–2027, setting a renewed vision for our collective work and outlining our key priorities for the coming years. At the heart of this plan was a commitment to inclusive, transparent, and collaborative implementation — values that have been deeply embedded in all our actions over the past twelve months.



To bring the strategy to life, we established four dedicated working groups focusing on Advocacy, Training, Volunteering, and Resource Mobilisation — the cornerstone priorities identified through member and stakeholder consultation. These groups were made up of a cross-section of our community, including staff, directors, and members, ensuring broad-based participation and representation. Over a three- to four-month period, the groups met regularly to discuss, design, and refine actionable strategies. Their collective work culminated in robust work plans that are now guiding our progress into the future.

A core value of the Strategic Plan is inclusivity and transparency in governance, and to that end, each working group provided structured and open feedback to the Board of Directors. This process has strengthened not just the outcomes of their work, but also the trust and cohesion within our organisation.

One of the most significant areas of renewed focus this year has been volunteering, particularly a reinvigoration of our commitment to longer-term overseas placements. We began exploring new and renewed relationships with congregations and faith-based organisations, building on the historical roots of our organisation and the values that have always underpinned our volunteer programmes. This work is designed to complement our ongoing involvement with the EU European Solidarity Corps (ESC) volunteer programme.

In 2025, we expanded our partnerships with faith-based volunteer agencies in Germany and Italy, opening new avenues for collaboration and exchange. These partnerships are helping shape a volunteering programme, through which we plan to send 31 volunteers to Uganda, Costa Rica, Bolivia, and Guatemala. They will work on a climate action initiative. This programme aims to connect young people to meaningful experiences while responding to the pressing global issue of climate change.

The theme of environment and climate action, recommended and endorsed at our 2023 AGM, continued to shape our work this year. In collaboration with our partners, we marked Africa Environment Day with a wide range of activities and initiatives dedicated to environmental awareness and action. This included the holding of a day to explore VC's own internal ecosystem, a wonderful day of exploration and reflection on the values that make up our organisational culture. It has been inspiring to witness the creativity and commitment from all corners of our network in taking this

theme forward.

A particularly impactful area of development has been in resource mobilisation. Under the guidance of external consultants David Dalton and Donal Maher (accountant), the working group led a process involving four workshops and multiple presentations. These sessions brought together staff, board members, and committee representatives in a meaningful exploration of how we sustain and grow our resources.

The recommendations arising from this process have set in motion several key developments:

**Bringing the financial management function in-house**, which was previously outsourced to an external chartered accountant, enabling more direct oversight and integration.

**Redesign and redevelopment of our organisational website**, with the goal of enhancing user experience, accessibility, and engagement.

**Strategic use of VC's reserve fund** to support future fundraising efforts — particularly through building stronger relationships with individual donors and supporters of VC, aiming for a more coherent and coordinated approach.

This year also marks a milestone in our history — 65 years of dedication, service, and community. It is a moment to reflect on the immense contributions of those who came before us and to thank the many people who continue to give their time, expertise, and heart to our mission. To our staff, board members, partners, volunteers, and members — your energy and commitment keep us not only afloat but pushing ever forward.

As we look ahead to the next year of our journey, I am filled with optimism and gratitude. We have laid a strong foundation and now will build on this as we move forward.

Thank you for being part of this important work.



Shane Halpin  
**CEO**

# Strategic Report

Viatores Christi (VC) is a member-based Irish lay missionary and international development organisation founded in 1960. Since then, over 2,000 volunteers have served overseas and members of the organisation continue to work there and at home supporting our projects. We work with partners including missionary congregations, dioceses, NGOs and community-based organisations (CBOs) to bring about positive change. We offer a range of interventions to enable this, including training in development, funding for capacity building, and deployment of trained volunteers. We believe in a local-led development approach supporting communities to identify their needs and find their own tailored solutions. We aim for an impact that is sustainable and will benefit communities over the long-term. Our approach is consistent with the Missionary Approach to Development.

## Council: Board of Directors

**President:** Pauline Conway  
**VP & Treasurer:** Anthony Hannon  
**Secretary:** Ruth Bracken  
**Directors:** Aisling Foley, Sally Roddy, Denise Flack, Prince Banda (appointed 31 January 2025), Mamohapi Byrne (appointed 31 January 2025), Paul Sheridan (resigned 27 February 2025)  
**Trustees:** John O'Loughlin-Kennedy, Máire Ní Bhroin, Helen Flaherty. Paula Slattery, Mary Winters

## Staff

Shane Halpin  
Ann Waldron  
Zara O Driscoll  
Mike Greally  
Victor Okonga  
Patricia Callanan  
Rose Salaama Bavuga

**CEO**  
**Financial and Administration**  
**Programme Manager/Human Resources**  
**Projects Manager /MDO**  
**Assistant Projects Manager/AMDO - Kenya**  
**PSO & Designated Child Safeguarding Officer**  
**VC Regional Office Uganda, Training Support,**

Bernadette Murtagh

**Accountant (External)**

## Volunteers

Sally Roddy  
Dianne Kavanagh

**Mission Awareness (PPP Ireland and MCP USA)**  
**MCP USA Coordinator**

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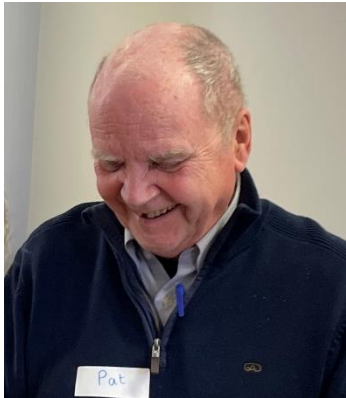


## VC's Strategic Plan 2024-27

VC underwent a comprehensive and inclusive programme of strategy renewal facilitated by external consultants Caplor Horizon which was approved in April 2024. This strategy was developed through a participatory, consultative, listening process involving VC members, staff, partners, and stakeholders who met over three in person sessions to discuss where we are, where we would like to go and how we are to get there. This engagement has helped to strengthen relationships and form a shared conviction and ambition about the way forward. We plan to build on these achievements during implementation.

### What participating members had to say about the values review in the strategy?

- *The heart of VC is striking and powerful. It is important that this "heart" is reflected throughout the strategy.*
- *Our values – very important to uphold Christian values of inclusion, compassion and justice*
- *Very comprehensive. Encompasses the 'heart' of VC*
- *By realising their needs and listening to them, VC supports local communities to grow*
- *Maintains human dignity by helping people to know their human rights*
- *It positions our work firmly with the development sector while giving due recognition of what is at the heart of VC*
- *Maintains the Catholic tradition*
- *Clear identity as a Christian faith-based organisation*
- *Embraces the Catholic Christian tradition and its importance in our mission*
- *Shows a fountain of action emancipating from the heart of VC community into the world*
- *The heart of VC captures our approach very well!*



VC organisational Goals for the next three years are to influence transformative change; enable impactful development; and enhance our organisational capacity. New initiatives will include mainstreaming environmental awareness throughout our work; embracing localisation – where local people take responsibility for their own future; revitalising and reenergising our membership; and developing an ambitious and robust financial sustainability strategy.

**OUR STRATEGIC GOALS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS** – Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

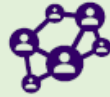


**Goal 1: Influence Transformative Change**

*Be responsive to emerging and fast changing global needs.*

**We will do this by...**

- Journeying with marginalised and vulnerable people in communities to realise their goals.
- Advocating for systemic change and supporting progress towards achieving the SDGs through our four key programme areas: health, education, livelihoods and human rights including disability rights.
- Establishing and fostering linkages and networks with other likeminded organisations for reciprocal learning and partnerships and promoting international solidarity volunteering.
- Working within the missionary approach to development and contributing to its evolution.
- Engaging with global citizenship education through different platforms.
- Mainstreaming environmental awareness throughout our work.



**Goal 2: Enable Impactful Development**

*Be responsive to communities and partners with whom we work.*

**We will do this by...**

- Proactively researching and identifying target areas and stakeholders to ensure we are effectively meeting our vision and mission.
- Supporting the role of lay missionaries/volunteers as a component of VC's approach.
- Expanding and updating our training in line with global challenges.
- Building the capacity of partners through training, deployment of skilled volunteers, accompaniment, and financial support.
- Embracing localisation – where local people take responsibility for their own future.
- Effectively building capacities of vulnerable communities to address/mitigate the challenges they face.
- Being guided by relevant international policies and frameworks.



**Goal 3: Enhance Organisational Capacity**

*Be responsive to changing organisational needs; become a more effective change agent.*

**We will do this by...**

- Adopting an inclusive and consultative approach to our strategic decision making and governance.
- Revitalising and reenergising our membership.
- Improving communication internally and externally.
- Ensuring governance, accountability and organisational safeguarding is in line with evolving standards.
- Supporting the welfare of staff and members.
- Developing an ambitious and robust financial sustainability strategy.
- Identifying new donors and partnerships.



**Our full strategy is available on our website**

# News and Updates from 2024/5

## Roll Out of the Member Managed Grant

**Background:** In 2023, VC was offered the opportunity to apply to be one of Misesan Cara's member organisations that would pilot their new funding scheme called the Member Managed Grant scheme (MMG). To be successful VC was required to undergo an Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA), commissioned by Misesan Cara. Having passed the OCA, VC was invited as one of nine Misesan Cara member-organisations to submit a single funding proposal to Misesan Cara. This was to replace the project-by-project application process that have previously been the requirement. VC applied for entry into the MMG scheme because it was intended to give greatly increased predictability, control, and flexibility in the management of Misesan Cara funding to VC than had previously been the case,

As part of the funding proposal preparation process, VC staff engaged with our ongoing partners in Uganda, Haiti and Cambodia to discuss the implications of the change and to ascertain their interest in continuing collaboration with VC. In the light of positive feedback, it was decided that VC would support all current partners to be incorporated into the new scheme along with all necessary information and support that would be required. For the first time ever, one project funding proposal, which incorporated all of our project partners, was prepared by the VC Projects Team in collaboration with the partners and submitted to Misesan Cara in February 2024. A grant of €455,700 per year for three years (totalling €1,367,100) was approved. Misesan Cara released the first tranche (65%) of MMG funding in June 2024, thus enabling VC and each partner to commence the work immediately. The second tranche (35%) was released later in the year. VC opted to make the payments to partners in two equal tranches (50%) over the course of the first year of the programme.

Because the MMG is a different model of funding that requires a greater degree of management and oversight to be applied by VC, it was necessary to review the existing policies and procedures to ascertain whether the required revision, updating etc.

An important first consideration was VC's relationship with our partners in Uganda, Haiti and Cambodia and if the MMG would necessitate changes to the existing modus operandi. One issue that was immediately identified was that VC needed to deepen the relationship with each partner so that VC staff would be able to correspond with a variety of staff within each partner organisation and would not be dependent on communication with a single staff member. Therefore, the concept of VC requiring a VC Representative within each partner (introduced in the absence of a VC volunteer) was ended. Additionally, VC's project implementation monitoring procedures were reviewed, and a new monitoring/partner engagement schedule was developed to include:

- Quarterly monitoring meetings with each partner
- Quarterly partner meetings with agreed topics
- A Learning and Reflection workshop
- An in-country monitoring visit that would involve the Projects Manager (MDO) and Assistant Projects Manager (AMDO)
- Ongoing availability of VC staff to provide support and to give direction.

It is envisaged that all projects-related policies will have been reviewed and revised prior to the end of the first MMG year in July 2025 and that a new set of implementation tools, that are based on Misesan Cara tools, will be developed.

### Beneficiaries Reached Per Sector (See project information for each sector Page 26)

Total number of beneficiaries for whom VC's support has contributed significantly towards between January 2024 to end of June 2024												
	Livelihoods		Education		Health		Human Rights		Emergency		Environment	Total/ Partner
	HY 1	MMG Yr 1	HY 1	MMG	HY 1	MMG	HY 1	MMG	HY 1	MMG	HY 1	
BMCTI	360	558			180		481					1,579
Caritas - Kampala	6,518	3,900										10,418
FOHO	168	251					6,085	2,941				9,445
JPC Hoima							4,303	8,500			4,005	16,808
Kiyinda-Mityana			2,500	629								3,129
Muhabura	508	200			1,523	200	449	1,896				4,776
NPFS			143		2,155	950	1,053	1,100	204			5,605
PinC			150	219				219				588
SFFHP			3,454	4,235			3,734					11,423
SHS-Dvpnt Office			28	28								56
VoJ			41	463	291		1,181	2,017				3,993
SHS - Weaver Nest			28									28
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,554</b>	<b>4,909</b>	<b>6,344</b>	<b>5,574</b>	<b>4,149</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>17,286</b>	<b>16,673</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,005</b>	<b>67,848</b>
<b>Total /Sector</b>	<b>12,463</b>		<b>11,918</b>		<b>5,299</b>		<b>33,959</b>		<b>204</b>		<b>4,005</b>	

Notes

1. HY1 covers the half-year before the MMG (bridging grant perios)
2. MMG Year 1 figures are the estimated numbers of beneficiaries to be reached by projects. It covers the entire MMG year 1
3. Adjustments in figures for Kiyinda-Mityana, SHS Development Office and Weaver Nest were done to reflect correct understanding of direct beneficiaries. School pupils were removed from direct beneficiary numbers.

All projects that were included in the MMG proposal were categorised within the Human Rights, Livelihoods or Education Sectors (see our partners by sector page 26). While some VC projects do have a health component, it was not deemed sufficiently significant to identify them as Health projects. The health aspect, however, will be captured at time of reporting.

Given that the MMG scheme involves a revised partnership relationship, a new contract template was developed, which was agreed with and signed for a three-year funding period from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027. Two partners, Partners in Compassion in Cambodia and St Francis Family Helper Programme in Uganda signed a one-year contract (1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025) and will withdraw from the MMG after 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

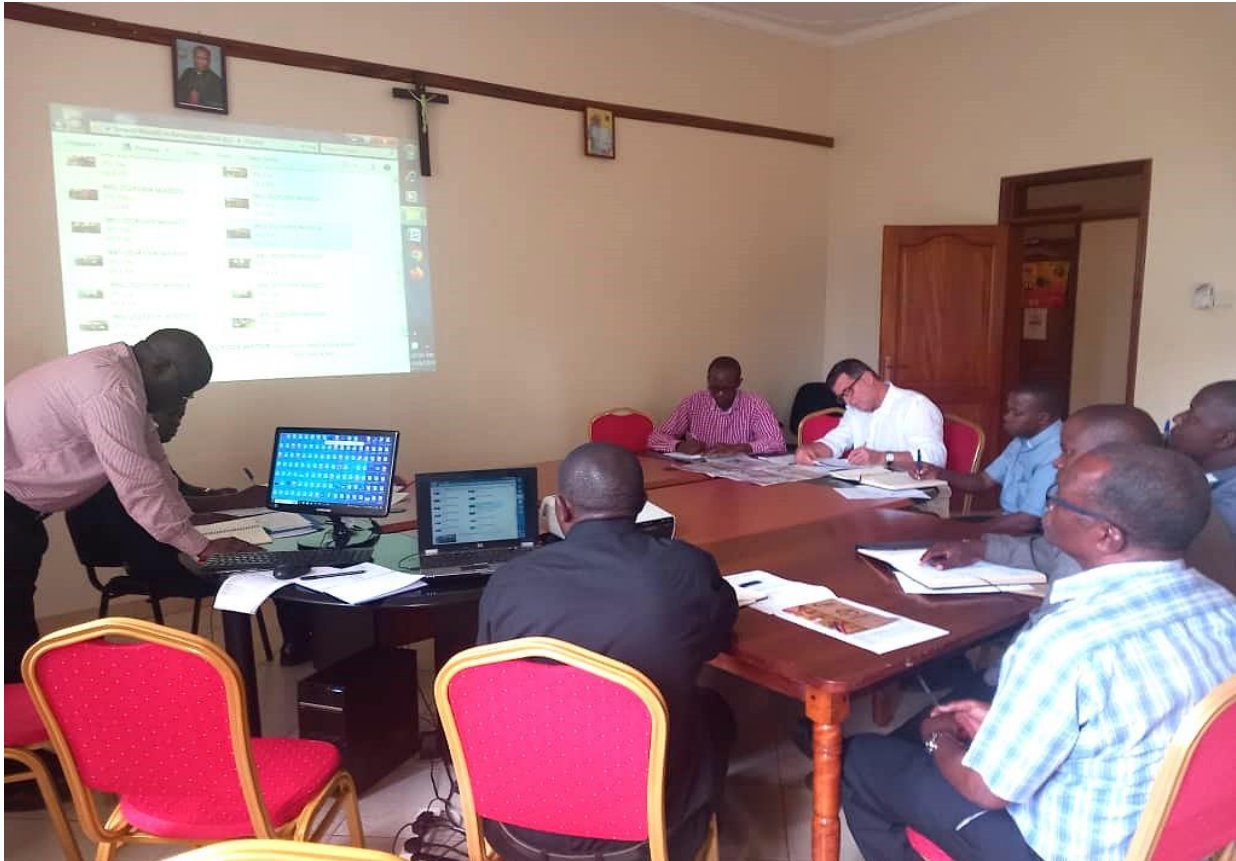
### Consolidated Reporting

VC will submit a consolidated MMG report to Misesan Cara each year, the first one being due in October 2025. VC partners will each submit reports to VC, from which VC will draw the important information in addition to information gleaned throughout the year from monitoring activities, ongoing discussions.

New reporting templates will be developed to ensure the partner information is consistent with the new Misesan Cara MMG reporting requirements. VC will convene a partner webinar and information sessions as required in early 2025 to ensure that partners are familiar with the report format and requirements.

While partner reports will not be submitted to Misesan Cara for review, they will form part of the evidence by which Misesan Cara will assess the VC report. The release of funding for the next MMG year 2025/26 will occur in June 2025 and so there will be no interruption to project delivery due to delays in the flow of funds from Misesan Cara.

### **VC Monitoring visit to Uganda, 7<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024**



The following were the stated objectives of the 2024 VC monitoring visit:

1. To build a better understanding of the partner organization, project context and its implementing teams, as a basis for mutual learning and support
2. To share an up-to-date understanding of the new VC partner relationship as envisaged by Misesan Cara under the MMG programme and expectations of this role.
3. To Identify challenges, learnings, concerns and opportunities for alignment of projects
4. For VC to achieve a fuller understanding of all 2024-2027 projects within the MMG:
  - Providing a clear direction for the programme and defining what success looks like
  - Helping to measure progress towards achieving project goals
  - Identifying areas for improvement and making adjustments to programme activities.
  - Ensuring accountability and transparency by establishing clear benchmarks for programme performance
  - Providing evidence-based data to inform decision-making and programme planning.
  - Identifying key priorities to contribute to VC advocacy goals

## **Methodology**

The field visit assumed a participatory format. The partner teams comprised the director/administrators, VC focal person/coordinator, and implementing staff. Separate but concurrent discussions with the people in charge of finances and safeguarding focal persons were held. VC also undertook at least one or two visits to project participants/beneficiary groups

## **Overall findings from the visit**

The itinerary was tight considering that an average of 5 hours was spent per project. The visit highlighted the challenge of independent project oversight given the spread of projects right across Uganda.

1. 8/10 of partners were on course with project implementation; 2 of the partners had not commenced their new programme of activity at the time of the visit
2. 6/10 of projects have recognizable direct beneficiaries who clearly fall under VC's definition of marginalised and vulnerable vulnerable/at-risk groups.
3. The average level of funding for VC projects under MMG in Uganda is €20,000 with only 1 project receiving funding of above €50,000 4 partners receive funding below this average. One partner is withdrawing from partnership with VC because of the low levels of funding available for them.
4. The levels of co-funding provided by partners for VC-funded projects remains a challenge for many of the smaller organisations.

## **Case Study BMCTI Project for Older People in Fort Portal**



During the year, the BMCTI project in Fort Portal Uganda engaged the community through various strategies.

### Key achievements

As a result of the project, there has been:

### **Increased awareness about the needs and rights of older people:**

Through advocacy campaigns, there is increased knowledge about the needs and rights of the elderly among the community especially the local leaders and the catechists.

**Improved care and support for older people.** The elderly can share openly their challenges without shame. They are empowered to seek justice. Through the training of caregivers and

local leaders there has been an improvement in the care given to the elderly as evidenced by some of the stories from the caregivers and local leaders.

For example, one caregiver, Kabaganda Margaret, reported that



Storytelling at BMCTI day-care gathering

*"I was ignorant about the emotional needs of the elderly. Though training, I came to learn how to provide emotional support to older people. I now give company to my elderly grandmother by attentively listening to her. This has improved my relationship with her." Another, Diana Karungi reported that "I didn't know how to effectively communicate with my grandmother. Through training I learnt effective skills of communication. I now communicate effectively with my grandmother which has improved my relationship with her and we both feel happy."*

The leaders reported that since they started working with BMCTI, they now prioritize the rights of the elderly in their communities. BMCTI reminded them that the elderly are important people in our communities, have rights and their rights need to be observed. There is also increased awareness of the mental health challenges affecting the elderly such as dementia, something they had not fully understood before

**Increased sense of belonging:** This project provides them with a home where they can come if they are faced with challenges. The communities where these elderly people come from refer to them as "abakaikuru n'abagurusi ba Fr. Kabura" meaning the elderly of Fr. Kabura. Through this sense of belonging, these seniors have reported improved self-esteem plus ability to stand up for their rights. The elderly are happier, positive about life, emotionally stable, their relationships with family members have improved. The monthly gatherings and home visits by BMCTI mean that they have something to look forward to.

**Improved care for one another:** The elderly also assume responsibility for visiting each other, especially those who are sick. Whenever they come for gatherings, some bring seeds for planting to share with their fellow participants in the programme.

**Better health and well-being:** Through the project's training on kitchen gardens where the community are encouraged to grow food for themselves, the elderly now have increased access to nutritious foods such as vegetables and health herbs: At least 90% have access to vegetables and herbs as a result of their kitchen gardens. Most of the elderly and caregivers reported that they now eat vegetables regularly as part of their diet. Following the training and supply of seedlings the participants were motivated to start their own kitchen garden.

The monthly social gatherings, home visits, and the training of the caregivers also had a big impact on the elderly participants in the project. This is evidenced by some of the stories from the beneficiaries and enthusiasm about the gatherings and training. For example, a woman reported "after losing my siblings and husband, I went into sadness and distress. When I joined

this programme, I was helped to go through the grief process. I now feel better, have enough sleep, good appetite, and energy to look after myself and my family.

A caregiver from East Division said "I was depressed and had suicidal thoughts because of the challenges I was facing in the process of looking after my aunt. After joining the project and through training and counseling, I regained my life."

## Justice and Peace win prestigious Environmental Award



*VC Partner Hoima wins Environmental Award from MC*

## VC's Volunteer Programme

### ESC Humanitarian Aid

The European Solidarity Corps ESC Humanitarian Aid Programme, approved in 2022 and operational from April 2023 to December 2024, officially concluded. Administrative and financial wrap-up activities continued until June 2025.



Under this programme, Viatores Christi successfully sent 37 volunteers to support humanitarian projects across three countries: Bosnia & Herzegovina, India, and Uganda, in collaboration with our partners Bravo, OSVSWA, and EPEKA.

Volunteer placements ranged from 2-month to 12-month durations, and assignments focused on community development, education, humanitarian support, and environmental protection. The total programme budget was €649,848.

New ESC Application Submitted – "AVCA: Amplifying the Voice of Climate Action" (2026–2027)

A new application was submitted on 24 April 2025 to the ESC Humanitarian Aid Programme under the theme of Environmental Awareness and Climate Action. If approved, the



programme will run from January 2026 to December 2027, deploying 31 volunteers to Uganda, Costa Rica, Bolivia, and Guatemala.

VC is the Lead Agency, in partnership with ASPEm (Italy) and Visioneers (Germany). The budget for this proposed programme is €631,361.

### **New Project Planned for 2026/7**

#### *Uganda Advanced Planning Visit (APV), March–April 2025*

To support strong programme design and local coordination, VC staff members Zara O'Driscoll and Rose Salaama Bavuga travelled to Hoima, Uganda in March 2025. The purpose of the Advanced planning Visit (APV) was to carry out site and partner assessments and collaborate with local stakeholders on the structure, safeguarding protocols, and operational delivery of the new programme.

The visit included meetings with the Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) Hoima and the Bulindi Chimpanzee & Community Project (BCCP). A key outcome was the establishment of a programme management structure and systems involving monthly inter-collaborative meetings between all stakeholders to monitor progress and resolve any issues. These will be facilitated by Rose (VC Uganda).

Further outcomes included:

- Revisions to partner and volunteer budgets based on field-based insights
- Significant changes to programme coordination and responsibilities
- Emphasis on safeguarding, DEI, and support for volunteers from fewer opportunity backgrounds
- Confirmation of housing, local transport, and mentorship arrangements



*Photo: Zara O' Driscoll and Rose Salaama Bavuga with the JPC Hoima Team, March 2025*

## **Strategic Work on Re-Emerging Volunteer Sending**

The revitalisation of overseas volunteer sending model emerged as a strategic goal for VC. This was identified during our recent strategic planning process and is now part of the implementation plan.

A Volunteer Working Group was established to reimagine and assess our model for sending volunteers in a contemporary context.

This has since evolved into a permanent Volunteer Committee. This group is made up of long-term members and supported by Zara O’Driscoll on staff. Key focus areas include:

- Implementation of a survey for congregations (to be issued via Misean Cara) to assess volunteer needs
- Review of partner assessment frameworks & develop an appropriate appraisal system for potential host partners
- Review and design new Volunteer training and induction structures
- Development of pre-departure support tools and safeguarding protocols
- Design of new promotional materials and volunteer posters
- Host quarterly information and training days at the VC House in Dublin to attract, inform, and support potential volunteers.
- Four active volunteer placement requests are currently being facilitated.
- Develop new Volunteer Strategy

## **Survey on the Sustainability on Catholic Parishes in rural Uganda**

*– A Report from VC Volunteer Brian Lynch in Fort Portal*



*Report on Parish Sustainability in Fort Portal Diocese by VC Volunteer Researcher Brian Lynch*

I came to work with the Catholic Diocese of Fort Portal in Uganda in 2024 to work on a research project about parish self-sustainability. It was an interesting research project which entailed research questions on administration policy at parish level; participation of the laity; land and parish smallholder farms; and the situation and contribution of households to parish and Diocesan initiatives.

Field visits were carried out to the hot and arid parish of Kasule, the busy and organised parish of Kahunge, the city parish of St Charles Lwanga, the large parish of Katoosa and Bugombwe parish in the ethnically diverse foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains.

This research project entailed reviews of parish documents, interviewing the parish priests, focus group discussions with the executive council of the laity and visiting parish farms. A financial analysis of all parishes in the Diocese was also conducted along with an extensive literature review. This included getting background information on bananas, coffee, cocoa and beef and dairy production, supply chains and markets, along with the issues on the

## Self-sustainability in CDFP parishes

A case-study and quantitative analysis of the contribution of systems, policies, the laity, parish projects and households.



environment and climate change. In research terms you would say it was 'big' and it grew bigger; I had my work cut out for me!

I learned a lot about how the Catholic Church operates in Uganda from the grassroots up to the Diocesan level and am starting to see why they do things the way they

do it. Oftentimes I found myself in the middle trying to balance the interests of parishioners, outstations, catechists, laity, parish headquarters and the Diocese. In the end, the recommendations are sound and should contribute to parish self-sustainability.

A key findings is that parishes struggle with certain elements of administration such as the technical issues of parish development plans, projects, accounts, budgeting, reporting, construction and physical plans, but they are generally good in other areas. A key recommendation is that more training and induction for the executive council of the laity and other key staff should be undertaken.

The laity participate in a way that is ad-hoc, or as needed. This is to be expected as they are unpaid volunteers. They will participate more if there is a programme to implement. More importantly, participation in the sense of power relations between the laity and priests is done in a manner which is equitable. This is for both administrative transparency and togetherness. The PPs know the parish belongs to the people.

The heart of parish self-sustainability seems to be agriculture, because this is how the majority of parishioners earn a living. They are the owners of the parish and contribute the most to it. It is also because the Church owns a lot of land, which is an advantage. I always greatly respected how hard it is to farm well or profitably in Africa, but I never knew it was so difficult at the smallholder level. It is even more difficult for people at the subsistence level. As the Diocesan accountant Padda John says "agriculture is a lottery".

The project helped the Diocese by supporting capacity building in research methods of 3 staff within the Treasury; planning and management office and the head of Caritas. The 5 study parishes involved in the project benefitted by each going through a research process of 4 or 5 days of data collection. Other beneficiaries included priests, the executive council of the laity and other staff in the remaining 31 parishes as they can learn from what other parishes are doing and hopefully find ideas which help to solve their problems.

The main challenge was the scale of the research questions. All 5 are very different and a lot of information was collected with photographs of parish record folders which took considerable time to get through. The financial analysis of 35 parishes and an extensive literature review was also considerable. At times, especially around Christmas, 'post-analysis fatigue' kicked in and it was a struggle to tie it all together into accurate, coherent and

implementable recommendations. Otherwise, the Diocese, parish priests and members of the executive council of the laity were all good to work with. The Diocese gave direction at the start and from them on allowed me to use my own initiative. They did not try to direct data collection, analysis, findings or recommendations in any way. The parish priests and laity were open and answered honestly when asked questions.

Another challenge was that case studies needed to be written and posted on the Diocesan website. This kind of colourful and persuasive writing for public consumption was not my forte. So, I utilised some Artificial Intelligence tools to assist with this. Indeed, I learned how I may be put out of a job in the future! All in all, there were ups and downs but the overall experience was very good, I just need to remember to pare back the scope of the next research project!

*Brian Lynch 2025*

**Dan Ferguson: VC Volunteer  
CEBES Perquín – Promotion of Community Development  
in El Salvador:**

CEBES Perquín, for more than two decades, has been working with ecclesial communities of the North of Morazán, led by Fr. Rogelio Ponsele and a pastoral team driven by strong social commitment. IT Social Enterprise: Training of Software Engineers.



*Celebrating in style – Angela Temple, VC stalwart and long-term member, celebrates at Knock 2025*

## VC Membership Update 2024 to 2025



On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December the annual Christmas Mass was celebrated by Fr Martin Kelly Spirituan and friend of VC. Candles were lit for our friends, staff and partners overseas. A thought-provoking reflection received from Gena Heraty in Haiti giving us a flavour of the daily challenges she and her staff have to contend with was read at the end of Mass. This event is always a beacon of light at the end of the year for our members. We had Christmas greetings from our international staff and partners in the form of local dance, music and prayer. After the Mass we held our Annual Raffle and there was great suspense as the lucky tickets were drawn with the help of Fr Martin! The night was topped off by the usual VC hospitality and mulled wine to greet the Christmas season and send our members and friends home in good cheer. A beautiful 'Thank You' cake was shared to show our gratitude to all who had volunteered their help to VC in any way during the year.



### Viatores Christi 65<sup>th</sup> Celebrations 2025

The Membership Committee began meetings in January 2025 to discuss ideas as to how and when Viatores should celebrate our 65<sup>th</sup> birthday year.

### Pilgrimage to Knock in May

Since 2025 is the **Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'** the committee thought that it would be appropriate to have a pilgrimage theme to some of our celebrations. To this end we thought of a weekend gathering of members, friends and staff in Knock. On the 16<sup>th</sup> May 16 Viatores Christi members and friends travelled by Irish Rail to Claremorris for a weekend of sharing, and prayer. Our facilitator for the weekend was one of our members Sarah Oates who created a programme with the theme of sharing and hope. We stayed in St Mary's guest house, where we were treated to comfortable accommodation and 5-star cuisine. This was topped off by the beautiful sunshine which we all enjoyed and revelled in over the weekend. During the weekend one of our long-associated members celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Angela Temple a stalwart in the association and long serving lay missionary in Kenya was surprised by a beautiful homemade birthday cake. On the Saturday evening participants



shared stories of their overseas experience. They also had some private time during which they could walk, pray or simply relax. During the weekend the participants created a banner spelling the word HOPE from pieces of coloured paper with inspirational words.

## 20<sup>th</sup> September AGM

### - VC @Home Event

This September, the Membership Committee has agreed with staff a programme for the day of the AGM. It will be an AGM with a difference giving all members a chance to see at first hand the work that is currently being done overseas by our international staff and partners.



Video presentations from the field will be shown. There will be also a question-and-answer session to update people on VC's current work overseas. We are asking people to bring along a symbol of their time overseas for display

The draft programme for the day will run as follows;

11 am	<b>AGM</b> preceded by registration, tea and coffee
1pm to 2pm	<b>Mass</b> -During which we are hoping that members who have brought a symbol of their time overseas will share what that symbol means to them.
2pm – 3pm	<b>Lunch</b>
3pm to 4pm	<b>Partner Showcasing</b> Short video presentations and updates on our current programmes.
	<b>Council Committee Updates</b>
4pm	<b>65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake</b> , Prosecco, chat and a chance to reminisce.
6pm	<b>Finish</b>

## Anniversary Reunion Meal 18<sup>th</sup> October

Wynn's Hotel has been booked for an Anniversary Reunion Meal. It is hoped that there will be as many of our members present as possible. We hope to have tables of members who have served in the same country to enhance the reminiscence and chat. No official presentations, just lovely food and good company, music and chat. The committee would appreciate help from any members who are still in touch with others who worked in the same country overseas to organise tables of friends for the Reunion lunch. Tickets are available from any of the membership committee.

## Jubilee of Missions in Rome

This takes place in October. Some members might like to attend as part of the year of celebration. Details can be worked out depending on interest.

**Membership Committee** Sally Roddy, Mary Wilters, Denise Flack, Sarah Oates and Nora Casey,

## Mission Awareness (PPP) and MCP

In 2024 VC continued to participate in the Mission Awareness Programme (MAP previously known as PPP), under the auspices of AMRI.

We were assigned to the Diocese of Dromore, a much smaller Diocese than Meath, our 2023 destination, (which we completed also in 2024). Situated in the Northeast of Ireland, between the Dioceses of Armagh and Down and Connor, Dromore comprises 23 Parishes and 48 Churches, in a really beautiful part of the country, stretching north from Newry and Carlingford Lough through the scenic Mourne Mountains.

The Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese is Most Rev. Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, who gave us his blessing and the go ahead and introduced us to the Priests of the Diocese.

This opened doors for us in almost every Parish, and we received a warm and hospitable welcome everywhere from both Priests and Parishioners. We were often given accommodation in the Parish houses and made to feel very much at home. The support both in terms of prayers and donations was most generous everywhere and since we were dealing in Sterling we even benefited from the exchange rate!!

We also received wonderful hospitality from the SMA Fathers, fellow missionaries, in the elegant Dromantine Retreat House, for which we were very extremely grateful, and from former VMM lay missionary, Ann Fitzpatrick, and her husband John. We were invited to lunch by our Partner Congregation, the Missionary Sisters of the Assumption, in Ballinahinch, where we met many Sisters with whom VC had worked in South Africa. The Dominican Fathers in Newry, also welcomed us to speak in their Church, and were very supportive.

In all we came away enriched both spiritually and financially by our year in Dromore and enjoyed every weekend. 14 VC members and friends, helped as team members, at least once, during the year. We were especially grateful to a core group, both local members and others who travelled north, who volunteered numerous times and were so generous with their time. Míle buíochas to one and all.

In 2025 we are closer to home in three Deaneries of the Archdiocese of Dublin, and are currently working our way through the Parishes in this area.

– Sally Roddy VC PPP Coordinator



<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Parishes visited</b>	<b>Churches visited</b>	<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Helpers</b>	<b>Total donations</b>
<b>Dromore</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>€31,372</b>

## Gangs and Guns

*Gangs and Guns*

*Murders and rapes*

*Burnt houses, burnt police stations,*

*Empty schools, empty streets,*

*In house,*

*Imprisoned at home while the prisoners  
were sprung free.*

*Daily Dead.*

*Daily shot-dead bodies on the streets.*

*Unidentified bodies have names-  
and families!*

*Even in death their weary bodies find no  
peace,*

*Left to feed the dogs and the pigs while wailing mothers wonder what happened to their sons  
that never made it home.*

*Traumatized families hunted from their humble homes try to find a place where the bullets and  
the gangs can't find them.*

*Nomads -not by choice-and no sign of any green pasture to lay down a weary head.*

*Politicians, gangs and diplomats talk the talk and promise the promises but the ones walking  
the walk are the poor.*

*Time and time again the poor are pushed and shoved and battered and bloodied and,  
still the powers that be, spill lies, turning blind eyes.*

*Talking for the need for peace without making any efforts to sow one seed of precious peace.*

*Vested interests-guns and drugs*

*Well-lined pockets of fancy suited thugs.*

*Gangs in sandals and Gangs wearing suits*

*Ghettos and boardrooms*

*United in evil*

*Computing horror and death*

*In destruction they find wealth.*

*Gangs and Guns*

*Threaten to kill Hope*

*But Hope Springs Eternal*

*And one day the guns will be silenced.*

*One day.*

Gena Heraty,

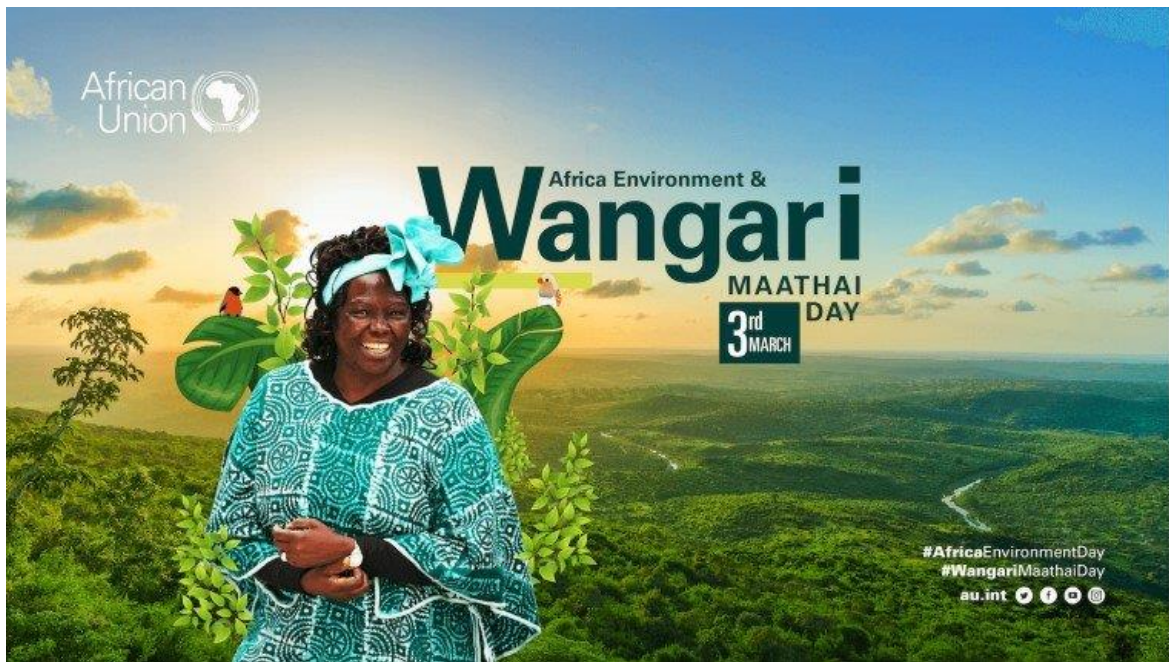
Director of NPFS Haiti

6/3/2025





## VC Partners Take Environmental Action



*No matter how dark the cloud, there is always a thin, silver lining, and that is what we must look for. The silver lining will come, if not to us then to next generation or the generation after that. And maybe with that generation the lining will no longer be thin.” — Wangari Maathai, Unbowed: A Memoir*

On Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Viatores Christi’s partners all over Uganda held special events to mark Africa Environment & Wangari Maathai Day, established by the African Union in 2002 as a way of raising awareness of the pressing environmental challenges facing the continent. They engaged in a variety of environmental awareness and protection activities, aimed at protecting our common home, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as paying tribute to the late Prof. Wangari Maathai’s green legacy.

In communities dispersed across wide geographical areas of Uganda, teams planned how to commemorate this special day for some time. Below, is a snapshot of some of the activities organised:

### **SHS Weaver Nest Teacher Training Institute** in Moyo Uganda;

- Participated in a cleaning exercise around the school environment to create awareness of the need for environmental management.
- Organised an environmental walk.
- Highlighted the major environmental challenges that need to be addressed in order to preserve the local environment.

### **Foundation of Hope Organisation (FOHO), Masaka,** Uganda engaged with Masaka District Local Government to:

- Conduct community engagement and awareness around Fruit Tree planting and forest restoration
- Conduct an environmental educational campaign through sport on the importance of afforestation and reforestation by encouraging community -participation in tree planting

- General Cleaning –waste management at Namirembe landing site where Farmers cut trees to plant pineapples.
- Raise awareness of environmental issues.
- Trees planted along the road from Namirembe to Masaka Town.
- Environmental campaign through sport at Buna playground in Masaka.

**St. Francis Family Helper Programme in Mbarara Uganda, (SFFHP)**, staff and students undertook to:

- Clean a part of Mbarara town.
- Engage in tree planting
- Team produced a banner for the occasion

**Sacred Heart Sisters (SHS) Development Office, Kampala Uganda** carried out the following activities;

- Tree planting at the Noviciate in Namugongo, Kampala.
- Launched the establishment of coffee and cocoa nursery beds, a component of SHS Development Programme office plan to initiate Climate Smart agricultural productivity to support vulnerable youth in Byeyale refugees host communities.

**Caritas Kampala Co-Ops Office, Uganda** organised the following;

- Cleaned the Kabalagala market on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The activity was intended to sensitise the public about the importance of living in a clean and healthy environment, despite the challenges.
- In a bid to sensitise the public on environmental protection, the team also developed a banner with a message about Africa Environment and Wangari Maathai day which was hung at the entrance of the market.
- Donated dustbins to the market authorities for proper waste disposal.
- Distributed reflector jackets marking the day to participants in the clean-up, as well as non-participants.

**Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) Hoima Uganda** built on their success in achieving 2nd place in the Misesa Cara Climate Awards, 2024, by

- Engaging in more tree planting.
- The JPC team also made an educational video to mark the occasion and highlight the importance of trees.

**Diocese of Muhabura, Kisoro Uganda**

- Engaged in sensitisation on environmental conservation.
- General cleaning of Kisoro Municipality, Diocesan Compound and the Muhabura Vocational Training Centre.
- Sensitisation of students on environmental concerns both locally, nationally and internationally.
- The Education Department-Kiyinda Mityana Diocese staff and students marked the day.

## MMG Projects by Sector

### VC EDUCATION PROJECTS 2024



Partner	Country	Title	Project Description
<b>Kiyinda Mityana Diocesan School Inspectorate</b>	Uganda	Strengthening and capacity building of the Diocesan Inspectorate of schools in Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese	The main aim of this proposal is to continue strengthening the governance processes of the school inspectorate function, developing and standardising the inspection process, training relevant stakeholders especially the Chaplains who have a responsibility to oversee activities and needs of 391 schools on behalf of the church and trustees, and to develop the programme within the Archdiocese. The Education Department has been working in partnership with VC since 2017 on its inspectorate of schools programme. This project builds on the preparatory work under MC Funded Project No. V01/MED/0519/11, in the area of training but importantly seeks to embed this intervention, training, support and mentoring into our refined approach. We continue implementing and strengthening of child protection policy, training of key stakeholders like chaplains; school management, teachers and students in appropriate disciplines; developing new and nurturing existing school inspectors clubs; conducting school inspections; and maintaining and updating the existing data base
<b>Sacred Heart Sisters, Weaver Nest.</b>	Uganda	Weaver Nest Early Childhood Development (ECD) Teacher Training Institute Development Project at Kolokolo, Moyo	This project seeks to contribute to equal access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education. Previous phases of the project identified a lack of early childhood education facilities as a root cause of low literacy and low school retention among children in the Moyo District of Uganda. A subsequent phase constructed an ECDE centre - Weaver Nest ECD Teacher Training Institute - to train local young men and women drawn from this high-poverty area and equip them with the necessary skills to return to their own communities, and use their skills for the betterment and empowerment of marginalized village children, including those from nearby refugee settlements. At the same time, the project seeks to increase in the number of pupils enrolling in ECDE within its catchment area by at least 10% by meeting teacher

			demand as well as sensitization of communities on the importance of early childhood development and education.
<b>Sacred Heart Sisters</b>	Uganda	Strengthening the Sisters of Sacred Heart of Jesus (SHS) Central Development Office in Kampala	The aim of this project is to continue the development of the SHS programme management function, centred in our development office, in order to strengthen the Congregation's capacity to coordinate and manage all SHS' development programmes. The office is located in Kampala which is already a central hub for most of the communities of the SHS in Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan and Sudan. The development office supports projects located throughout these four countries in very disparate geographical locations. In Uganda, the sisters are most active in Northern Uganda.
<b>Religious of Jesus &amp; Mary RJM</b> (separate education project to MMG)	Haiti	IT Skills training	Provision of IT skills training and resources to teachers, disadvantaged children and remote communities in Jean Rabel by providing them with access to technology and enhanced learning.

## LIVELIHOODS PROJECTS UNDER MMG 2024



Partner	Country	Title	Description
Caritas Kampala	Uganda	Strengthening and Capacity Building of Cooperatives in the Archdiocese of Kampala	The project seeks to develop, grow and support the parish-based cooperatives within the Archdiocese of Kampala by improving the capacities of 37 cooperatives and addressing the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of good governance systems to enforce monitoring and management systems at cooperative and diocesan level</li> <li>• Financial illiteracy ranging from beneficiaries to management bodies which puts these cooperatives at risk</li> <li>• Poor/low saving culture among the various parish communities</li> <li>• Lack of basic resources like office furniture/equipment for efficient operations</li> <li>• Lack of skilled and capable leaders and staff to run the cooperatives due to insufficient training, audit and technical support services</li> </ul>

## VC HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECTS UNDER MMG 2024

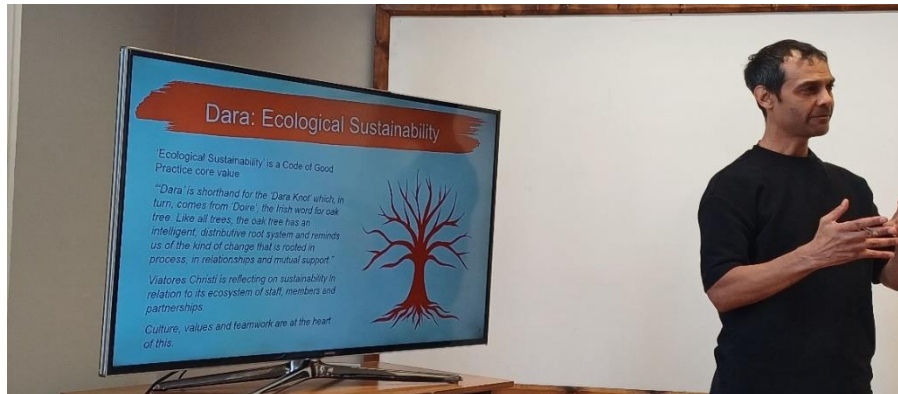


Partner	Country	Title	Project description
<b>Bishop Magambo Counsellor Training Institute (BMCTI)</b>	Uganda	Psychosocial & Nutritional support to the elderly in Fort Portal Municipality, Kabarole District Uganda 2024-27	This project seeks to address challenges faced by the elderly persons in Kabarole district Uganda through raising awareness on their rights and addressing their wellbeing both psychosocial and basic needs. The project will integrate a nutritional support programme through development of kitchen gardens for selected elderly persons to improve their health, resilience and self-sufficiency. We will continue empowering the elderly to stand up for their rights & entitlements through advocacy and awareness raising and advocate for their rights of access to statutory support –social assistance grants for the elderly (SAGE), medical care, and protection. We will elevate their voices to ensure that the elderly participate in discussions on issues which affect them and improve food security and self-sufficiency for their improved health outcomes– both mental and physical – supporting elderly people to re-affirm their full place in their communities.
<b>Potter's Village, Muhabura Diocese</b>	Uganda	Strengthening & Capacity building of Potter's village for Children with Special needs	The main aim of this project is to improve early detection, intervention and therapeutic measures for children born in crisis situations within the village communities served by the Diocese of Muhabura (DoM). A key aspect includes reducing the incidence and severity of developmental disabilities, particularly those caused or exacerbated by malnutrition, and improving the knowledge and attitudes of the local communities towards those with disabilities, especially children.  During this phase of the project, we will integrate an outreach programme with home visits to follow up with those children and families who have been discharged and live long distances away. This will ensure greater adherence to the treatment programmes and provide an opportunity to raise community awareness about issues around disability and nutrition and the work of the centre itself, increasing the number of referrals, combating stigma and improving attitudes towards those born with disabilities. Trained community members will function as resource persons and points of contact for the project

<b>Foundation of Hope Organisation (FOHO)</b>	Uganda	Social Protection of Disadvantaged Children & Youth in Masaka District	The project continues to provide more focused and quality responses to the needs of furthest behind groups in the Masaka district by improving the health, socio-economic well-being and psychosocial status of the most marginalized in the community, particularly street children, teenage mothers, school dropouts, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC), and unemployed youths and their families and other vulnerable groups, many of which have little or no access to social justice, education, employment or healthcare. Between 2020 and 2021 over 4,105 benefited from hands-on skills training, psychosocial support and counselling, home visits, medical care (especially for PLWHA and victims of domestic violence), child protection, and temporary shelter and resettlement for street children among others. The project aims to build on this success by meeting the continuing and growing needs of the most marginalized groups in the streets, squatter areas and slums of the Masaka district.
<b>Nos Petits Freres et Soeurs (NPFS)</b>	Haiti	Developing services for people with disabilities	NPFS seeks to improve the life situation of vulnerable children and young adults with special needs and at high risk of abandonment, exploitation & neglect in Haiti. Through the promotion of sustainable community-based care and support for people living with special needs, the project seeks to ensure that their education, well-being and their rights to survival, protection, development, & participation. The project will also support caregivers and those offering advanced therapies in the provision of life-giving services to this vulnerable minority population. NPFS will provide core services to children and adults with disabilities, supporting them and their families in this time of great need. Approx. 800,000 individuals have disabilities in Haiti with 200,000 being children (WHO). Stigma around disability is widespread & while the constitution supports the idea that people with disabilities should have autonomy & education, there are no laws to mandate implementation, nor is there a strategy to promote inclusion.
<b>Partners in Compassion</b>	Cambodia	Sustainable Community Based Care & Protection for Orphans & Vulnerable Children (OVC) inc. children affected by HIV and AIDS	The PC strategic plan 2021-2025 focuses on continuing to respond to the most acute needs of the rural poor, strategies for sustainability of results, and seeking sustainable funding to respond to these needs. Many children combine work and school with 45% of children aged 5 to 14 needing to work to bring in income for the family. We also aim to support the children and families who are forced to work in 3D (dirty, dangerous & demeaning) jobs such as brick

			<p>factories.</p> <p>The project aligns with the Misesan Cara Strategic Goals – Human Rights, Education, Health &amp; Sustainable Livelihoods, and with the SDGs including Quality Education, Good Health and Wellbeing, decent work, and economic growth. Population: 24.2% are urbanized, meaning that 75.8% are rural dwellers &amp; the majority who are subsistence/part time farmers, technically employed, are still struggling to make ends meet.</p>
<b>St. Francis Family Helper Programme (SFFHP)</b>	Uganda	Transformative training intervention to stop violence in selected schools in Gulu Region Northern Uganda	<p>The aim of this project is to protect children against violence in school by transforming and liberating the education system in 15 targeted schools in Gulu Archdiocese, Northern Uganda, a post-conflict area, through the provision of extensive training to teachers and parents.</p>
<b>Karidaari Seed, (Village of Joy)</b>	Uganda	Rehabilitation and Awareness Raising through Village of Joy's Karidaari Seed Educational House for Children with Disabilities	<p>To provide a multidisciplinary rehabilitation service for the children attending on-site, an outpatient service and outreach into the community. The programme aims to increase the well-being, confidence, independence and self-value of the children and their families. A network of local facilities will be developed by the rehabilitation team. Shared knowledge across these services will enhance health services in general and allow appropriate referral. An ongoing relationship with Mbarara University Physiotherapy department will be developed to provide high quality students to work at KSEHD on Placement. This establishes the principles of the project in the next generation of health care professionals</p>

## VC Culture Explored Members, Staff and Council Come together in Dublin



A workshop with staff and members was held on 12/04/2025 which focused on strengthening organisational culture.

By way of backdrop, VC conducted a strategy renewal process in 2024. This resulted in a 3-year strategy. In October 2024, Comhlámh sponsored a programme, under their Dara project, related to ecological sustainability.

Relevant to the workshop, *'ecological sustainability'* has been defined in terms of the internal organisational landscape – VC's ecosystem of partners, members, staff and volunteers.

As stated by Pauline Conway, in her opening remarks, the overall objective of the session was *'to consider VC's culture, values and ways of working- exploring how these align with its goals, ensure its future relevance and contribute to a thriving eco-system.'*

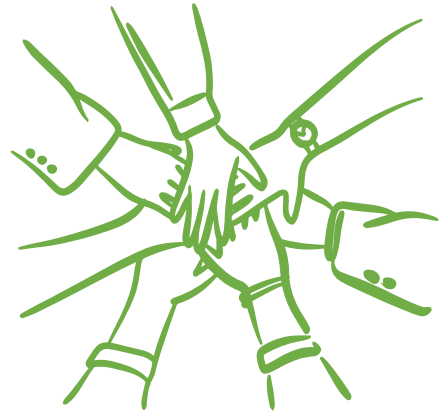
In total 19 people attended, with 5 people participating online and the rest in person. Kemal Shaheen from Caplor facilitated the session at the VC offices. Ian Williams facilitated the group online. During the day there were three key parts or elements enabling people to...

- Explore their individual values and discuss how these connected to VC's values
- Consider the current and desired future culture at VC
- Discuss progress in relation to the new strategy.

To seed the last element, Shane provided a presentation on delivery of the strategy to date. Shane's slides, and the presentation used by Kemal and Ian were circulated after the workshop.

A point emerging from the day was that the strategy process had helped people come together in important and inclusive ways; and, consistent with this, the workshop was appreciated as another opportunity for connecting and re-connecting as an *'ecosystem'*. Not only had people expressed how they valued opportunities to come together as *'one team'*, but there was also consensus about the importance of ensuring good communication between the different parts of VC so that the eco system can flourish in future

Insights from the day were captured in a report prepared by Caplor.. Many of these relate to how VC's organisational culture can be further strengthened. Pauline closed the day, recognising *'the good and useful work'* that had been done by everyone today and the *'importance of building on it going forward'*.





## Future of Lay Missionary Work

**On the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Celebration several years ago the CEO Shane Halpin reflected on what it means to be a missionary.**

It's an interesting concept Missionary; some might say it is full of connotations of a Church which travelled overseas to share a personal understanding and interpretation with those in far off lands regardless in many cases of their own inbuilt faith structures. It has, when taken in the recent historical context, overtones of superiority, imposition, colonialism and dogma. Of course, that was never intended and one only has to read the book of Acts and the early Christian missionaries who were intent on sharing the news that the man named Jesus died in Jerusalem and rose from the dead for us. As Paul says, *'Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.'* And he says, *"Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!"* Christ gives this mission to his apostles: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

As time has progressed we have seen emerge a different understanding of missionary – as the Church itself is missionary. So today it does not necessarily mean, 'to travel overseas to far off lands and share the faith,' although it could. It simply means 'living your life as a disciple of Jesus wherever we are.'

Another interesting word is *development* and how today it is entangled with mission and missionary. Development can be defined as bringing about social change that allows people to achieve their human potential. Rather surprisingly the word "missionary," as such, is nowhere to be found in the English Bible. A missionary is a messenger or an envoy who is sent out on a special mission, to share the Gospel. So, you can quite easily see the crossover between the two terms, as they both have the aim of allowing people to achieve their potential as humans.

The differentiation might be that the development practitioner engages from a nonpartisan position and is not expecting or imposing a religious dogma, but even then the lines are confused given the development funding agendas that exist, as one could argue that they are not nonpartisan either! The growth away from all things religious to the secular has had a considerable effect on the Church in general but also on the work of VC over the years.

Most of the early missionaries began the work of saving souls emphasising Catholic baptism as an indicator of success, but the missionaries and their lay support gradually morphed into humanitarians realising that healthcare, education, livelihoods and social justice programmes were just as important to highlight the call of those living in poverty.

VC, as you know, began just before the finalisation of Vatican II. We recently celebrated the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vatican II. The work of that Council is still unfolding and one of its main conclusions was that we needed to rediscover the essential dignity of Baptism with its accompanying rights and responsibilities.

Many of you will remember that as you were growing up ministry was tied to office in the Church. In other words, you were only expected to be a minister if you were ordained or

professed in religious life. The role and the authority of baptism was largely downplayed and the business of the Church and the gospel was mostly left to the professionals who were equipped by their formation and ordination to do this work.

So, it was quite radical for our founding members to forge a path for laity within the church. It did this as you know by building on the mission work of priests and religious. It wasn't until later I would imagine that lay people engaged with the mission work in their own authority as it were. And of course, today it's quite common for lay people to run both development and missionary projects without involvement of traditional religious communities.

The interesting debate for me at the moment is the area of authority for laity working within the church structures – under what right do we have to engage, under whose ecclesial authority in the case of our own institution do we have the right to conduct mission? Vatican II expressly reaffirmed that our baptism gave us the right... but when it comes down to it, the unsaid is “under what permission do you speak” or “from what parish or diocesan structure do you operate?”

When asked to give a talk at a church when not representing VC I always question myself as to what authority do I have to speak and to voice an opinion or reflection on the Gospel or indeed my faith. It is not something that comes easily but I firmly believe it should be accepted given the authority of our baptism.

**Under what right do we have to engage, under whose ecclesial authority in the case of our own institution do we have the right to conduct mission?**

This dynamic between mission and development between believers and non-believers, between liberal and traditionalist, between young and old, between apathy and engagement is what it means to be part of VC and indeed part of most Catholic based gatherings that I have attended in Ireland.

VC has taken the rather bold step in recent years in being open and accepting of all faiths and those with none, recognising the challenge that some people have with the common misconception about Church and religion as being prescriptive and judgemental. Those that come through the door are pleasantly surprised that VC is not about to stuff dogma down people's throats but is hopefully open to where people are in their life's journey. Reflection time is nondirective and the attendance of the weekend Mass is now entirely optional. St Francis, once said, 'Go spread the Gospel and use words if you must.' So it is, I hope, with VC that by a welcoming Christian attitude and smile, we go about our work!

Funders too have helped to shape direction and that too is a fact of life with VC. Irish public money is required to be spent in a nonpartisan manner and rightly so – thus activities that are explicitly about building churches or engaging in proselytising or evangelisation are not supported. Most missionaries are engaged in activities which directly affect the lives of those most poor and marginalised, in our case through better access to education and healthcare and support of human rights.

So where does this position VC now? From a strategic perspective faith is something we share as a committed staff, for us it is a deeply held gift and we do our best both to nurture it, but from a development perspective the lack of faith among the communities we seek to support

with our work is not the problem we are addressing. In many cases its challenges with access to basic services, education, and health services and livelihoods, from populations that come from a whole range of faith traditions including many from the Muslim tradition. If this is the case, where do we see Christ's teaching– "Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptise them in the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit." ?

For this, I turn to one of my favourite spiritual writers Fr Richard Rohr. Fr. Richard reminds the Church that *"without the free flow of the Holy Spirit, religion becomes a tribal sorting system, spending much time trying to define who's in and who's out- who's right and who's wrong. And surprise, surprise he says, "We're always on the side of right!"*

The Trinity reveals that God is relationship itself and if it is fully understood, *"the essence of the spiritual journey for all of us is to accept that we're all accepted and to go and live likewise."* *It's no longer us and them or they, but it's "we."* *Our job is simply to exemplify heaven now. God will take it from there. Let love happen."*

**As VC grapples with balancing the secular agenda and the missionary's desire to share Christian love, we must believe it should not be either or. We must learn to embrace!**

So as VC grapples with balancing the secular agenda and the missionary's desire to share Christian love, we must believe it should not be either or. We must learn to embrace! The Gospel reminds us that we're not all the same. There is diversity, yet in that diversity we can be one. So, as we go back to the daily grind after this weekend of ensuring that the organisation can keep the lights on for another sixty years I take great sustenance from the words of Teresa of Avila

*"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes; you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."*

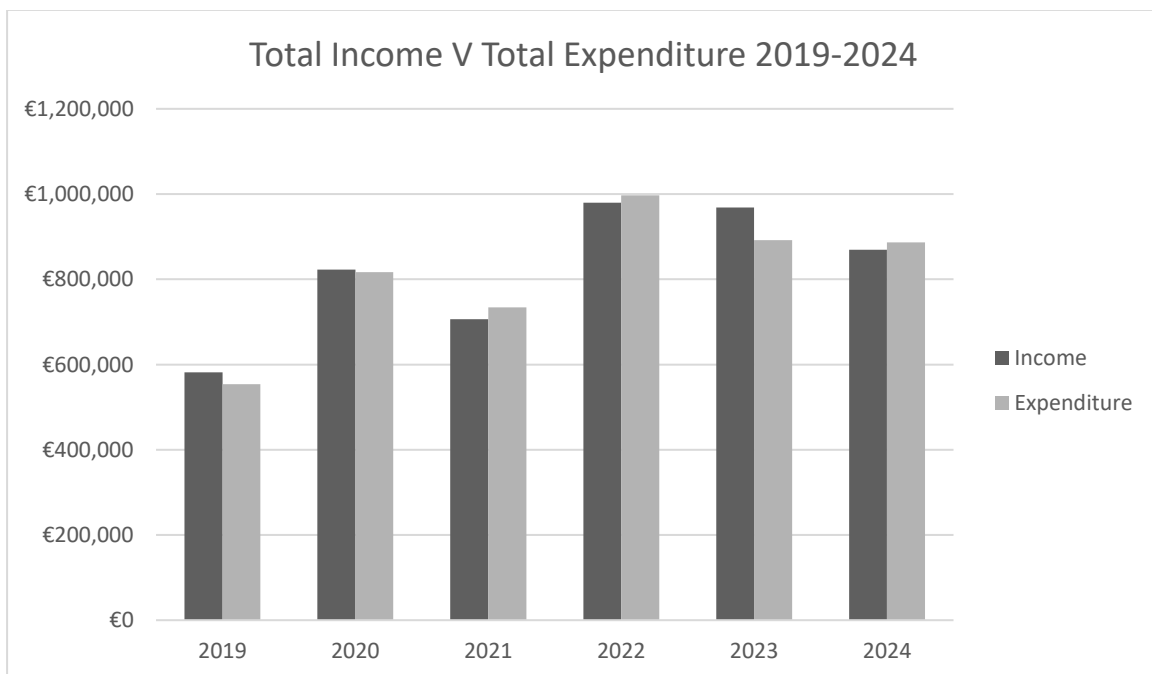
# Financial Review

In 2024 the VC Finance Committee was chaired by the Treasurer and Council Member Paul Sheridan. Paul Woods and Anne Reilly were committee members. It met 4 times during the year. The committee discussed a range of issues including reviewing monthly income Statement and Report on Accounts, reviewing the reserves fund, discussing the VC Budget and reviewing and recommending Council to approve the 2023 Audit. A key function of the committee in 2024 was to review a three-year financial sustainability strategy. The aim of this strategy was to achieve a workable roadmap to drive the financial resourcing of the operation in line with the VC strategy. It included a financial analysis of the current situation as well as exploring opportunities for revenue growth, particularly unrestricted revenue. This was a very useful exercise for VC and we would like to thank consultants David Dalton and Donal Maher who facilitated the process and wrote the report. Their expertise and guidance were immense and greatly appreciated.



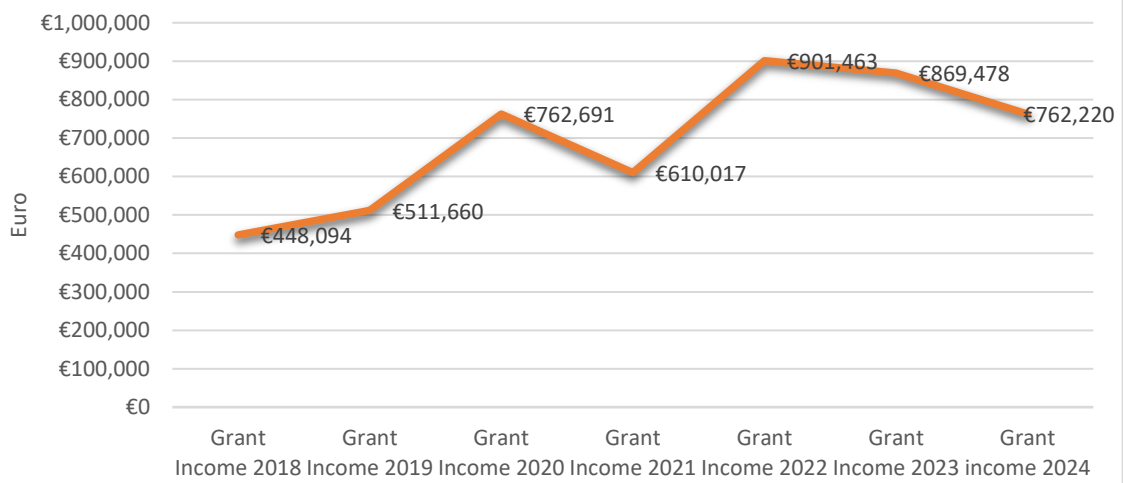
*Mamohapi Byrne and Ronan O'Neill joined the Finance Committee*

At the end of 2024 all three members of the committee - Paul Sheridan, Paul Woods and Anne Reilly - stepped down from their roles. They were thanks for their many years of excellent service to VC. A new committee made up of Anthony Hannon (Council member), Mamohapi Byrne (Council member) and Ronan O'Neill was induced and set in place for 2025.



# Grants & donations

2019 -2024



## Our sincere thanks to our donors



St. Patrick's Missionary Society

Founded in 1932



Archdiocese of Dublin

Ard Deoise Átha Cliath

Our **Parish Promotions Volunteers** in particular, Coordinator Sally Roddy, Mary Winters, Emma Edgeworth, Denise Flack, Paul Sheridan, Gabriel Farren, Pauline Conway, Brian Sheridan, and so many others who have given so much of their time to raising vital funds for the future of VC. Thank you!

### VC Donors 2024

D J Aherne  
F Coyle  
B Deane  
K Dennehy  
S Devereux  
J B Doyle  
A Feeley  
D Farrell  
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A McGovern  
A Ni Bhriain  
M O'Donnell  
B O'Donohue  
Y O'Leary  
B O'Reilly  
M Roche  
D & O Sharkey  
O Twomey

**Many thanks!**

Registered number: 68833  
Charity number: 20008444  
CHY number: CHY 5526

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**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

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**CONTENTS**

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	Page
<b>Reference and Administrative Details</b>	1 - 2
<b>Council Members' Report</b>	3 - 6
<b>Council Members' Responsibilities Statement</b>	7
<b>Independent Auditor's Report</b>	8 - 11
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>	12
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	13
<b>Statement of Cash Flows</b>	14
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	15 - 37



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## VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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<b>Council Members</b>	Pauline Conway Aisling Foley Anthony Hannon Ruth Bracken Sally Roddy Denise Flack (appointed 21 September 2024) Prince Banda (appointed 31 January 2025) Mamohapi Byrne (appointed 31 January 2025) Emma Edgeworth (resigned 21 September 2024) Sarah Oates (resigned 21 September 2024) Margaret O'Regan (resigned 21 September 2024) David Deegan (resigned 21 September 2024) Paul Sheridan (resigned 27 February 2025)
<b>Company registered number</b>	68833
<b>CHY (Revenue) number</b>	CHY 5526
<b>Registered office</b>	8 New Cabra Road Phibsborough Dublin 7
<b>Charity registered number</b>	20008444
<b>Company secretary</b>	Aisling Foley (resigned 21 September 2024) Ruth Bracken (appointed 21 September 2024)
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	Shane Halpin
<b>Independent auditor</b>	RBK Business Advisers Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm Termini 3 Arkle Road Sandyford Dublin 8

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**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)**

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<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland 2 College Green Dublin 2
<b>Solicitors</b>	David F McMahon & Company Solicitors 5/6 Upper O'Connell Street Dublin 1
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Sheridan (resigned 27 February 2025) Anthony Hannon (appointed 27 February 2025)
<b>President</b>	Pauline Conway
<b>Vice President</b>	Anthony Hannon

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## VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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### COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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The Council Members (who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2014) present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of Viatores Christi Company Limited By Guarantee (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The Council Members confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Company is a registered Charity incorporated in 1979 as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The Charity was founded in 1960. The principal office of the Company is 8 New Cabra Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7. The Company's registered number is 68833 and the Charity registration number is 20008444. The principal activity of the Charity is the recruitment and training of lay missionary personnel.

#### Council members and secretary

The names of persons who at any time during the financial year and since the year end unless otherwise stated were Council Members of the Company are as follows:

Pauline Conway  
Aisling Foley  
Anthony Hannon  
Ruth Bracken  
Sally Roddy  
Denise Flack (appointed 21 September 2024)  
Prince Banda (appointed 31 January 2025)  
Mamohapi Byrne (appointed 31 January 2025)  
Emma Edgeworth (resigned 21 September 2024)  
Sarah Oates (resigned 21 September 2024)  
Margaret O'Regan (resigned 21 September 2024)  
David Deegan (resigned 21 September 2024)  
Paul Sheridan (resigned 27 February 2025)

The names of the persons who held position of Company secretary during the financial year are:

Aisling Foley (resigned 21 September 2024)  
Ruth Bracken (appointed 21 September 2024)

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Principal activities**

Viatores Christi CLG is a development and humanitarian organisation working within the faith-based international development sector. Working in solidarity with partner organisations to improve the lives of local people by improving access to basic services Viatores Christi addresses needs through long term capacity building development interventions and recruits, trains and places skilled personnel. The organisation works across multiple sectors: education, health including disability, income generation, livelihoods and human rights in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The organisation also works with the EU on a range of support programmes including humanitarian aid volunteering.

**Business review & financial performance**

Viatores Christi incurred a deficit for the year ended 31 December 2024 of €17,794 (2023: surplus €75,971). Net current assets as at 31 December 2024 were €134,446 compared to €141,007 at 31 December 2023.

It was noted that the Directors have approved an operational budget with a small deficit for the year 2025 in line with its resource mobilisation strategy to employ the services of an accountant in-house and redesign its website making use of its 'free reserves' in 2025. As a result, the Council Members are satisfied that Viatores Christi has the necessary resources to continue trading for the foreseeable future and accordingly they believe that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on the going concern basis.

**Review of activities**

Gross income for the year was €869,032 (2023: €968,168). The principal source of gross income for the Charity is funding received from Misesan Cara. Income recognised from Misesan Cara in 2024 amounted to €524,850 (2023: €649,074). The Charity also raises funds through its Parish Promotion activities in both Ireland and the US, private donations and through other grants.

Expenditure in 2024 for charitable activities amounted to €861,947 compared to €869,273 in 2023. Costs of generating income in 2024 amounted to €24,879 (2023: €22,924). Overall costs amounted to €886,826 in 2024 (2023: €892,197).

**Investment policy and performance**

The objective of the Charity's investment policy is to maintain sufficient liquidity while ensuring maximum security, meeting ethical standards and achieving the highest possible returns. Interest earned is applied to the charitable causes of the Charity.

**Reserves Policy**

The Charity's available reserves at the year end were €593,323 (2023: €611,117). Unrestricted reserves were €591,842 (2023: €606,117).

The Council Members recognise the need to hold reserves to ensure the financial stability of the Charity. In particular, the Council Members recognise that the Charity is currently substantially dependent on one source of income to fund its activities. That source is Misesan Cara grants received.

In order to mitigate the risks associated with its income, it is the policy of the Charity to hold cash reserves to cover six months operating costs in case of exceptional circumstances. As at 31 December 2024 the unrestricted general (undesignated) reserves represent 8 months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Council Members are closely monitoring the Charity's results and expect the Charity to meet the reserves target in the coming years. The Council Members review this policy on an ongoing basis to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the financial stability of the Charity.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)**

The Council Members may also determine that a portion of reserves be utilised for particular or designated purposes or projects to advance the causes of the Charity. Such reserves, if any, are classified as designated reserves at the balance sheet date.

**Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the Charity has the ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due and will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The Directors are satisfied and confident that the Charity has the ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements and that the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Further details containing the key assumptions made by the Directors in relation to the appropriateness of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies note to the financial statements.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The organisation is a Charitable Company limited by guarantee. The Company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the Company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding one Euro (€1). The Charity was founded in 1960. Governance and management structures are set out in the Memorandum and Articles.

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Council Members who are elected and co opted under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles.

The Charity is governed by its Council Members, which makes decisions regarding strategy in relation to the Charity. The Council Members have appointed Shane Halpin as Chief Executive Officer and have delegated a range of day to day decision making powers to the Chief Executive Officer.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Council Members are not expecting to make any significant changes in the nature of the business in the near future.

**PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Council Members have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

**MAIN RISKS FACING THE CHARITY**

The Council Members consider long term funding and going concern as being key risks facing the Charity and has put in place strategic plans to manage these risks.

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VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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**POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the year end, which in the opinion of the Council, require disclosure in the financial statements.

**POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

There were no political contributions which require disclosure.

**ACCOUNTING RECORDS**

The measures taken by the Council Members to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the finance function. The books of account of the company are maintained at 8 New Cabra Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7.

**STATEMENT ON RELEVANT AUDIT INFORMATION**

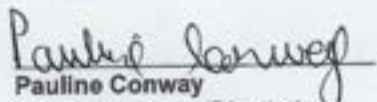
In accordance with Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, each of the persons who are Council Members at the time when this Council Members' report is approved has confirmed that:

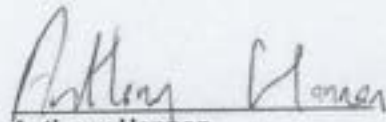
- so far as that Member is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware, and
- that Member has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Member in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR**

In accordance with Section 383 (2) of the Companies Act 2014, the independent auditor, RBK Business Advisers, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm, has indicated its willingness to continue in office.

This report, incorporating the Strategic report, was approved by the Council Members, in their capacity as company Council Members, and signed on their behalf by:

  
Pauline Conway  
Council Member (Director)

  
Anthony Hanson  
Council Member (Director)

Date: 08 Feb 2025

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VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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STATEMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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The Council Members (who are directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2014) are responsible for preparing the Council Members' Report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish Company law requires the Council Members to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the Council Members have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland) as modified by the Statement of Recommended "SORP" "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2019.

Under company law, the Council Members must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Charity as to the financial year end and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

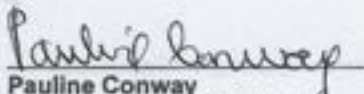
In preparing these financial statements, the Council Members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Council Members are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Council Members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Signed on behalf of the Council Members:

  
Pauline Conway  
Council Member (Director)

  
Anthony Hanon  
Council Member (Director)

Date: 08/09/2025

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## VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Viatores Christi Company Limited By Guarantee (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable Irish law and Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2019.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard as issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority ("IAASA") Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Council Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Council Members with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED  
BY GUARANTEE (CONTINUED)**

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**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. The Council Members are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- the accounting records of the charitable company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited;
- the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records;
- the information given in the Council Members' Report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Council Members' Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Council Members' Report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of Council Members' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Responsibilities of Council Members**

As explained more fully in the Council Members' Responsibilities Statement, the Council Members (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Council Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council Members are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council Members either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED  
BY GUARANTEE (CONTINUED)**

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**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Council Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED  
BY GUARANTEE (CONTINUED)**

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**The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Michelle O'Donoghue*

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**Michelle O'Donoghue**

for and on behalf of

**RBK Business Advisers**

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm

Termini

3 Arkle Road

Sandyford

Dublin 8

Date: 8 August 2025

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	Restricted funds 2024 €	Unrestricted funds 2024 €	Total funds 2024 €	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations, grants and legacies	3	561,467	200,753	762,220	869,478
Charitable activities	4	-	106,812	106,812	98,690
<b>Total income</b>		<b>561,467</b>	<b>307,565</b>	<b>869,032</b>	<b>968,168</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	-	24,879	24,879	22,924
Charitable activities	6	564,986	296,961	861,947	869,273
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>564,986</b>	<b>321,840</b>	<b>886,826</b>	<b>892,197</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(3,519)</b>	<b>(14,275)</b>	<b>(17,794)</b>	<b>75,971</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		5,000	606,117	611,117	535,146
Net movement in funds		(3,519)	(14,275)	(17,794)	75,971
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,481</b>	<b>591,842</b>	<b>593,323</b>	<b>611,117</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

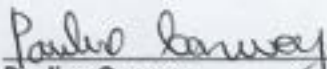
The notes on pages 15 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

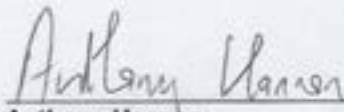
**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 68833**

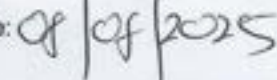
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	407,877	419,110
Investments	11	51,000	51,000
		<u>458,877</u>	<u>470,110</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	2,341	2,178
Cash at bank and in hand	17	390,508	287,953
		<u>392,849</u>	<u>290,131</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(258,403)	(149,124)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>134,446</u>	<u>141,007</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>593,323</u>	<u>611,117</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>593,323</u>	<u>611,117</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	14	1,481	5,000
Unrestricted funds	14	591,842	606,117
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>593,323</u>	<u>611,117</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Council Members and signed on their behalf by:

  
 Pauline Conway  
 Council Member (Director)

  
 Anthony Hannon  
 Council Member (Director)

Date: 

The notes on pages 15 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash used in operating activities	16	<b>103,354</b>	175,203
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	10	<b>(799)</b>	(1,267)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(799)</b>	<b>(1,267)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>287,953</b>	114,017
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	17	<b>390,508</b>	287,953

The notes on pages 15 to 37 form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**1. General information**

These financial statements comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cashflows and the related notes incorporating significant accounting policies constitute the individual financial statements of Viatores Christi CLG for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

Viatores Christi is a Company Limited By Guarantee and not having a share capital and is a public benefit entity incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office is at 8 New Cabra Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7 and the company registration number is 68833. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Council Members' Report.

The charity has applied the Charities SORP on a voluntary basis as its application is not a requirement of the current regulations for charities registered in the Republic of Ireland. However, it is considered best practice. As noted below, the directors consider the adoption of SORP requirements as the most appropriate accounting practice and presentation to properly reflect and disclose the activities of the organisation.

**Currency**

The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

**2. Accounting policies**

**2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, and comply with the financial reporting standards of the Financial Reporting Council as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2019 and the Companies Act 2014.

**2.2 Reserves Policy**

The Charity's available reserves at the year end were €593,323 (2023: €611,117). Unrestricted reserves were €591,842 (2023: €606,117).

The Council Members recognise the need to hold reserves to ensure the financial stability of the Charity. In particular, the Council Members recognise that the Charity is currently substantially dependent on one source of income to fund its activities. That source is Mísean Cara grants received.

In order to mitigate the risks associated with its income, it is the policy of the Charity to hold cash reserves to cover six months operating costs in case of exceptional circumstances. As at 31 December 2024 the unrestricted reserves represent 8 months of charitable expenditure. The Council Members review this policy on an ongoing basis to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the financial stability of the Charity. The Council Members are closely monitoring the Charity's results and expect the Charity to meet the reserves target in the coming years.

The Council Members may also determine that a portion of reserves be utilised for particular or designated purposes or projects to advance the causes of the Charity. Such reserves, if any, are classified as designated reserves at the balance sheet date.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the Charity has the ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due and will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The overall deficit for the year ended 31 December 2024 was €17,794. At 31 December 2024, the entity held €390,508 in liquid cash reserves and showed a net current asset position of €134,446. In addition, €407,877 represents a designated fixed asset fund comprising of the organisations building which is non liquid.

It was noted that the Directors have approved an operational budget with a small deficit for the year 2025 in line with its resource mobilisation strategy to employ the services of an accountant in-house and redesign its website making use of its 'free reserves' in 2025. Based on these projections and contingent on the charity achieving budgeted results, the unrestricted reserves and available liquid cash resources will be adequate to cover operating costs and anticipated liabilities in the short to medium term. In addition, the charity does have some financial headroom in terms of the option to potentially encash some of its investments to free up liquid resources should financial performance be significantly less than anticipated and should the Charity need to do so.

On this basis and based on the above factors, the Directors are satisfied and confident that the entity has the ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements and that the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that may be necessary should the going concern basis of preparation not be deemed appropriate.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and it is probable the income will be received. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' or 'revenue grants', is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the Charity is recognised within income from donations and legacies. Grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the Charity earns the right to consideration by its performance and included within income from charitable activities.

Parish promotions are recognised in the accounting period in which they are received.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the Charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the Charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the Charity, or the Charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Incoming resources from the provision of services is recognised in the accounting period in which the services are rendered and the outcome of the contract can be estimated reliably. The Charity uses the percentage of completion method based on the actual service performed as a percentage of the total services to be provided.

Donated services and facilities are included at the fair value to the Charity where this can be quantified. Donations in kind are included at their estimated value to the foundation in both revenue and expenditure in the year of receipt. Donated facilities are included as both income and expenses at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. Where it is not practicable to measure the value of the resource with sufficient reliability the income is included in the financial period when the resource is sold. An asset is recognised only when those services are used for the production of an asset and the services received will be capitalised as part of the cost of an asset. Where it cannot be quantified the value is recognised when sold. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

Investment income is included when receivable.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, investment management costs and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity and include the audit fees, costs of legal advice for trustees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity including the cost of trustee meetings.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.6 Tangible fixed assets**

**Cost**

Tangible fixed assets are recorded at historical cost or deemed cost, less accumulated depreciation. Cost includes prime cost, overheads and interest incurred in financing the construction of tangible fixed assets. Capitalisation of interest ceases when the asset is brought into use.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on fixed assets, on a straight-line basis, so as to write off their cost less residual amounts over their estimated useful economic lives.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2%
Fixtures and fittings	- 12.5%
Office equipment	- 12.5%
Computer equipment	- 33.3%
Other fixed assets	- 33.3%

The company's policy is to review the remaining useful economic lives and residual values of fixed assets on an on-going basis and to adjust the depreciation charge to reflect the remaining estimated useful economic life and residual value.

Fully depreciated assets are retained in the cost of the asset and related accumulated depreciation until they are removed from service. In the case of disposals, assets and related depreciation are removed from the financial statements and the net amount, less proceeds from disposal, is charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Impairment**

Assets not carried at fair value are also reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

**2.7 Investments**

Investments are a form of a financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

**2.8 Taxation**

No charge to current or deferred taxation arises as the Charity has been granted charitable status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, Charity No CHY 5526.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.9 Trade and other debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price (including transaction costs) unless a financing arrangement exists in which case they are measured at the present value of future receipts discounted at a market rate. Subsequently these are measured at amortised cost less any provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables.

**2.10 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**2.11 Trade and other creditors**

Trade and other creditors are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**2.12 Employee Benefits**

The company provides a range of benefits to employees, including paid holiday arrangements and defined contribution pension plans.

**Short term benefits**

Short term benefits, including holiday pay and other similar non-monetary benefits, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

**Defined contribution pension plans**

The Company operates a defined contribution plan. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate fund. Under defined contribution plans, the Company has no legal or constructive obligations to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

For defined contribution plans, the company pays contributions to privately administered pension plans on a contractual or voluntary basis. The company has no further payment obligations once the contributions have been paid. The contributions are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due.

**2.13 Contingencies**

Contingent liabilities, arising as a result of past events, are not recognised when (i) it is not probable that there will be an outflow of resources or that the amount cannot be reliably measured at the reporting date or (ii) when the existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the company's control. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the financial statements unless the probability of an outflow of resources is remote.

Contingent assets are not recognised. Contingent assets are disclosed in the financial statements when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.14 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as a finance cost within expenditure on charitable activities.

2.15 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Council Members in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Council Members for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. The designations have an administrative purpose only and do not legally restrict the Council Members' discretion in applying the funds.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.16 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

**Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:**

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

**Going concern:**

Preparing accounts on the going concern basis requires management to estimate future cash flows and evaluate the probabilities of certain future events which would affect the going concern ability of the entity. Going concern is discussed further in policy 2.3.

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**3. Income from grants, donations and legacies**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 €</b>
Donations	15,936	8,853	<b>24,789</b>
Misean cara funding (note 3a)	439,396	85,454	<b>524,850</b>
Parish promotions	-	43,138	<b>43,138</b>
Similar incoming resources	-	7,206	<b>7,206</b>
Other income	-	855	<b>855</b>
Other grant funding-including EU ESC funding	106,135	55,247	<b>161,382</b>
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>561,467</b>	<b>200,753</b>	<b>762,220</b>
	<i>Restricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
Donations	7,180	12,080	19,260
Misean cara funding (note 3a)	510,670	138,404	649,074
Parish promotions	-	76,742	76,742
Similar incoming resources	-	15,432	15,432
Other income	-	50	50
Other grant funding-including EU ESC funding	68,049	40,871	108,920
<i>Total 2023</i>	<b>585,899</b>	<b>283,579</b>	<b>869,478</b>

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**(3a) Misesan Cara Funding**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 €</b>
Kiyinda Mityana Diocese Education Project Uganda	5,735	19,898	<b>25,633</b>
Muhabura Diocese Maternity and Child Health, Uganda	7,950	26,021	<b>33,971</b>
Village of Joy, Karidari Seed School, Rushooka, Uganda	4,850	20,852	<b>25,702</b>
BMCTI (Bishop Magambo Counselling Inst.) Uganda	5,200	27,940	<b>33,140</b>
SHS Sisters ECD project Moyo, Uganda	-	-	-
NPFS, (Our Little Brothers and Sisters) Haiti	13,225	97,274	<b>110,499</b>
SHS Kampala Development Office	-	-	-
Partners in Compassion, Cambodia	700	10,755	<b>11,455</b>
RJM Sisters Jean Rabel, Haiti	3,960	25,040	<b>29,000</b>
Foundation of Hope (Foho) Masaka Uganda	4,867	22,802	<b>27,669</b>
SFFHP (St Francis Family Helper Project) Uganda	1,750	25,250	<b>27,000</b>
Hoima Dioces Justice and Peace Comm. Uganda	3,762	17,480	<b>21,242</b>
Caritas Kampala, Cooperatives Project, Uganda	15,510	71,217	<b>86,727</b>
SHS Kampala Development Office, Uganda	882	13,668	<b>14,550</b>
WN Moyo, Uganda	-	10,668	<b>10,668</b>
VC Costs (New Model)	17,063	50,531	<b>67,594</b>
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>85,454</b>	<b>439,396</b>	<b>524,850</b>

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<i>Restricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
VC Strategic In House Capacity Building Programme	27,000	3,000	30,000
Muhabura Diocese Maternity and Child Health, Uganda	20,100	9,700	29,800
Village of Joy, Karidari Seed School, Rushooka, Uganda	22,100	9,900	32,000
BMCTI (Bishop Magambo Counselling Inst.) Uganda	29,600	10,400	40,000
SHS Sisters ECD project Moyo, Uganda	90,900	24,100	115,000
NPFS, (Our Little Brothers and Sisters) Haiti	90,275	23,000	113,275
SHS Kampala Development Office	17,100	7,900	25,000
Partners in Compassion, Cambodia	12,900	2,100	15,000
Caritas Kampala, Cooperatives Project, Uganda	96,025	18,975	115,000
RJM Sisters Jean Rabel, Haiti	25,800	4,200	30,000
Hoima Diocese Justice and Peace Comm. Uganda	14,055	945	15,000
Hoima Diocese Justice and Peace Comm. Uganda	24,200	10,800	35,000
Foundation of Hope (Foho) Masaka Uganda	7,000	1,750	8,750
SFFHP (St Francis Family Helper Project) Uganda	15,965	9,034	24,999
Kiyinda Mityana Diocese Education Project Uganda	4,750	-	4,750
SFFHP (St Francis Family Helper Project) Uganda	-	500	500
NPFS, (Our Little Brothers and Sisters) Haiti	12,900	2,100	15,000
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>510,670</u>	<u>138,404</u>	<u>649,074</u>

**(3b) Misesan Cara Deferred Income**

	<b>2024 €</b>
Deferred income at 1 January 2024	<b>23,192</b>
Income received during the year	<b>743,055</b>
Amounts released to the SOFA (note 3a)	<b>(524,850)</b>
<b>Misesan Cara deferred income at 31 December 2024</b>	<b><u>241,397</u></b>



**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**4. Income from charitable activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 €</b>
Events	8,634	<b>8,634</b>
Miscellaneous	98,178	<b>98,178</b>
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>106,812</b>	<b>106,812</b>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
Events	10,025	10,025
Miscellaneous	88,665	88,665
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>98,690</i>	<i>98,690</i>

**5. Expenditure on raising funds**

**Costs of raising funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 €</b>
Fundraising costs	7,465	<b>7,465</b>
Wages and salaries	17,414	<b>17,414</b>
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>24,879</b>	<b>24,879</b>

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**5. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
Fundraising costs	3,000	3,000
Training costs	72	72
Wages and salaries	19,852	19,852
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>22,924</u>	<u>22,924</u>

**6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Total 2024 €</b>
Programme costs (note 6a)	564,986	169,269	<b>734,255</b>
Support costs (note 6b)	-	127,692	<b>127,692</b>
<b>Total 2024</b>	<u>564,986</u>	<u>296,961</u>	<u><b>861,947</b></u>
	<i>Restricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Total 2023 €</i>
Programme costs (note 6a)	580,899	156,569	737,468
Support costs (note 6b)	-	131,805	131,805
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>580,899</u>	<u>288,374</u>	<u>869,273</u>

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**(6a) Programme costs**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 €</b>
Misean Cara Funding Expenditure (6c)	388,865	-	<b>388,865</b>
Arch Diocese of Dublin	11,864	-	<b>11,864</b>
Wages and Salaries	33,996	142,909	<b>176,905</b>
Other Programme Costs	113,732	11,457	<b>125,189</b>
Support Costs	3,500	-	<b>3,500</b>
Contractors	13,029	14,903	<b>27,932</b>
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>564,986</b>	<b>169,269</b>	<b>734,255</b>
	<i>Restricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
Misean Cara Funding Expenditure (6c)	510,670	-	510,670
Arch Diocese of Dublin	7,736	-	7,736
Wages and Salaries	-	129,473	129,473
Other Programme Costs	62,493	5,972	68,465
Contractors	-	21,124	21,124
<i>Total 2023</i>	<b>580,899</b>	<b>156,569</b>	<b>737,468</b>

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**(6b) Support costs**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 €</b>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>
Wages and Salaries	<b>45,825</b>	48,519
Contractors	<b>300</b>	5,504
Light & heat	<b>14,331</b>	13,744
Postage and stationery	<b>67</b>	305
Accountancy fees	<b>4,242</b>	1,756
Audit fees	<b>4,698</b>	7,350
Insurance	<b>7,505</b>	6,188
Telephone	<b>990</b>	908
Membership and subscriptions	<b>2,381</b>	3,220
Bank charges	<b>529</b>	923
Repairs and maintenance	<b>13,241</b>	455
Miscellaneous	<b>5,680</b>	8,913
Waste disposal	<b>1,346</b>	1,322
Travel expenses	<b>296</b>	153
Depreciation	<b>12,032</b>	11,962
Computer costs	<b>4,960</b>	33
Uganda office and support	<b>9,269</b>	20,550
	<b>127,692</b>	131,805

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**(6c) Misesan Cara Expenditure**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 €</b>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 €</i>
VC Strategic In House Capacity Building Programme	-	27,000
Kiyinda Mityana Diocese Education Project Uganda	<b>19,898</b>	-
Muhabura Diocese Maternity and Child Health, Uganda	<b>26,021</b>	20,100
Village of Joy, Karidari Seed School, Rushooka, Uganda	<b>20,852</b>	22,100
BMCTI (Bishop Magambo Counselling Inst.) Uganda	<b>27,940</b>	29,600
SHS Sisters ECD project Moyo, Uganda	-	90,900
NPFS, (Our Little Brothers and Sisters) Haiti	<b>97,274</b>	90,275
SHS Kampala Development Office	-	17,100
Partners in Compassion, Cambodia	<b>10,755</b>	12,900
Caritas Kampala, Cooperatives Project, Uganda	-	96,025
RJM Sisters Jean Rabel, Haiti	-	25,800
Hoima Diocese Justice and Peace Comm. Uganda	<b>17,480</b>	15,965
Hoima Diocese Justice and Peace Comm. Uganda	-	14,055
Foundation of Hope (Foho) Masaka Uganda	<b>22,802</b>	24,200
SFFHP (St Francis Family Helper Project) Uganda	-	7,000
SHS Kampala Development Office, Uganda	<b>13,668</b>	-
SFFHP (St Francis Family Helper Project) Uganda	<b>25,250</b>	-
NPFS, (Our Little Brothers and Sisters) Haiti	-	-
RJM Sisters Jean Rabel, Haiti	<b>25,040</b>	-
WN Moyo, Uganda	<b>10,668</b>	-
Caritas Kampala, Cooperatives Project, Uganda	<b>71,217</b>	4,750
Foundation of Hope (Foho) Masaka Uganda	-	12,900
	<b>388,865</b>	<b>510,670</b>

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**7. Auditor's remuneration**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	€	€
Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the statutory audit of the Company's annual accounts	<b>7,350</b>	<b>7,350</b>

**8. Staff costs**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	€	€
Wages and salaries	<b>209,638</b>	<b>173,190</b>
Social security costs	<b>23,401</b>	<b>19,353</b>
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	<b>7,104</b>	<b>5,300</b>
	<b>240,143</b>	<b>197,843</b>

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	No.	No.
Administration	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than €60,000 in either year.

During the year, no Council Members received any remuneration or other benefits (2023: €NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2024, one council member was reimbursed for expenses of €3,804.77 (two council members were reimbursed for expenses of 2023: €216.40 and €3,405.62 respectively). These expenses related directly to parish promotion in Ireland and Parish mission awareness activities.

**9. Taxation**

The charity is exempt from taxation under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property €	Fixtures and fittings €	Office equipment €	Computer equipment €	Other fixed assets €	Total €
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 January 2024	470,000	41,607	48,844	4,103	4,407	568,961
Additions	-	-	-	799	-	799
At 31 December 2024	<u>470,000</u>	<u>41,607</u>	<u>48,844</u>	<u>4,902</u>	<u>4,407</u>	<u>569,760</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 January 2024	65,800	27,432	48,844	3,368	4,407	149,851
Charge for the year	9,400	1,998	-	634	-	12,032
At 31 December 2024	<u>75,200</u>	<u>29,430</u>	<u>48,844</u>	<u>4,002</u>	<u>4,407</u>	<u>161,883</u>
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 December 2024	<u><u>394,800</u></u>	<u><u>12,177</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>900</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>407,877</u></u>
At 31 December 2023	<u><u>404,200</u></u>	<u><u>14,175</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>735</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>419,110</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

11. Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments €
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 1 January 2024	51,000
At 31 December 2024	<u>51,000</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 December 2024	51,000
At 31 December 2023	<u>51,000</u>

12. Debtors

	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Other debtors	875	-
Prepayments	1,466	2,178
	<u>2,341</u>	<u>2,178</u>



**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	€	€
PAYE/PRSI	7,067	4,458
Deferred Income	231,092	123,077
Other creditors	-	1,891
Accruals	20,244	19,698
	<b>258,403</b>	<b>149,124</b>
	<b>258,403</b>	<b>149,124</b>

**Deferred Income**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	€	€
Deferred Income at 1 January 2024	123,075	37,561
Income received during the year	639,227	858,278
Amounts released during the year	(531,210)	(772,764)
	<b>231,092</b>	<b>123,075</b>
	<b>231,092</b>	<b>123,075</b>

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**14. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 January 2024 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfers in/out €	Balance at 31 December 2024 €
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Fixed Asset Fund	419,110	-	-	(11,233)	407,877
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds	187,007	307,565	(321,840)	11,233	183,965
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>606,117</b>	<b>307,565</b>	<b>(321,840)</b>	-	<b>591,842</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Restricted Funds	5,000	561,467	(564,986)	-	1,481
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>611,117</b>	<b>869,032</b>	<b>(886,826)</b>	-	<b>593,323</b>

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	Balance at 1 January 2023 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfers in/out €	Balance at 31 December 2023 €
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Fixed asset fund	429,805	-	-	(10,695)	419,110
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds	105,341	382,269	(311,298)	10,695	187,007
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>535,146</b>	<b>382,269</b>	<b>(311,298)</b>	-	<b>606,117</b>

**VIATORES CHRISTI COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**14. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Restricted funds**

Restricted Funds	-	585,899	(580,899)	-	5,000
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>535,146</b>	<b>968,168</b>	<b>(892,197)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>611,117</b>

**15. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 €</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 €</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	407,877	<b>407,877</b>
Fixed asset investments	-	51,000	<b>51,000</b>
Current assets	1,481	391,368	<b>392,849</b>
Creditors due within one year	-	(258,403)	<b>(258,403)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>591,842</b>	<b>593,323</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	<i>Restricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	419,110	419,110
Fixed asset investments	-	51,000	51,000
Current assets	5,000	285,131	290,131
Creditors due within one year	-	(149,124)	(149,124)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>606,117</b>	<b>611,117</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	€	€
Net (deficit)/income for the period (as per Statement of Financials Activities)	<b>(17,794)</b>	75,971
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>12,032</b>	11,962
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	<b>(163)</b>	(2,178)
Increase in creditors	<b>109,279</b>	89,448
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>103,354</b>	175,203

**17. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>390,508</b>	287,953

**18. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 January 2024</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>At 31 December 2024</b>
	€	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>287,953</b>	<b>102,555</b>	<b>390,508</b>

**19. Contingent liabilities**

There were no contingent liabilities as at 31 December 2024.

**20. Capital commitments**

There were no capital commitments as at 31 December 2024.

**21. Pension commitments**

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its staff. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered pension funds. Pension costs for the year ended 31 December 2024 amounted to €7,104 (2023: €5,300). Contributions totalling € Nil (2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

- €1,890) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and included in creditors.

**22. Related party transactions**

No related party transactions took place during the year ended 31 December 2024.

**23. Post balance sheet events**

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the year end.

**24. Controlling party**

There is no ultimate controlling party. The Council Members control the day to day running of the Charity on behalf of its members.

**25. Approval of financial statements**

The financial statements were approved by the Council Members on 8 August 2025