

In a spirit of mutual assistance each of the eight Irish Regions is twinned with Society members in an African country as part of the National Twinning Programme.

The Irish Regions are twinned as follows:

- **North East & Midlands Region** with **Zimbabwe**
- **East Region** with **Zambia**
- **South East Region** with **The Gambia & Tanzania**
- **South West Region** with **Nigeria**
- **Mid West Region** with **Sierra Leone**
- **West Region** with **Malawi**
- **North West Region** with **Uganda & Kenya**
- **North Region** with **Ghana & Botswana**

Each Region has a Twinning Officer who is responsible for the establishment of a Twinning Committee, which is the contact with the SVP members in the relevant countries. Twinning provides SVP members in Ireland with the opportunity to support their Vincentian brothers and sisters in Africa.



# NO BORDERS

to SVP help

The concept of mutual assistance goes back to the foundation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) in 1844.

This is encapsulated in one of the original rules of the Society which states:

*"We should love one another now and ever,  
far and near, from conference to another,  
from town to town, from nation to nation."*

In 1954 the Council General of the Society added an additional dimension to the work of SVP when it launched a Twinning Programme as a form of Christian solidarity, which helps members fulfil the universal mission of charity.

There are **no borders** when **SVP help** is requested.

### Twinning has three aims:

- Promote the establishment of new Councils and Conferences by helping them start and expand the structure of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.
- Facilitate communication between Councils, Regions and Conferences throughout the world in a spirit of understanding, friendship and solidarity.
- Help spiritually, morally and materially to continue to alleviate misery and hunger.

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to SVP help

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### SVP Twinning programme

Twinning is a direct link between Councils and Conferences in different countries. Through Twinning Vincentians share resources, experiences and mutual friendship.

These links reflect the reality that there are no borders to poverty and injustice.

# North East & Midlands Region

Twinned with Zimbabwe

## ZIMBABWE

- Population (approx): **15m**
- Life expectancy: **56 years**
- Secondary school enrolment: **50%**



The **North East & Midlands Region** (Cavan, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Westmeath) is twinned with **ZIMBABWE** and together they have formed a close spiritual connection offering friendship and support to one another.

The projects operated by the SVP in Zimbabwe and supported by the North East and Midlands Region have the primary goal of alleviating poverty and aiding people to become self-sufficient.



### NAZARETH SHELTER

The Nazareth Shelter in Chinhoi, NW of Harare, is a residential centre which aims to shelter the older members of the community. These people are marginalised and have no extended family and the shelter offers accommodation, meals and social interactions among themselves and with visiting members of the SVP.

The residential centre can accommodate 40 and accommodation is partitioned into dormitories, an ablution block, kitchen, dining room, and superintendent's accommodation. Residents include Zimbabweans and migrants from Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and South Africa.

As the building was in a poor state of repair twinning funding was allocated to the shelter.



### EDUCATION

A Conference-to-Conference "School fees to keep a Child in Education" project is supported by a Special Works Conference. This Conference funds school fees for children selected by the Society in Zimbabwe. This is a highly valued cost-effective support to local deserving families and to children who otherwise would not have the opportunity of an education.



#### For further information:

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