

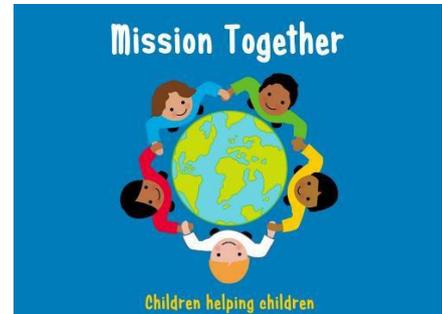
Mission Together

Five Fact Assembly: Blessed Pauline Jaricot



LEADER'S NOTES & HOLDING SLIDE

As Christians, we all have a mission: to share God's love with the whole world. No one is too young or too small to take part. Through *Mission Together*, children everywhere pray for and share with one another. When we pray for one another and share what we have, we are reminded that we belong to God's worldwide family. This assembly focuses on a young woman whose love of mission set her on the path to sainthood.



SLIDE TWO

Today's assembly is about a young woman called Pauline Jaricot. You can see a portrait of Pauline on the slide.

2022 is an important year for Pauline, because in May, Pope Francis will declare her *Blessed* Pauline. When the Pope declares someone *Blessed*, it is a very important occasion. It means they are on their way to becoming a *Saint*.



It is not easy to be declared a *Blessed*. Evidence must be given to the Pope to prove that the person was very close to God and that they followed the example of Jesus and showed much love, faith, and courage in their lives. Let's find out how young Pauline showed this.

SLIDE THREE

Fact One: At the age of 16, Pauline made a faith-full promise to love and serve God.

Pauline Jaricot was born in France in 1799. She was the youngest of seven children and especially close to her brother Phileas. Phileas and Pauline would often play together, pretending to be adventurous missionaries who travelled the world sharing the love of God with everyone they met.



As Pauline grew into a teenager, her interests turned from missionary adventures to parties. She was invited to many dances and, as her father owned a silk factory, she always arrived in beautiful dresses.

Pauline enjoyed a carefree life until, when she was 15, her mother died. For months Pauline was desperately sad. She no longer found joy in beautiful dresses or parties. She prayed to God for help. Guided by the Holy Spirit, she slowly began to find happiness again through helping others.

Grateful that her prayers had been answered, at the age of 16, Pauline made a special promise to God: she would spend her life helping others and sharing the love of Jesus with the world. This would be her life's mission.

[Click to reveal question: How can we love and serve God today?](#)

Teacher to elicit answers from the children

SLIDE FOUR

Fact Two: Pauline's faith and kindness gave hope to others.

By the age of 18, Pauline had made a great start on her mission. She brought together a group of young women who worked in her father's factory. Inspired by Pauline's kindness and faith, they would all meet each week to pray for people in need.



Although Pauline knew that prayer changes lives, she felt there was more to do. So, when her brother Phileas told Pauline that missionaries needed help looking after children in China, she came up with a great idea. She would bring people together to pray **and** share.

Pauline turned to her prayer group first. She asked that as well as praying each week, they might also give one small penny too. Pauline and her friends became witnesses; showing through their prayers and generosity the hope we give to the world when we unite to support others.

[Click to reveal question: How can we give hope to others?](#)

Teacher to elicit answers from the children

SLIDE FIVE

Fact Three: Through Pauline's perseverance and trust, her little group grew into a global charity!

As the years went by Pauline's group grew and grew, until thousands of people were praying and giving pennies to help missionaries around the world.



By the time Pauline was 23, the group had become so big that she needed help managing it. Can you guess who offered to help?

He lives in Rome, and he is the head of the Catholic Church.

Yes, the person who offered to help Pauline was the Pope (in 1822 the Pope was Pius VII, pictured).

Pauline's little group had grown so big that it became one of the Pope's charities. And it is still so today, 200 years later! Today the charity is called Missio.

You may have seen Missio's red collection box at the back of church or in a relative's house. You may have one at home. The money collected in the Red Box is still used to share God's love with the world.

Click to reveal question: How can we turn a small idea into a big idea?

Teacher to elicit answers like: *inspire lots of people to do / give a little bit; involve other people, so that we together we can achieve more; lead by example and allow other people to help and guide too.*

SLIDE SIX

Fact Four: Pauline's care and compassion brought people together from all over the world!

After the Pope took over the running of Pauline's charity, she decided to find new ways to encourage people to pray.

So, she asked people from different places to gather into groups of ten and pray a decade of the rosary. Another group of ten from somewhere else would then be asked to pray the following decade, until finally a whole rosary was said and 50 people will have been linked together in prayer – wherever they were!

Pauline's idea was called the *Living Rosary*. Once again, in a short time, thousands of people were forming groups of ten and praying together to help God's children around the world. Today, children continue to do the same when they gather to pray the Mission Rosary.

Click to reveal question: Can anyone think of a prayer for a place in the world right now?

Teacher to elicit answers from the children

SLIDE SEVEN

Fact Five: Pauline built one of the first fair factories in the world! This required great courage and humility.

Pauline lived at a time when factory workers were treated very badly. Men, women, and many children worked long days for very little money and had only Sunday to rest. It was an age called the Industrial Revolution; an unfair time when people were treated as if they were factory machines.

Pauline did not like what she saw. She believed that all people were made in the image of God.



This gave them dignity and made them worthy of respect and care. Just as Jesus taught.

And so, Pauline came up with another great idea. Using money left to her when her father died, she built one of the first fair factories in the world!

In the grounds of her factory, Pauline built decent homes for the workers to live in, a school in which their children could learn, and a church for all to gather and pray.

Lots of people did not like Pauline's idea. Many factory owners did not want to look after their workers as this would cost them money, and they wanted to keep the money for themselves. Others felt women shouldn't meddle in business at all and laughed at Pauline's grand idea.

But courageously Pauline carried on and showed the world a better way to treat working people.

Click to reveal question: What can I do to show respect and fairness to others?

Teacher to elicit answers from the children

SLIDE SEVEN

Sadly, Pauline's factory had to close after just a few years. She'd put two men in charge of the business, but they turned out to be fraudsters who pocketed the money and left Pauline penniless. She lost her factory, her home, everything she had.

But Pauline never lost her faith. She always trusted in God's love and believed that no matter what, God would help her. She found comfort and strength in Bible passages like this:

'Do not worry, because I am with you. Don't be afraid because I am your God. I will make you strong and will help you. I will support you with my right hand.' Isaiah 41:10

Click to reveal question: How do you think this Bible passage helped Pauline?

Teacher to elicit answers from the children

SLIDE TEN

After her death, people remembered Pauline as a kind, resilient and faithful lady who, by following the example of Jesus, helped thousands during her life.

Today, her request that we pray and give to share God's love in the world, has meant that millions of people have come together to help one another, no matter where they live.



Blessed Pauline still helps us all to remember that we all belong to God's global family, that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's remember our sisters and brothers around the world as we say together the *Mission Together* Prayer.

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. **Amen**



Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. There are more ways to fundraise than we can possibly count, below are a few ideas but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/>

Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Spring term

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Why not pot some spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell to parents or as Easter gifts?

Egg hunt: hide small chocolate eggs around your school or playground. Charge pupils to join in for a massive Easter egg hunt! To maximise your fundraising, why not ask all pupils to donate some eggs so you don't need to spend money to buy them?

Ideas for Summer term

Scavenger hunt: this is a great team activity! Print off some sheets with things to spot on them. You can tailor the items to be outdoors, indoors or whatever suits your space and environment. Either get teams to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them! Charge teams to enter and give prizes for the fastest finishers.

Sports day fun: host a football tournament, sports day or outdoor activity day. Charge people to attend and sell refreshments. Prize for the tournament winners!

Sponsored swim, walk or cycle: get everyone involved in some outdoor fun once the weather's better. Could you get sponsored to walk a certain distance, or hold a sponsored swim?

Ideas for Autumn term

Rake-a-Thon

With autumn leaves falling, children can ask family members or caregivers for suggested donations to clear up the garden, yard or driveway. Challenge pupils to clear as many of these spaces as possible. Make sure children have strong gloves and bags if they take up the Rake-a-Thon challenge.

Winter walks: get sponsored to brave the elements and hold a torch-lit hike or winter walk to raise money. Make sure you have plenty of adults to supervise and assist when organising outdoor events with children. Better still, get the whole family involved!

