

# Assembly notes

## *What is Missio?*



### SLIDE ONE – HOLDING SLIDE

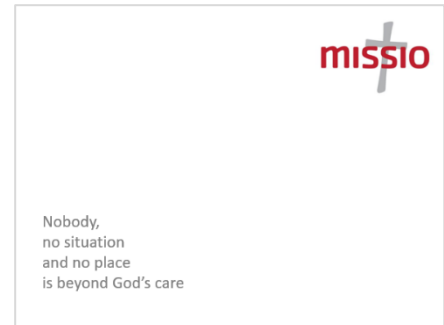
#### INTRODUCTION FOR STAFF

*Missio is the Catholic Church's official charity for overseas mission. We provide practical relief and spiritual care in places of poverty, conflict, and turmoil.*

*Missio England and Wales is part of Missio's worldwide network. Through the concept of Universal Solidarity, Missio asks the Catholic community across the world to unite through prayer and sharing so that God's justice, mercy, and love may be revealed to all.*

*Through provision of grants and our network of prayer, Missio empowers and trains local people overseas to form and sustain communities of faith, so that the vital work of the Church in the world can take place. This vital work includes: education, healthcare, community cohesion, catechesis, advocacy and peace-building.*

*Although Missio is a Catholic charity, its projects support all those in need, regardless of background or belief.*



### SLIDE TWO

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

**Q** - Has anybody heard of Missio?

**Q** - Does anybody recognise Missio's collection box?

*Some may have a Red Box at home, in school, or at the back of church.*

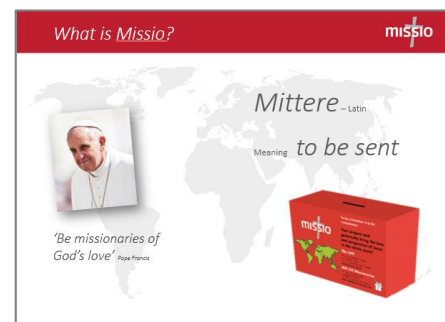
Missio's collection box has been in Catholic homes and churches for almost 90 years. And the money people have put in it over that time has helped millions of people around the world.

Missio is the Catholic Church's official charity for overseas mission - but what does that mean?

Let's start by unpacking the word 'mission'.

**Q** - What do you think mission means?

*Responses may include: important task, a special job, a specific goal.*



All words have an origin; they started at a certain time and place. The study of words is called etymology. By discovering the 'root' of a word we can gain a better understanding of what that word means today.

The word 'mission' originally comes from the Latin verb 'mittere' which means 'to send.' [Click to reveal definition.](#)

Can anybody tell me who this man is? [Click to reveal Pope Francis image and quote](#)

Pope Francis is the head of the Catholic Church, and Missio is the Pope's official charity for overseas mission.

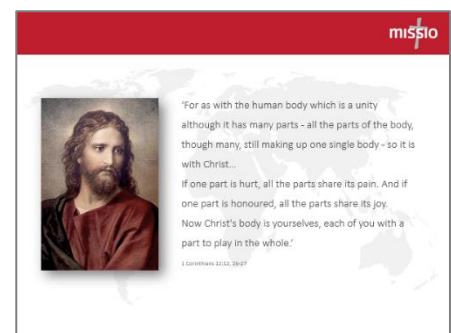
Pope Francis provides a helpful description of mission, he reminds us that all Christians are **sent out** to be **missionaries** of God's love to all people, everywhere - especially to those who are struggling and in need of support.

### SLIDE THREE

To share God's love with all people, everywhere, would be difficult to do on our own - but as members of the Church we don't work alone.

Each Christian forms Christ's body on earth, and just like our own bodies, each member needs the other to function and stay well.

This is captured in the scripture reading, taken from St Paul's letter to the first Christians in Corinth, Greece.



*'For as with the human body which is a unity although it has many parts - all the parts of the body, though many, still making up one single body - so it is with Christ...*

*If one part is hurt, all the parts share its pain. And if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy.*

*Now Christ's body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the whole.'* 1 Corinthians 12:12, 26-27

The charity Missio asks Catholics across the world to play their part and work together - through prayer and sharing - to support people who are hurting or in pain because of poverty, turmoil, or conflict.

Let's look at some of the projects Missio helps to run; thanks to the support of people like you.

*Please don't feel you need to mention all the projects below in detail. Rather, choose those that will resonate with the young people in your school.*

### SLIDE FOUR

**Clockwise from top right**

1. **In Cambodia** Sr Eulie and her fellow sisters run the Lindalva day centre and school for poor and vulnerable children in Phnom Penh. Without Lindalva many of the children would receive no education and be left to roam the streets.



2. **In Mongolia** an order of missionary nuns run the Verbist Care Centre in the country's capital city. The centre provides healthcare, food, clothing, and study support to poor and vulnerable young people.
3. **In Jordan** the Marka School for Iraqi Refugees provides children not just with an education, but also counselling, clothing, and food.
4. **In India** St Mary's Orphanage, School and Vocational College in Bangalore, provides Hindu and Christian children who live in the slums with healthcare, education, training for work, and the chance of a better future.
5. **In Kenya** the Cardinal Maurice Otunga Girls Empowerment Centre, provides young women at risk of abuse in Nairobi's slums with security, education, vocational training, healthcare, and counselling.
6. **In Malawi** the Pirimiti Boys Boarding House provides residential care and schooling for young men living in poverty and at risk of violence and crime.
7. **In Peru** the APRODINI project provides registered residential care for vulnerable children and orphans. It also supports families affected by crime.
8. **In Ecuador** Missio helps fund feeding programmes and provides land for community farming in areas affected by poverty and deforestation.

These are just a few examples of the hundreds of projects Missio supports around the world.

Let's take a closer look at one of them now (show one of the films below).

There are three films available to view via the Missio website <https://missio.org.uk/films/>

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

You'll have spotted **a space for you and your school** on the slide too. This image is important as it reminds us that, as members of Christ's body, we are united with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Together all members of the Church stand in solidarity with those who suffer and need support, just as Christ did. In this way we build a better world for all - this is our shared mission.

There are many ways this Lent that you can play your part and be a missionary of God's love.

#### **Consider these suggestions.**

- Inspired by today's scripture, think about how we are connected to each other as children of one heavenly Father. Challenge thinking that divides people, especially in your own mind. Look for ways to work together, not apart.
- Raise money for Missio, by doing so you stand in solidarity with millions around the world who live with poverty and hardship.
- Remember to 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 mercy and love.

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

## SLIDE FIVE

Christ has no body but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks

with compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

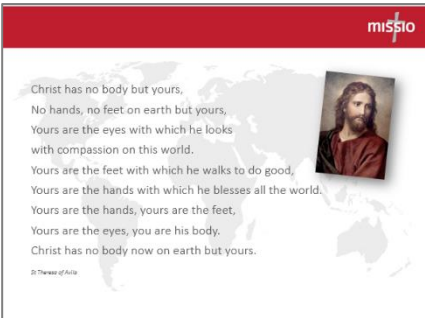
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

*St Theresa of Avila*



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No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
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with compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
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