

Assembly notes:

What is Missio?



SLIDE ONE – HOLDING SLIDE INTRODUCTION FOR STAFF

Missio is proud to be the Pope's charity for world mission.

We ignite God's love by helping missionaries work alongside communities globally that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief.

Missio England and Wales is part of Missio's worldwide network.

We ask the Catholic community across the world to unite through prayer and sharing so God's justice, mercy, and love may be revealed to everyone.

By raising or donating funds and praying with students, you play a vital part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future. You help us train local people around the world to form and sustain communities of faith, so the work of the Church in the world can take place. This work includes: education, healthcare, community cohesion, catechesis, advocacy and peace-building.



SLIDE TWO

Today we are going to hear about the work of Missio.

Has anybody heard of Missio?

Does anybody recognise Missio's collection box?

Some may have seen a Red Box at home, in school, or in church.

Missio is the Catholic Church's official charity for world mission.

Before we go any further, let's consider what comes to mind when we hear the word 'church'.

- Hands up if the *first thing* you think of is a building in your city/town/village?
- Hands up if the *first thing* you think of is a community of Christians joining together to pray?

Neither is wrong. We attach the name 'church' to sacred buildings where people gather to worship, but the name is not so much given to the benches and bricks, as to the people that gather inside.

We must always remember that the Church is far more than a building; it is a culturally diverse, global community of Christians, united in their efforts to live and love as Jesus did.

[Click to reveal image of Catholic communities overseas - our Universal Church family.](#)



Now we are clearer about what 'Church' means, what about the word 'mission'?

Possible responses: an important task, a goal, a difficult aim.

One way to understand the word 'mission' is by going back to its original meaning. Mission comes from the ancient Latin word, *Mittere*, meaning to send.

As children of God and followers of Christ, we are sent into our world to share God's love with everyone, everywhere. This is the mission Jesus left us.

SLIDE THREE

This would be difficult to do on our own, but the quote on screen by Pope Francis reminds us that this is a mission we share with others.

'Jesus invites us to build together a civilization of love, as his disciples and missionaries, here and now.' Pope Francis

Missio asks Catholic communities around the world – like those on screen and our own – to pray for, share with, and stand alongside those who are struggling because of poverty, turmoil, or conflict.

In response, even Catholic communities that struggle themselves pray and share to help others in need.



SLIDE FOUR

How do you think Missio uses the money shared by Catholics and Catholic communities? What kind of projects does Missio help to run?

The photos here – all taken at Missio funded projects - provide clues.

By working together with Catholic communities like ours, Missio supports the education of tens of thousands of children, helps to run clinics, feeding programmes, children's homes, after-school clubs, training for work schemes. It builds chapels and parish centres.

Missio also supports and trains overseas missionaries, Priests and Sisters, who often risk their lives to set up and run projects like these in some of the most difficult and dangerous places in the world.



Optional Extension Task:

Let's take a closer look at what Missio does, thanks to supporters like us.

Show one of the films below, available to view via the Missio website missio.org.uk/films

- **Red Box in Kenya** provides an overview of Missio's work in Kenya and features students and Sisters at Cardinal Maurice Otunga Girls Empowerment Centre, Nairobi.
- **Missio in Malawi** highlights the support offered at the Pirimiti Boys Boarding House.
- **Red Box in Cambodia** focuses on the Lindalva Centre and School and the work of Sr Eulie.

Why does Missio support projects like these?

Whose example does Missio and its supporters follow?

SLIDE FIVE

They follow the example of Jesus, who taught us that all people – whatever our differences – are made in God’s image. So they must be treated with dignity and have what they need to flourish.

Throughout his ministry Jesus encouraged people to see themselves as children of one loving God in heaven.

Can you name the prayer that reminds us of this?

The Our Father (The Lord’s Prayer).

[Click to reveal scripture](#)

*‘Jesus said to his followers, “When you pray, say:
Father, may your name be held holy.
your kingdom come;
give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
For we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.
And do not put us to the test.”’ Luke 11:2-4*

The Gospel reading on screen recalls the time Jesus first taught this prayer to his followers. The words sound a little different to the *Our Father* we say today, but the main lessons remain.

Can you identify what these lessons are?

Possible responses: to pray, to honour God, to build God’s kingdom of justice and mercy, to recognise that all people are children of one God.

Jesus did not teach us to say ‘my’ Father, but ‘our’ Father. We are to recognise ourselves as one family – God’s family. God is the creator of all people, and God’s mercy and love should reach everyone, everywhere.

This is what Missio helps us to support. This is the civilization of love Pope Francis encourages us to build and the kingdom that Jesus speaks of.

As we conclude our time together, let’s think about what we can do to build that world here and now.

[Click to reveal the following suggestions.](#)

- Inspired by Jesus’s words, think about how we are all connected to each other as children of one heavenly Father. Challenge thinking that divides people. Look for ways to work together, not apart.
- Raise money for Missio and support our family around the world who live with poverty and hardship.
- Pray for those in need, those close to home and those far away. In a way beyond understanding, prayer connects us to one another and to God, our source of hope and love.

Inspired by this last suggestion, let us say together our closing prayer.

[Click to reveal The Lord’s Prayer.](#)

