

# Mission Together

Red Box Appeal and Children's Liturgy – Notes for Catechists



## What is happening in church today?

This weekend, your parish has an appeal from **Missio** and the **Mill Hill Missionaries** about their work bringing the message of God's love to those living in poverty and turmoil overseas. In England and Wales they are known by their distinctive red collection box.

## What is Missio?

**Missio** is the Pope's official charity for overseas mission. Through **Missio** you provide practical and spiritual care in 157 countries, as well as train local priests, nuns and lay leaders to form and sustain communities of faith.

## Who are the Mill Hill Missionaries?

**The Mill Hill Missionary Society** is the only men's mission society founded in England and Wales. Today its priests and brothers come from around the world. They travel to some of the most remote places to bring the love of Christ to those most in need, both spiritually and materially. **Missio UK** and the **Mill Hill Missionaries** work in partnership so that more people can learn of and experience God's love for them.

## What is Mission Together?

**Mission Together** is the junior branch of Missio. It encourages children to share God's love with young people living in poverty overseas through their prayers and generosity – as 'children helping children'.

In England and Wales children collect for **Mission Together** in their own little red boxes. These funds are used solely to support children's projects, so that children living in poverty and turmoil have access to safety, shelter, education, spiritual care, healthcare and nutrition.

Through **Mission Together**, children overseas discover that they are not forgotten – there are other children who care about them, pray for them and share what they have with them. At the same time, children here are reminded that Jesus wants us all to be missionaries of God's love.

Administered by the Catholic Church, **Mission Together's** universally inclusive projects tend to the needs of all children, regardless of their background or beliefs.



To order our free children's Red Boxes, find out more about our projects, and view our resources, visit [missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk)

*The Mill Hill Missionaries' motto is 'To love and to serve.'*

In the Children's liturgy and activity overleaf, children will learn how Jesus – our Servant King – showed us how to love and serve everyone, everywhere.

[missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk)

Charity No: 1056651

# Red Box Appeal – Children's Liturgy

## Opening Prayer

Dear Lord,

**Thank you for sending us Jesus, our Servant King.**

**Help us to be like him, by loving and serving others. Amen.**

In our opening prayer we called Jesus 'our King'. But Jesus isn't like other kings. To help us understand how Jesus is different, let's begin by describing a typical king.

**Ask the children:** Are kings rich or poor? Do they live in a house or a palace? Do they wear rags or expensive robes? Do kings wash their own robes or do they have servants to do their washing?

**Sum up** that kings are usually very rich, live in grand palaces, wear expensive clothes and have lots of servants.

**Explain** that Jesus is our King, but he is very different to the type of king we have just described. Jesus was born in a stable to poor parents and never had much money. He never lived in a palace nor wore expensive clothes. And Jesus didn't have servants, but instead he spent his life serving others, especially people who are poor, sick and lonely.

**Ask:** Why do you think Jesus, our God and King, chose not to have servants but instead to serve others; especially those in need of help?

**Jesus, our God and King, serves others because he loves and cares for all his children very much.** Let's listen to some of Jesus' words now, paying special attention to what Jesus is asking us, his friends, to do.

## Bible Reading

'Jesus said, 'This is what I want you to do. Love one another as I have loved you.

The greatest love a person can show is to give up everything for his friends. You are my friends .... And I send you on a mission.

Go and do good...This is what I ask of you; love one another.'

(Adapted from NJB, John 15: 12-14, 16-17)

## Reflection

**Ask:** In the reading we heard the word 'mission'. Do you know what a mission is?

**Explain** that a mission is a very special job. Jesus has given us a very special and important mission to love one another and to share that love with all people, everywhere.

**Ask: How can we do that?** Children will understand that we are asked to love and care for those near us – in our families, school, or at home – by sharing, being kind and forgiving.

**Explain** that some people think the mission is so important that they leave their homes and families.

But you don't have to be a grown-up to bring God's love around the world! There are lots of ways you can be mini-missionaries.

**Ask:** How could you help other children around the world who are poor, sick, or frightened?

*Responses could include: through our prayers, fundraising, by becoming friends.*



# Red Box Appeal – Children's Liturgy

By supporting a very special charity called **Mission Together**, you can pray for, share with, and be the friends of other children around the world who need help.

**If you have one, hold up the *Mission Together* red collection box. Boxes can be ordered for free via our website [missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk)**

**Encourage** the children to consider how they can raise money to put into the **Mission Together** red box to help provide hospitals, schools, food, and homes for children in some of the poorest places in the world.

**Remind** the children that being a **Mission Together** missionary isn't just about helping people through raising money. Missionaries pray for others, too. Through prayer we ask God to be close to people who struggle and to strengthen us to do His work on earth.

**Hand out the *Mission Together* prayer cards and say the prayer together** (see above). These can be ordered for free via our website [missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk)

*Maybe you could ask your Parish Priest if the children could read out the **Mission Together** prayer at the end of Children's Liturgy when they return to church, or during the Prayers of the Faithful.*

## Suggested Activity: To Love and to Serve

**This activity helps children to think about the ways they can share in the mission of bringing God's love to people close to home and far away.**

Provide each child with a copy of the '**To Love and to Serve**' Worksheet (see overleaf).

On the left of the sheet ask them to draw a picture of some of their friends, brothers or sisters, who they will love and serve in the days ahead e.g. helping them to learn something new.

On the right, ask children to think of ways they can also love and serve children living in poverty overseas e.g. praying for their wellbeing, learning about the children's lives and the places they live, raising money for **Mission Together** so these children can go to school, not go hungry, be cared for and kept safe.

*The cartoons represent real children who have featured in **Mission Together** campaigns. To find out more about how they have been supported, please visit 'Our Campaigns' pages on the **Mission Together** website.*

### Mission Together Prayer

**M**ay all children  
**I**n the world  
**S**hare love  
**S**hare friendship and live  
**I**n the peace  
**O**f God's love  
**N**ow and forever  
Amen



### For this activity children will need:

- One copy each of the 'To Love and to Serve' Worksheet.
- Coloured pencils

### Answers to the questions on the activity sheet:

*Sri Lanka is famous for growing tea leaves.*

*Africa is a continent.*

**Mission Together** is part of the worldwide Missio network

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[missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk)

Charity No. 1056651



Soriya, Ajay, and Anna are all real children who have featured in Mission Together campaigns. Find out more about our overseas projects by visiting [missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk)

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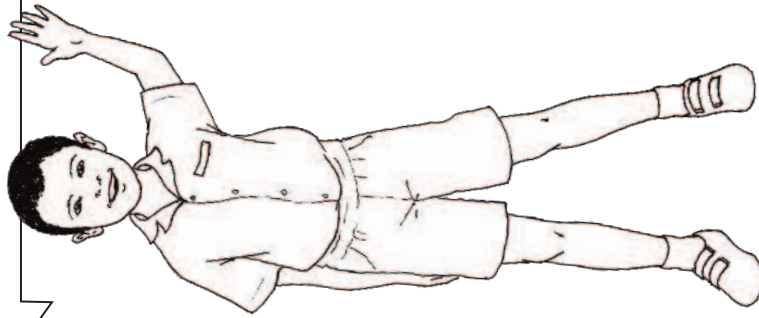
Draw below a picture of your friends, brothers, or sisters who you will love and serve this week.

Cambodia is very sunny, and we love bright colours. Please colour me and all the Mission Together children in.



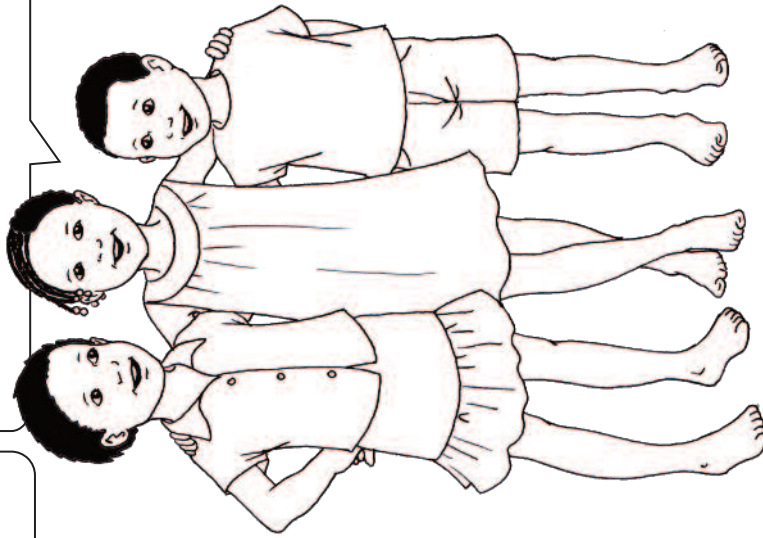
Soriya, Cambodia

Sri Lanka famously grows leaves that make a popular drink. You might have enjoyed a cup today! What is it?



Ajay, Sri Lanka

Zambia is in Africa. Is Africa a country or a continent?



Anna and her friends, Zambia

I will love and serve my friends, brothers, or sisters this week by ...

I will love and serve children like Soriya, Ajay and Anna by ...