

Suggested talk about the Extraordinary Month of Mission and World Mission Sunday

October 2019



One of the things that I love about the Catholic Church is that we are truly universal. Today/This morning/evening, communities are gathering together around the world to celebrate Mass, just like us. It may be in a chapel or under a tree; it may be in a temporary shelter or a cathedral. Wherever they are gathered, they are supporting one another. They are praying for one another and for us. And through all of this they, like us, experience the love of Jesus Christ.

Through his teachings in *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis reminds us that 'everyone has a right to hear the Gospel: the Good News that God loves them'. How wonderful is God's love for each one of us! It is only right that we help others to also realise and experience the transforming love of Christ. That is at the heart of why the Pope has asked us to mark this October as the Extraordinary Month of Mission. In doing so, he reminds us to continue to reach out to people throughout our world, so that everyone has the chance to hear the Good News that God loves them.

Not all of us can leave our homes and travel to remote corners of the world. However, at our Baptism we all received a special call to be missionaries, to reach out and share our faith. Pope Benedict XVI tells us not to share our faith by 'proselytism', by bashing people on the head with a Bible, but 'by attraction'.

Countless missionaries around the world, like Father Brendan, share our faith 'by attraction'. Originally from Liverpool, this Mill Hill Missionary has spent his priesthood in Pakistan. He lives alongside the Kutchi Kohli people* – a poor, marginalised group – tending to their needs, sharing his experience of God's love. He also celebrates the sacraments, being honest and authentic in his faith, without pushing his beliefs onto others. Increasingly, people are coming to Mass and want to learn more: this is faith by attraction.

And it is through the prayerful and financial support of the Catholic community in England and Wales that he is able to live alongside the communities in Pakistan, and share with them the Joy of the Gospel.

You have also helped Sister Clara, whom you can see on the posters and envelopes for World Mission Sunday. She has dedicated her life to educating vulnerable young girls, giving them the skills to break free from exploitation and abuse. Along with her fellow Sisters, their devotion and faith help the girls to see their worth as a beloved child of God. Sister Clara says: 'When they have the confidence that Jesus loves them, it changes their lives forever.'

This October, please say the Pope's prayer for this special month of mission, holding all missionaries and the communities which they serve in prayer.

And as we mark World Mission Sunday, please give generously to support those missionaries who work so hard to make sure that as many people as possible get to hear the Good News that God loves them.

Thank you.

Note: People engage with a talk which is personal. However, you may wish to change the opening sentence to: *One of the amazing things about the Catholic Church is that we are truly universal.*

*Kutchi Kohli, pronounced *coo-chee co-lee*

This talk takes between 3-4 minutes, please feel free to adapt it according to the time available.