

## The Missionary Society of St. Columban – Walking in Justice



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# Going Deeper

# The Missionary Society of St. Columban – Walking in Justice

## Prayer Opportunity One

### We Reflect

The Columbans Fathers are a missionary society of Priests. They describe themselves as:

*"A missionary society, sent to proclaim and  
witness to the good news in  
Jesus Christ of the full Christian liberation  
and reconciliation of all peoples."*

St Columban's Mission Society. 2006 [\[online\]](http://www.columban.org.au/?MID=200510271730);  
Available from URL: <http://www.columban.org.au/?MID=200510271730>

Working in cooperation with the Columban sisters and the Columban lay missionaries, Columban priests approach their work from a standpoint of solidarity with the poor and all who are unjustly marginalised.

Their solidarity with the poor means that Columbans recognise the value of genuinely walking the journey of justice, harmony and poverty within the communities where they find themselves engaged. This acknowledgement of the impact of injustice and poverty on people means that the work undertaken by Columbans is evaluated in terms of what positive effect it can have on the disadvantaged.

The Missionary Society of St. Columban provides us with an example of how supporting those who struggle for authentic participation in society and those who struggle against injustices can make a real difference.

Many schools each year get the "Columban Calendar" and teachers use this to give focus and mindfulness for the needs of others around the world. The Columbans also produce a number of magazines including 'The Far East' which many schools receive. As you come across these take some time to read further of the missionary work of the Columbans.

*" A life unlike your own can be your teacher" – St Columban*

Adapted from St Columban's Mission Society. 2006 [\[online\]](http://www.columban.org.au/?MID=200510271730); Available from URL:  
<http://www.columban.org.au/?MID=200510271730>

## **We Listen**

### **A Reading from Luke 4:16-20 (NRSV)**

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.  
The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

## **We Respond**

Take a moment to slowly reread the verse from Luke.

- Highlight the words or phrases which speak to you.

Many things bind people in our society, holding them captive –  
anger, jealousy, illness, stress, addiction!

- How are you supporting those you know who are struggling ?

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## **Digital Prayer**

Wherever his people are present so too is God.  
When we build, design or form things they are an expression of God within us.  
Film especially is often a window to the Spirit of God alive in the story it is telling.

### **Video Prayer**

Visit the following web page and watch the video clip by Juan Mann  
As you watch it consider -  
How is God present in this?  
What message does it have for me?



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vr3x\\_RRJdd4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vr3x_RRJdd4)

# The Missionary Society of St. Columban – Walking in Justice

## Prayer Opportunity Two

### We Reflect

The challenge of the Columban Missionaries to rebalance injustice, violence and inequity, is central to what the gospel demands of us.

It is the belief of Columbans that we as Church must challenge the scandals of violence and poverty caused by the way governments and institutions function.

It's a concern for justice, peace and creation which they see as central to their work. It is a call to be deeply involved in the lives of others and in the service and growth of God's reign. Ultimately it is to strive to be poor in spirit, and thirsting for a just world.

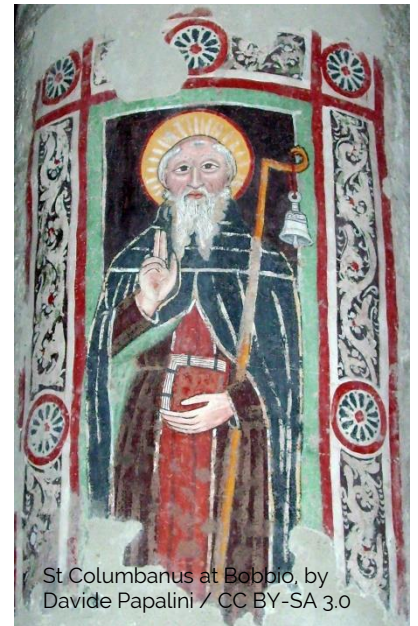
The work of the Missionary Society of St. Columban resonates with the words of Jesus;

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

*(Luke 4:18-19).*

As we reflect on justice, we too should consider ways to make relevant and real God's love in each and every context we walk and for those we walk alongside.

As it is for Columbans, our lives should reflect the importance and value of peace and justice.



St Columbanus at Bobbio, by  
Davide Papalini / CC BY-SA 3.0

## **We Listen**

### **A Reading from Matthew 25:35-40 (NRSV)**

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

## **We Respond**

Take a moment to slowly reread the verse from Matthew.

- Highlight the words or phrases which speak to you strongly.

Many things make us blind to the hungry, the thirsty and the sick.

- What are the issues that you find difficult to respond to?
  - Why do you think this is?

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# Electronic Prayer

[Visit the Prayer Candle site.](http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/lightaprayercandle)

Light a candle and spend some time praying for your intention.  
View the candles of others and as you visit another person's candle, pray their prayer also.



<http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/lightaprayercandle>

## **Prayer of St. Columban**

**O Lord take away from my soul  
whatever the enemy has planted in  
it.**

**Take away from my heart, and from  
my lips all evil.**

**Enlighten my mind and strengthen  
my will that I may serve you alone  
in deed and truth.**

**Give me, O Lord, charity, chastity and  
faith, give me whatever is profitable  
to my soul.**

**Amen**