



**Marian House Convent
100, Kingston Lane
Uxbridge UB8 3PW
Middlesex**

16th June 2020

Dear Friends of our Missions in Zambia and Cebu at St Aidan's, especially my loyal friends who support the Coffee Morning!

I begin my thank letter to you with the words of the following hymn.....' I thank my God each time I think of you and when I think of you, I pray with joy.....' (and gratitude)

To begin I would like to say a belated thank you for the last cheque I received from Andrew Maxwell for £400, proceeds from the Coffee Mornings. A large sum of money that has gone to Cebu to help feed the children in our mission there. We are all affected by the Coronavirus and in Cebu, Philippines it is particularly challenging especially for many of the people we support in our mission particularly our children. Rice has become very expensive and way beyond the reach of many people so we have used your generous donation with the feeding programme. Sister Anne told me what a great help your support has made to them, so thank you on their behalf.

I can only write this letter with so much gratitude for all the support you have given to our missions for many years now. It really began when I was on Zambia setting up a project to support orphans and children and young people with special needs. At that time there were so many needy children in Lusaka due to the AIDS pandemic. Rosina, Andrew's late wife began the coffee mornings after Mass each week, the Maxwell's and their group of loyal supporters raised literally thousands of pounds over the years for Zambia. After Rosina sadly died in 2008, her loyal friends carried on with the coffee mornings, they were both very generous with their time and with their donations to make these events so successful. When I left Zambia to take up another role in England, the coffee mornings continued so the children were continuously supported. The last development before I left Zambia was to open a provision for girls and young women who were at risk, we named this hostel Rosina Mary House because of the generous donation I received from the Maxwell's to set it up. You too have helped to support Rosina Mary House especially with feeding and education.

When I went to Cebu in 2015 you again helped to support the work I was involved in with children and young people with special needs and you have continued to support both our Zambian and Cebu missions to date.

As a parish you can be very proud of how you have supported some of the Lord's poorest and most vulnerable children, what a legacy you have left for St Aidan's. Helping others in such a way is your credible witness to Jesus loving presence in our world today. I do believe it will bring many blessings on the parish. On behalf of all those you have helped and support over the years I say well done and many thanks.

All good things have to come to an end, we look back with gratitude for all you have done as a parish to support us, you help us to go forward into the future with great hope.

I ask the Lord to bless you all, especially the loyal group of supporters of the St Aidan's Coffee Morning.

Lastly, I am very aware that you could not have continued with your fund raising activities without the support and blessing of the various Parish Priests, lastly Father Shaun, I thank them all for allowing the coffee mornings to continue and appreciate their support..

With gratitude, love and prayer

Sister Elizabeth Dawson

Sister Elizabeth Dawson