

Update from the Diocese of Calcutta

As the pandemic continues to spread, India is now one of several countries to be recorded as having the highest number of Covid-19 cases. I remain in weekly contact with my friends at the Arunima Hospice, and I'm relieved to say that all staff and children are safe and well at present. Also, I have been in contact with Bishop Paritosh Canning to share the good news of relief funds sent on behalf of members of our diocese. On Saturday 12th September, Leeanne Clarke, Altar Server from St. Finnian's Lochgelly took part in her 3rd Kilt Walk raising funds for the hospice. Due to the pandemic, Leeanne was unable to attend in the usual manner and undertook her walk at Loch Leven. She was joined by myself, a Canon (Rev Canon Christine Fraser), a Rectors Assistant (Bubbles!), and last but not least, a Priest Evangelist (Rev Gerry Dillon).

Funds were also raised from three regular donors, belonging to various denominations including the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Mormon Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

The donations sent will be used for the purchase of food and medical supplies to assist with operational costs at the Arunima Hospice. An additional £100 has also been sent to Nari Dana. The women's empowerment programme provides skills training and supports self-help groups for women and girls from poor and disadvantaged communities. During my previous visit in November 2019, I was able to return with items made by members and sell these. In turn, this meant I was able to send all profit back to the programme to assist in this vital enterprise.

Please continue to keep the people of Calcutta in your prayers.

Ross Stirling-Young

St. Finnian's, Lochgelly

