



missio

Today. Tomorrow. Together.

# Mission Today

Autumn 2024

World Mission Sunday

## World Mission Sunday is a blessing

**I**n my forty-three years as a missionary Priest, I have had the privilege of blessing a countless number of people on a variety of occasions.

I have also been asked to bless objects including food, rosaries, houses, cars, seeds for planting and, on one occasion, money for the casino – which I politely diverted away from the gambler, that he may resist temptation!

Blessings prepare us to receive grace and dispose us to cooperate with it. God's immense love, revealed in the crucified and risen Christ, knows no bounds. Blessings are always an expression of God's love, and 'if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 8).

World Mission Sunday is not an optional extra, nor just a duty to fulfil. A Catholic community is all the poorer for choosing not to celebrate and support the mission God has entrusted to his Church.

Our brothers and sisters in Christ across the world need our help for survival in circumstances of extreme poverty and violent rejection; in places where faith in Jesus is just beginning to take root in the hearts and minds of the people.

Our prayers and support on World Mission Sunday enable these new, young or poor Catholic communities to grow, to become self-sufficient, and to pray with and for one another. Most importantly, they enable them to come together to celebrate the Sacraments, to hear God's Word and to receive the grace we all need to be effective missionary disciples.

World Mission Sunday invites us all to celebrate the banquet of God's saving love. It is open to all, and each and every Catholic community in the world is required to celebrate it. It is a day of solidarity and communion. It is a blessing.



*Father Tony.*

Fr Anthony Chantry,  
Missio National Director

See [missio.org.uk/pray](https://missio.org.uk/pray) for the Pope's monthly prayer intentions

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**Cover:** Chuluunbaatar receives support from Sr Veronica at the House of Mercy in Mongolia. Read more on pages 10-13.

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## World Mission Sunday: 20 October 2024

Although 'mission' can mean so many things, at its very core it is quite simple. Mission is an invitation to experience God's unconditional, compassionate, life-giving love, and to want to share it with everyone, everywhere. The Holy Father often reminds us that we are all missionary by virtue of our Baptism. So what does that mean in practice?



World Mission Sunday in 2022 focused on families in Ethiopia

**I**n his message to us this year, Pope Francis tells us: 'Mission is a tireless going out to all men and women, in order to invite them to encounter God and enter into communion with him' and that 'the mission for all requires the commitment of all'.

One of the many wonderful ways to support mission is through the annual celebration of World Mission Sunday in October.

World Mission Sunday is our chance to share in love and solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion, supporting them in spreading the Good News. By giving a donation, we respond to Christ's call to share our faith in him so that all may experience God's love.

**A worldwide celebration and act of solidarity**

On 20 October this year, every Catholic community, in every country, will be sending a powerful message of faith, hope,



## WHAT IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY?

and love. Imagine – you can be a part of a global celebration, where every single person is praying in unison!

### One of three annual Papal collections

All worldwide Mass collections and every single donation supports churches, hospitals, schools, and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

**Your prayers and support on World Mission Sunday enable these new, young or poor communities to grow and become self-sufficient. Most importantly, they enable them to celebrate the Sacraments, hear God's Word, support each other, and pray with and for one another.**

World Mission Sunday is vital to the spread of the Gospel in predominately impoverished and remote areas overseas. It offers the financial assistance needed to help struggling communities survive and, ultimately, to flourish through the work of dedicated missionaries.

### Everyone gives what they can – and everyone receives

Every single Catholic parish in the world is asked to play their part through their prayers and offerings. Every person donates what they can and those who are in greatest need of support receive the most.

In 2023, Malawi contributed £15,762 to the World Mission Sunday collection, while Bolivia contributed £25,341 and Malta contributed £246,720.

**Here in England and Wales, you raised £595,648 to support much-needed infrastructure; from chapels and schools, to orphanages, clinics and dispensaries.**

**Requested by the local community, the support from Missio transforms lives. It creates a hub from which the young Church can spread the Good News of the Gospel, minister to the faithful, and deliver essential services in health and education.**

One example of this transformation is at the Lisanjala Health Clinic in Malawi. Sr Nilcéia, a missionary Sister from Brazil, lives and works with the local Malawians in this disadvantaged and remote community. Her predecessor, Sr Sonia, set up a health clinic to support around 20,000 people. However, Sr Nilcéia found she was struggling to supply enough basic medicine. Instead of fulfilling her mission of welcoming and caring for the stranger and the suffering, she was forced to turn people away. Happily,



World Mission Sunday in 2021 focused on Sr Veronica's work to build peace in Nigeria

your support on World Mission Sunday meant Sr Nilcéia could buy life-saving medications to help newborn babies and their mothers, as well as children suffering with malaria. Sr Nilcéia and her Sisters are a tangible symbol of God's love for all his children.

**This year's theme, 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet!', reminds us that we are all invited to God's table – to experience God's love, mercy, and forgiveness, and take part in a community of faith.**

God invites us to be nourished by the Sacraments, which give us the strength and grace to live our lives with courage, as instruments to transform situations of injustice.

God invites us to build communities that reflect his unconditional love for humanity, where all are welcome, and where the gifts we have received are shared and put at the service of the whole community. We are invited to share the Gospel message with others – a message that frees us from the fears that stop us living life to the full.

We are invited to take our place within this global family; to know that we are connected and united in prayer, and around the Eucharist.

Missio is responsible for World Mission Sunday through the international network of the Pontifical Mission Societies. We are proud to be the Pope's charity for world



World Mission Sunday in 2020 focused on Sr Nilcéia's work with communities in Malawi

mission, working with the global Missio family to bring the Church together in compassion and communion.

**Through Missio, you provide local faith communities with the essential support they need to become self-sufficient and flourish: local church directly helping local church!**

**Thank you for sharing the Good News of Christ's love for all throughout the world.**

**Read about the difference you can make this year on pages 10-13.**

**Scan this QR code to watch a short film: 'What is World Mission Sunday?'**



# Sunday Gospel Reflections

During the Mission Month of October, we hope these Gospel reflections ignite your heart for mission – to share God’s love with those near and far.



The Risen Jesus, Bekaa Valley in Lebanon

## Sunday 6 October 2024

*27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B*

**Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 127(128);  
Hebrews 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16**

On this first Sunday of Mission Month, let us begin by recognising the blessings that the Lord has wanted to give us since the creation of the world! The blessing of the spouses who help each other (Genesis); the blessing of family life and the happiness of walking in the ways of the Lord (Psalm); the blessing of sanctification brought by Jesus Christ, who leads us along the path of love (Hebrews); and finally, the blessing of the hearts of children who welcome the life of the kingdom of God (Mark).

During October, let us give thanks for all those who are committed to building the kingdom of justice, fraternity, mutual help, charity, and solidarity. Through them, God works to unite all of us and to help the poorest and those most in need.

Mission is about welcoming the kingdom of God in our hearts. One of Missio’s founders – Blessed Pauline Jaricot – discovered this in her life of prayer and summed it up so well: ‘Prayer is the kingdom of God within us. May our hearts be overwhelmed by the infinite love of Jesus Christ!’ Mission is also proclaiming the kingdom of God, who is always close, loving, and merciful.

Jesus says: ‘Preach as you go, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand”’. This is what must be said, first and foremost: God is near, and God has always been close to the people. And who is God? The one who is close, the one who is tender, the one who is merciful.

Let us pray that each person may find the blessing and beauty of God’s plan for them. If we welcome the kingdom of God within us, as children of God, our hearts will bear the fruits of love, mutual help, communion, and unity.

## Sunday 13 October 2024

*28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B*

**Wisdom 7:7-11; Psalm 89(90);  
Hebrews 4:12-13; Mark 10:17-30**

Throughout Mission Month, Christ calls us to follow him – to leave everything behind for the Gospel and eternal life. He wants people who are poor at heart, who seek only to live by his Word, and who pray to receive and radiate his wisdom.

Being a missionary disciple leads us to renounce the riches of this world and to choose only those that can satisfy our hearts: the riches of the Lord’s love. In today’s Psalm we implore: ‘Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!’

Once we have accepted and welcomed the Word of God in our hearts, we are dutybound to share it with those who haven’t had a chance to hear it. Isn’t that what this Sunday’s letter to the Hebrews testifies? The Word of God will be incarnated in us, so that we can bear witness to it, with and for others.

The rich man in the Gospel who seeks eternal life has not found joy, but the sadness of materialism. However, for those who have found true joy in choosing Jesus, Pope Francis reminds us that today is an opportune moment to proclaim Jesus and the joy of the Gospel: ‘The joy of the Gospel



## MISSION MONTH

fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 1).

This Mission Month, let us celebrate God's continuing call to each of us – to follow him and give of ourselves for the Gospel and the kingdom. Let us also give thanks for all those who have responded to the call to leave everything behind for the proclamation of the Gospel.

**Sunday 20 October 2024**

### WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**

**Isaiah 53:10-11; Psalm 32(33);  
Hebrews 4:14-16; Mark 10:35-45**

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for World Mission Sunday is: 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet!' (cf. Matthew 22:9).

The banquet is the wedding feast of the Son; of the One who comes to marry all humanity, and therefore wants to invite everyone to the banquet. The Bridegroom has been tested in every way. In Isaiah, he is the servant who was crushed by suffering; yet he will vindicate humanity. Thus, on the menu of this banquet, Christ offers to serve us nothing less than the salvation of our souls. His sacrifice, offered in the Holy Eucharist, is a healing grace for our wounded humanity. Indeed, we are dependent upon him to keep us alive.

Therefore, we implore the Lord in today's Psalm, as we proclaim: 'May your love be upon us, O Lord, for our hope is in you.' The

love he offers us brings compassion, mercy, and deliverance (Psalm 33). More than that, Christ offers us the gift of his life in return. We are invited to a wonderful, merciful wedding (Hebrews).

However, although we might be tempted to stay at the banquet with Jesus, the Gospels show us that it is only by going out and sharing God's love through our words, actions, and service to others, that our relationship with Jesus grows. Jesus taught his disciples that both staying with him and being sent by him, are essential to God's mission.

Pope Francis reminds us: 'We cannot preach or proclaim the kingdom of God without the inner certainty that it is all freely given, it is all grace.' This proclamation springs from knowing Jesus, and discovering that we are loved and saved. It is such a great gift that we cannot keep it to ourselves. It must be shared with our brothers and sisters who do not yet know it.

Let us invite everyone to the banquet of the Eucharist, to the wedding feast of the Lamb: this is our universal mission, *ad gentes*, to all peoples. Let us go and invite everyone to this banquet of true food, the bread of eternal life.

**Sunday 27 October 2024**

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**

**Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 125(126);  
Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52**

Like the blind beggar in the Gospel today, the earth cries out for healing, justice, and peace. In this Mission Month, we pray for the universal mission of proclaiming Jesus, the source of life and salvation for humanity.



The Word of Jesus is at work throughout the world, wherever it is proclaimed and welcomed. It heals and transforms humanity in the midst of tears and sufferings of every kind.

Pope Francis reminds us: 'Jesus is the joy. He is the God-made-man who came to us. The question, dear brothers and sisters, is therefore not *whether* to proclaim it, but *how* to proclaim it, and this "how" is joy... This is why a discontented Christian, a sad Christian, a dissatisfied, or worse still, resentful or rancorous Christian, is not credible... The Gospel has the warmth of joy' (General Audience, 15 Nov 2023).

In our currently secular world, so wounded by wars and divisions, let us respond without delay to the invitation of the Father who sent his Son to save us: 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet!' (cf. Matthew 22:9).

We are the witnesses who have met the Son; the Son who has destroyed death and made life shine. We are fed at the banquet that offers us Christ's presence and his life in abundance. At the end of every banquet, we are sent out in Christ's name: 'Go!' With the joy of having this presence within us, we set out to be his heralds in this world that is in great need of light and hope.

Today, let us know that we are called by Jesus – in person – to proclaim his Word, to bear witness to it in everyday life, to live it in justice and charity, by tenderly caring for those who suffer. This is our mission: to become seekers of the lost, oppressed, and discouraged, in order to bring them the joy of knowing that God is our loving Father.

Adapted from: Meditations on the Biblical Readings of the Holy Mass for the Missionary Month October 2024 – published by the International Secretariat of Missio's Pontifical Missionary Union

# 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet!'

cf. Matthew 22:9

**Mongolia is home to the youngest Catholic Church community in the world. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1992, missionaries ventured into this 'new' environment to live and work amongst the Mongolian people. Their desire was to support communities in great need and to share the message of Jesus with those who wanted to learn about his unconditional love.**



The youngest Catholic community in the world gathers for Mass in a traditional 'ger'

Over the past 20 years, very harsh winters have decimated the livestock nomadic herders depend upon for their survival. This, alongside the creation of new jobs due to outside investment, has meant that thousands of people have migrated from rural to urban areas. These urban areas simply do not have the infrastructure to deal with the influx of people, and many of the 'gers' (traditional round-shaped dwellings), which have sprung up on the city's outskirts, do not have access to clean water or electricity.

Today, the Catholic community is still small, numbering around 1,500 baptised Mongolians, but it is thriving. Missionaries in Mongolia prioritise respecting the local values, traditions, and culture, whilst sharing the Good News about the love of God for all people – inviting every person to encounter God in their own lives.

The Apostolic Prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Cardinal Giorgio Marengo (pictured), is the youngest member of the College of Cardinals. Two years ago marked the 30th anniversary of the rebirth of the Church in Mongolia and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Holy See.

The Cardinal explained his vision for Mongolia: '... [we have] one Mongol priest, 22 foreign missionaries and about 35 missionary Sisters. The direction of our journey is that of an ever more full and lively involvement of the baptised in the local Church. The criteria that we follow are: *depth*, that is, to give formation and deepen the faith received; *communion*, that is, living every step and every choice with a spirit of fraternity, preserving unity within the Catholic community and also in relations



with the outside world; *proclamation*, or being a Church that goes forth, continuing in the evangelising mission, offering the Gospel of Christ and whispering his message of love to every creature.'

With the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Holy See, the Holy Father was welcomed by Cardinal Marengo and the Mongolian faithful in 2023. The theme chosen for his visit was 'Hoping Together', which represented the Holy Father's support and encouragement for this small community. It was also an acknowledgement that the Mongolian Catholic Church, in its newness, as well as its unique size and remoteness, might be a sign of hope for the Universal Church.



According to Cardinal Marengo, 'missionary works have sustained the faith.' These missionary works would not be possible without your generous assistance through the work of Missio.

Challenges for the local people range from lack of employment opportunities to the harsh climate conditions. A winter in Mongolia often means the temperature will drop to -40°C. This severe and unforgiving environment affects thousands of people without shelter – especially the most vulnerable in society. Though many families depend on subsidies from the government to support their children, Mongolia's fragile economy has been terribly affected by the collapse in value of its mining exports. Therefore, missionaries are working alongside communities on a daily basis to provide spiritual support and social services to thousands of struggling people.



One of the projects supported by the global Missio network is the House of Mercy in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city. This visionary project, conceived by Cardinal Giorgio Marengo, aims to consolidate various social services under one roof.

**The House of Mercy, which welcomes people of all faiths and none, is a safe place for people who are struggling. There, missionaries and local volunteers work together to run a soup kitchen for those in need of a hot meal, as well as a first aid clinic. The centre also provides accommodation for emergency and crisis situations, supporting adults and children fleeing domestic violence who may require social workers to provide guidance and support. In addition to this, there are opportunities to receive skills training and help with studies which provide better prospects for employment.**

Chuluunbaatar (right) is one person who has benefitted from the welcoming care and love at the House of Mercy. Previously an international athlete, elected youth delegate, and physical-education specialist, Chuluunbaatar met with a terrible accident whilst trying to help someone in need.

A car was trapped in freezing water and as Chuluunbaatar was trying to help, the towrope that he was reaching for malfunctioned – horribly destroying his leg. As a result of this tragic accident, Chuluunbaatar lives with chronic pain, especially when the temperature plummets. Unable to find stable work, Chuluunbaatar became homeless and was unable to look after himself. With limited social services available in the city, Chuluunbaatar turned to the Church for support.

Chuluunbaatar shares: 'It was hard to find a place to heat my meals. Everything used to get frozen. Frozen water, frozen me.'

**In 2023, Pope Francis visited the House of Mercy and gave it his blessing, saying: 'This House of Mercy is meant to be the point of reference for a variety of charitable works... A safe haven, in other words, where people can find a listening ear and an understanding heart.'**

Chuluunbaatar has found the care he needs at the House of Mercy: 'Because of this centre, there is a light in my life. It brings light... I feel the hearts of these people. [It's a] very warm feeling... I used to be very hurt and kept thinking, what shall I do now? But there's no such thing here. I know what I will do today and tomorrow... These people support me emotionally. So, there is a chance for me to go one step up.

**'Here, nobody told me: "Hey, what are you doing here? Go away." Instead, everyone says "Hello. How are you? Come here, sit down, eat, drink tea." I think that I got connected with the world. The world is taking notice of me. The world is pulling me towards itself. The people of the world are coming to support me emotionally. They are pulling me up. I am very happy. I want to say, "Thank you, world!"'**

With your help, Missio has been supporting missionaries and the Church in Mongolia since the very beginning. Later to become the first Bishop of Mongolia, Fr 'Wens' Padilla left his home in the Philippines in 1992 to bring the message of Jesus to Mongolian communities.

**As well as supporting the training of the first Mongolian Priest, Missio has helped the Pastoral Office translate Church texts into the local language and continues to support the training of lay catechists. Additionally, education, healthcare and spiritual formation are all supported through the Missio network – reaching out to those most in need, and inviting everyone to know the love of God.**



We all have a part to play in igniting God's love. This World Mission Sunday, we ask you to join us, so that together we can extend God's loving invitation to every person. Your prayers and support on World Mission Sunday enable new, young or poor communities to grow and to become self-sufficient. Most importantly, they enable these communities to join together to celebrate the Sacraments, to hear God's Word, to support each other, and to unite in prayer with one another and with us – their global family.

*We would like to thank Catholic Mission (Missio) in Australia for kindly sharing their material with us.*

**You can enable missionaries in Mongolia, and throughout the world, to go and invite everyone to the banquet of the Lord by visiting [missio.org.uk/wmsdonate](https://missio.org.uk/wmsdonate)**

# The Holy Father's message



This is an abridged version of the Holy Father's message for World Mission Sunday 2024. The full text, with references, is available at [missio.org.uk/wms](https://missio.org.uk/wms)

## 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet!'

cf. Matthew 22:9

### Dear brothers and sisters!

The theme I have chosen for this year's World Mission Sunday is from the parable of the wedding banquet (cf. Matthew 22:1-14).

### 'Go and invite!': Mission as a tireless going out to invite others to the Lord's banquet

In the parable, the king's command to his servants includes two verbs at the heart of mission: 'to go out' and 'to invite'.

Mission is a tireless going out to all men and women, to invite them to encounter God and enter into communion with him. Jesus Christ went out in search of the lost sheep of the people of Israel and desired to go even further, to reach even the most distant sheep (cf. John 10:16). Both before and after his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples, 'Go!', thus involving them in his own mission (cf. Luke 10:3; Mark 16:15). The Church, faithful to the mission received from the Lord, will continue to go to the ends of the earth, to

set out over and over again, without ever growing weary or losing heart in the face of difficulties and obstacles.

I thank all those missionaries who, in response to Christ's call, have left everything behind to bring the Good News to places where people have not yet received it, or received it only recently.

Indeed, every Christian is called to take part in this universal mission by living out the Gospel in their daily lives. 'It is truly tragic that today Jesus keeps knocking on the door, but from within, so that we will let him out! Often, we end up being an "imprisoning" Church which does not let the Lord out, which keeps him as "its own", whereas the Lord came for mission and wants us to be missionaries' (Address to the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life Conference, 18 February 2023).

In the parable, the servants are told not only to 'go', but also to 'invite'. The servants conveyed the king's invitation with urgency, but also with great respect and kindness. Our mission to bring the Gospel to all creation must imitate the One whom we are preaching about.

### 'To the marriage feast': The eschatological and Eucharistic dimension of the mission of Christ and the Church

Instead of the various 'banquets' of consumerism, selfish comfort, the accumulation of wealth, and individualism, the Gospel calls everyone to the divine banquet, where joy, sharing, justice, and fraternity in communion with God, and with others, prevail.

This fullness of life, which is Christ's gift, is anticipated in the banquet of the Eucharist, which the Church celebrates at the Lord's command, in memory of him. The invitation to everyone is fundamentally linked to the invitation to the Eucharistic table.

In preparation for the Jubilee 2025, I encourage all to deepen their commitment to take part in the celebration of Mass and to pray for the Church's mission of evangelisation. Daily prayer and the Eucharist in particular make us pilgrims and missionaries of hope, journeying towards everlasting life in God, towards the nuptial banquet that God has prepared for all his children.

### 'Everyone': The universal mission of Christ's disciples in the fully synodal and missionary Church

'This is the heart of mission: "all", excluding no one. Mission is born from the heart of Christ in order that he may draw all to himself' (Address to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Missionary Societies [Missio], 3 June 2023). Today, in a world torn apart by divisions and conflicts, Christ's Gospel remains the gentle, yet firm, voice that calls individuals to encounter one another, to recognise that they are brothers and sisters, and to rejoice in harmony amid

diversity. In our missionary activities we are asked to preach the Gospel to all: 'Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, [we] should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 14).

The parable of the banquet tells us that the least of our brothers and sisters, those marginalised by society, are the special guests of the king. The wedding feast remains always open to all, since God's love for each of us is immense and unconditional.

The mission for all requires the commitment of all. Consequently, close missionary cooperation within the Universal Church is ever more urgent and necessary. In accordance with the Second Vatican Council and my Predecessors, I recommend to all dioceses throughout the world the service of Missio [the Pontifical Mission Societies]. Missio is the primary means 'by which Catholics are imbued from infancy with a truly universal and missionary spirit and for the effective collecting of funds for all the missions, each according to its needs' (*Ad Gentes*, 38). For this reason, the collections of World Mission Sunday are entirely destined to the universal fund of solidarity, which Missio then distributes, in the Pope's name, for the needs of all the Church's missions. Let us pray that the Lord may guide us and help us to be a more synodal and a more missionary Church.

Let us go forth to bring to everyone the invitation of the King, our Saviour. Holy Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us!

+ Francis



# Setting hearts ablaze in Kenya

**'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'**  
cf. Luke 24:13-35

For World Mission Sunday in 2023, we featured the work of Sister Mary and Linet in Kenya's largest 'slum' – Kibera. Together, they live out their faith by supporting the local community: bringing the love and hope of Jesus to situations of extreme poverty and injustice.

**S**r Mary knows that the poverty in Kibera brings many problems along with it, such as malnourishment, addiction, and abuse. So she works hard to connect with others, to inspire and motivate them to bring God's love to those who need it. She explained:

'In Kibera, you will find prostitution, or children initiated in things you would never imagine. And there is poverty, of course... It's important to be a bridge. I live here with them. I don't have the material things to offer, but I can listen, I can pray for them, because our work is also prayer. And it's important to be able to connect with people. If I am tired or down-hearted I find strength in the heart of Jesus.'

Sr Mary works alongside Linet, who, as well as raising her own children, fosters children who are at risk from harm. Seven years ago, a distraught eleven-year-old – Sharon – sought Linet out for protection from men trying to take advantage of her.



Through your support of World Mission Sunday in 2023, you have been able to provide education and training to many young people who had very few opportunities to thrive.

Recently, Sr Mary wanted us to share with you: 'Linet's first child joined secondary school today and one of the daughters she rescued, Sharon, will be taking a hair and beauty course. A good number of students from Kibera are back at school with your help.'

Despite the many ongoing challenges for the people of Kibera, Sr Mary encourages them to never lose hope. She remains grateful for the outpouring of support she has received from you, through Missio – both spiritually and financially: 'Believe me, your help is touching and transforming lives... I thank God always for the gift of

partnership and the spirit of solidarity that I have experienced. To God be all the glory.'

Please support our work by praying and donating whatever you can. World Mission Sunday is a lifeline for missionaries, like Sr Mary, who bring the love and hope of Jesus to situations of extreme poverty and injustice.

**DID YOU KNOW?** In much of the developing world, many public services, such as hospitals and schools, are run by the Catholic Church. The global Missio network is the only Catholic charity which supports all of the 40% of the Universal Church currently in need of support from the rest of the Church family.

# 'As long as we have food, we will share it!'

**The Sisters of the Forsaken Jesus are inviting everyone to God's banquet in Lebanon**

Bordering with both Syria and Israel, Lebanon is sadly no stranger to violence and instability. In many areas, people are traumatised by the constant threat of rockets and gunfire, and thousands of refugees fleeing conflict have escaped over the borders. Disturbingly, armed conflict is brewing within Lebanon itself. With the ongoing economic crisis and threats to agriculture, hunger and job loss are a reality for many.



In Baalbek, many families grapple with poverty, lack of infrastructure, and poor sanitation. Young people have little hope for the future, and many elderly and disabled people struggle to survive without practical help.

Amidst these difficulties, missionaries like Sr Jovanna of the Sisters of the Forsaken Jesus are making a difference. Supported by donations from the global Missio network, they offer compassion and practical assistance to the community, regardless of background or belief. They are committed to letting everyone know that they are not alone.

**Thanks to your generous donations and prayers, Missio can support Sr Jovanna and her Sisters in bringing help and hope to families in great need.**

Their projects include helping to cover healthcare costs and transport for hospital appointments for people who are sick or living with long-term illnesses and disabilities. They also provide financial support for young people to complete their education. Sr Jovanna explains:

'With the economic crisis, it is really hard for young people... We are dedicated to helping those most in need to complete their studies.'

The Sisters have also started 'Tuesday Meals', a weekly initiative to cook and share meals with families in need of hope and friendship. Sr Jovanna continues:

'We prepare delicious food for older people and families. Two Sisters deliver hot food to those who are sick, elderly, or who struggle to cook for themselves because of physical or mental disabilities.'



**'Our aim is to support and share a bit of love and care with families that are in real need. As long as we have food for ourselves we will always share it, by God's grace!'**

Sr Jovanna wants everyone to know they are invited to God's banquet, to take part in a community of faith and share in the love, compassion, and mercy of knowing Christ. She says:

**'We remain loyal to our mission by keeping families and youths as our priority. We dedicate ourselves to doing everything possible to support and help them, preserving their dignity and hope.'**

'We asked for your help, trusting the words of our Lord, who said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). On behalf of all the people we walk alongside, we thank you and all your donors for your support. We ask our Lord to award you many blessings in return.'

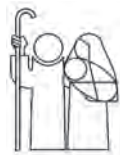
*We would like to thank Missio Aachen for kindly sharing their materials with us.*

**You can support missionaries everywhere by donating to Missio on World Mission Sunday: [missio.org.uk/donate](https://missio.org.uk/donate)**



# The breaking of bread

**Fr Gerry Hastie MHM, Vicar General of St Joseph's Missionary Society, shares his reflection on the theme for this year's World Mission Sunday:**



In 2005, when I was a young(er) missionary, my mum, brother and his wife came to visit me in Panyangara, Karamoja in northeastern Uganda, where I was based. The people of Karamoja have a great respect for elders, and within a short time of my mum arriving, a family came to greet her and invite her for a meal in their home.

The date was set and a few days later we arrived at their home – but there was a problem. Traditional homesteads in Karamoja consist of round huts built in a

circle around a *kraal*, where the animals are kept at night. Each group of family homes is fenced in by tightly-packed stakes – over a foot deep – and the homes are accessed by a gap that can only be got through by crawling. The thick fence, and small gap, offers protection from the strong scorching winds in the dry season and from 'raiding parties' from neighbouring districts.

My mum had two gammy knees and it quickly became clear – after a few valiant attempts – that there was no way she was

going to be able to crawl through the gap in the fence to enter the home. The family were undeterred. Following the densely packed fence around the perimeter of the home, we entered through the gateway the livestock used and came to the back fence, as it was thinner here.

The family then pulled a section of the fence apart for my mum to walk into the compound of their home. We then all sat on stools arranged in a circle under a shade. The pot was brought and – from the oldest to the youngest – we stretched out our hands to break a piece from the sorghum bread mixed with sweetened ghee.

This year Pope Francis has chosen as the theme for World Mission Sunday, 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet!' (cf. Matthew 22:9). He writes: 'Mission is a tireless going out to all men and women, in order to invite them to encounter God and to enter into communion with him.'

Jesus, again and again in the Gospels, is seen eating with others – with his disciples, with tax collectors and sinners – and he uses the image of the meal to describe the kingdom of God.

**Jesus shows us that God desires everyone to share at his table – we are invited not because of anything we have done or not done, but simply because God loves us. Our task, as followers of Jesus, is to continue this mission: to go out and invite – reaching out especially to those who find themselves on the margins, experiencing exclusion and rejection, to those who have not yet heard the Good News – to break down the fences that separate us, so that all may have the opportunity to sit at the one table and be nourished by the One Bread.**

We remain grateful to all those who have manifested God's love by opening their doors and inviting our missionaries into



Fr Ignatius MHM in a Karamojong home

their homes and communities to share a meal with them. Jesus is recognised in the breaking of bread.

In the last twelve months, ten of our young missionaries have completed their training and have been appointed to missions in Pakistan, Cameroon, Malaysia, the Philippines, Uganda, South Sudan, India, and South Africa. As they seek to witness to the One they have encountered in the breaking of bread, and invite others to share in the joy of that same encounter, please keep them in your prayers.

What fences are we being invited to tear apart to ensure that no one is made to feel excluded from the banquet of the Lord?

For Mill Hill Missionaries news, please visit [millhillmissionaries.com](http://millhillmissionaries.com) or follow them on Facebook: @MillHillsocialcommunications



# Mission Masses: One heart, one body in Christ

**W**e have had wonderful opportunities to meet supporters and volunteers through our special diocesan Mission Masses across England and Wales this year. From Cardiff to Newmarket, Lancaster to Portsmouth, you have joined us in celebration and thanksgiving for mission and missionaries throughout the world.

In Salford, Fr Bernie Luna MHM expressed gratitude for the 88-year relationship between Mill Hill Missionaries and Missio, and for all Red Box supporters. He thanked volunteers for their dedication, capturing the universality of missionary work when he quoted:

**‘Kindness is an action that the blind can see and the deaf can hear...’**

In Northampton, Fr Anthony Chantry, Missio’s National Director, addressed worries about the Church’s future, reminding us that it is God’s mission and God knows what to do! Young supporter, Talia (pictured with her mother, Martha) summarised:

**‘He spoke about how we’re not alone and don’t need to worry because there are so many other people around the world with faith.’**

In Clifton, which held a series of Masses across its new pastoral areas, Diocesan Director Fr Gary Brassington reminded us that we are one global family in Christ.



He asked us to consider the Church in areas where it is poor or oppressed, stressing that:

**‘...those people are part of the same Church that we are: the same family, the same body in Christ.’**

We give thanks for every supporter and volunteer, and for the chance to meet, thank, and journey with you. Coming together as one family in Christ has strengthened our mission and reminded us of the amazing support we have across England and Wales.

We would love to see you at our Mission Masses and events. Find one near you at [missio.org.uk/mission-masses-and-events](https://missio.org.uk/mission-masses-and-events) or call us on 020 7821 9755.

# Children are missionaries, too!



**M**ission Together is the children’s branch of Missio. In England and Wales it has an important task: to help children realise that each and every one of them is called to share God’s great love with other children throughout the world.

Our free resources support the mission of Catholic education through easy-to-use catechetical and liturgical materials for schools.

In addition to providing assemblies for teachers and pupils to lead, volunteers visit schools to promote understanding of God’s global Church family, and encourage pupils to be ‘children helping children’ through prayer and sharing. Our school supporters and volunteers raise essential funds each year to support Missio’s overseas children’s projects.



If you would like to find out more or get free school resources, visit [missiontogether.org.uk](https://missiontogether.org.uk) for primary and [missio.org.uk/secondary](https://missio.org.uk/secondary) for secondary





# Who is my neighbour?

We sometimes hear people complaining about their ‘noisy neighbours’, meaning the family who lives next door to them. In the Greek language the word ‘neighbour’ means one ‘who comes alongside someone.’ In other words, someone who is near to you physically or spatially.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), it is the Samaritan who ‘is next to’ the wounded man and who cares for him. The Samaritan was, according to Jesus, a neighbour to the man.

So a neighbour, in the literal sense of the word, is the person who is next to you at any given moment; whether on the train or bus, in the shopping centre, in the queue at the Post Office or checkout, and so on.

That person could be a Muslim, a Jew, a Hindu, a Christian, a person of no faith, or a person of a different culture.

Jesus says: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’, and, as the old proverb says ‘Charity (love) begins at home’. It begins with next door neighbours (noisy or otherwise!) and those who live or are near you, but, as Jesus would say, it ends with reaching out to those far away.

## Father Peter

You can write to Fr Peter at:  
41 Victoria Road, Formby,  
Liverpool L37 1LW

# In loving memory

When we ask a Priest to celebrate Mass for a special intention it is customary to make a donation – a ‘Mass offering’ – which helps towards his upkeep and the upkeep of the parish.

This is also a wonderful way to support missionaries and Parish Priests overseas; especially in areas where war, famine, and natural disasters mean that they have no stable income.

Many of our supporters send their Mass offerings to Priests overseas via Missio and you might like to send us your intentions too, especially in November when we remember in prayer family and friends who have gone before us.

If you would like to send a Mass offering to a missionary overseas in remembrance of a relative or loved one, please complete your details and the Masses section on the form opposite.

Or, if you prefer to make a Mass offering using a credit or debit card, please contact us on 020 7821 9755 during office hours.

## In Remembrance

We remember all living and deceased supporters of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries at Mass in our chapels. Mill Hill Priests also offer Mass for the deceased in November, and remember them at Mass every Sunday and in their Daily Office.

You can find the names in our Books of Remembrance at [missio.org.uk/book-of-remembrance](https://missio.org.uk/book-of-remembrance)

Please fill in the form below and return it in the **freepost envelope attached** (Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU)

Your details (PLEASE PRINT) \*Required fields Autumn 2024

Title\*  
First Name\* Surname\*  
Address\*  
Postcode\*  
Tel Parish  
Email

- ☐ Please send me the monthly **Missio eNewsletter** (provide email address above)
- ☐ I want Missio to treat all donations I have made for this tax year and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years as **Gift Aid** donations until I notify Missio otherwise. I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I will notify Missio if I want to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on my Income and/or Capital Gains.

Date **N.B. Please ensure the box is ticked.**

**SUPPORT**

☐ I enclose a donation of £ (please make cheques/postal orders payable to Missio-Mill Hill)

☐ I enclose a donation of £ towards the training of future Priests and Sisters (please make cheques/postal orders payable to Missio)

You can set up a Direct Debit or give by Card overleaf, or online at [missio.org.uk](https://missio.org.uk) or call us on 020 7821 9755 (office hours).

☐ I would like to become a volunteer for Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries in my parish

☐ Please tick if you do not require a receipt

☐ Please send me information on how to leave a gift in my Will

**MASS**

☐ I would like (please state number) Mass/es offered for the following intentions (please use a separate sheet if necessary):

Intentions:

☐ I enclose £ (the recommended offering is £10 or more per Mass; please make cheques payable to Missio Mass a/c or see over to pay by card)

☐ Please tick if you do not require a receipt

If you would like to receive a Mass Card, please contact us on 020 7821 9755

I would like to pay by: ☐ Visa/Mastercard ☐ Maestro/Delta/Visa ☐ CAF Charity Card

**Card No\***

Name on card (PLEASE PRINT)\*

Expiry date\*   /   Issue No   MAESTRO ONLY

Signature\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date\* \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please tick if you **do not** require a receipt

\*REQUIRED FIELDS

I wish to pay Missio the sum of (*please tick*):

☐ £5      ☐ £10      ☐ £50      ☐ £100      ☐ Other £

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Twice yearly ☐ Annually

On the:  5th day of the month  15th day of the month  28th day of the month

Starting on month



### Instruction to your bank or building society to pay Direct Debit



Please fill in the whole form using a ballpoint pen and send to:  
**Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU**

**Name and full postal address of your bank or building society**

To: The Manager Bank/building society

Address

Service user number

2	5	4	5	8	8
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Reference (for office use)

Postcode

Branch sort code

Bank/building society account number

Branch sort code

Name of account holder(s)

Instruction to your Bank/building society: Please pay Missio Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Missio and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature of account holder(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

# Play your part in a love that lasts forever

A legacy gift left to Missio enabled the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph (FMSJ) – also known as Mill Hill Sisters – to buy a second-hand eleven-seater van. Their novices had been relying on public transport which, in eastern Africa, can be extremely insecure, unreliable, and at times, very dangerous for young women.

The Sisters reach out to people who are really struggling in life. They share God's love with them through health projects, schools, and care centres which serve an estimated 50,000 people in Kenya and Uganda every year.

Through Missio you can pass on the gifts of faith, hope, and love to future generations.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Missio you will be helping future generations of missionaries to share God's immense love, revealed in the crucified and risen Christ, with our sisters and brothers in greatest need. You will also be enabling future



generations to build and sustain their own faith communities. Why? **Because everyone deserves to hear the Gospel and to receive the Good News that God loves them.**

**To receive simple information on how to remember Missio and/or the Mill Hill Missionaries in your Will, or to speak to someone in confidence and with no obligation, please call Angelica on 020 7821 9755 or email: [legacy@missio.org.uk](mailto:legacy@missio.org.uk)**

You can also visit [missio.org.uk/legacies](https://missio.org.uk/legacies) or complete the form on page 25 and tick the box in the yellow section. Scan this QR code to watch a short 'thank you' film from the Sisters.







**This World Mission Sunday will you help dedicated missionaries, like those in Mongolia, to invite everyone to the banquet of God's love?**

**You can make a donation:**



**Send a cheque:** Make it payable to Missio and post it to **World Mission Sunday, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU**



**Give online:**  
Visit [missio.org.uk/donate](https://missio.org.uk/donate) and select 'World Mission Sunday'



**Give via text:** Text **MISSIO 5** (to donate £5) or **MISSIO 10** (to donate £10) to **70085**  
*This costs £5 or £10 plus your standard rate message*



**Give via phone:** Call us on **020 7821 9755** during office hours to donate with your credit or debit card



**Bank transfer:**  
**Account Name:** Missio  
**Sort Code:** 16-00-16  
**Account Number:** 10824230  
**Reference:** WMS + your postcode

[missio.org.uk](https://missio.org.uk)

**missio**  
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

# Mission Today

## Mission Today

23 Eccleston Square,  
London SW1V 1NU

Tel: **020 7821 9755** (office hours)

Email: [redbox@missio.org.uk](mailto:redbox@missio.org.uk)

## Missio

Web: [missio.org.uk](https://missio.org.uk)

Reg. Charity No. 1056651

## Mill Hill Missionaries

Web: [millhillmissionaries.com](https://millhillmissionaries.com)

Reg. Charity No. 220690



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