



missio
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Mission Today

Autumn 2022

World Mission Sunday

The National Director writes

'I am sorry to have to tell you that your daughter will never regain consciousness'

These were the words spoken to the parents of Mayline Tran in 2012 when she lay in a coma as a result of food being trapped in her airway. The doctors said her brain was so severely damaged that she would never recover. She was three and a half years old!

Her parents were understandably distraught, but never gave up on her. In a touching act of solidarity and faith, Mayline's friends and family began a Novena to Blessed Pauline Jaricot, one of the founders of Missio. To everyone's amazement, Mayline regained consciousness and against all hope, recovered completely.

At the Beatification of Pauline Jaricot in Lyon on 22 May this year, I was privileged to meet Mayline and her parents. Her father told me the whole story in great detail and, in addition to the miraculous recovery of his daughter, what impressed me most was that due to this miracle he discovered Jesus in his life. Consequently, after a lengthy period of instruction, he was baptised into the Catholic Church.

The whole family now bears witness to the healing power of God's love. They witness to the Risen Jesus, who raises up those who seek and find him in their lives.

'You shall be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth' were the words spoken by the Risen Jesus to his disciples before he returned to the Father. These words from scripture were chosen by the Holy Father as the theme for this year's World Mission Sunday, to be celebrated on 23 October.

In his message, Pope Francis explains how Blessed Pauline Jaricot inspired the celebration of the first World Mission Sunday in 1926. This year, the Holy Father reminds us that the words 'to the ends of the earth' challenge and urge us to go beyond familiar places in bearing witness to Jesus: 'For all the benefits of modern travel, there are still geographical areas in which missionary witnesses of Christ have not arrived to bring the Good News of his love'.

Supporting World Mission Sunday with prayer and charitable giving are two vital ways of supporting the Church's missionary witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Thank you for your support.

Father Tony

Fr Anthony Chantry,
Missio National Director



See missio.org.uk/pray for the Pope's monthly prayer intentions

Editorial Board:
Fr Anthony Chantry
Michelle Slater
Nicky Pisa
Stephen Davies

Cover: Mekdes and her mother, Sara, belong to the Meki community in Ethiopia. Read more on pages 12-15.

Explore... donate... reflect at missio.org.uk

Mission Today is the magazine for supporters of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries through the Red Box.

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Registered Charity Number 1056651.

World Mission Sunday: 23 October 2022

Every Catholic community, in every country, sends a powerful message of faith, hope and love on World Mission Sunday

What is World Mission Sunday? It is one of three annual Papal collections when the entire global Church comes together to support mission. All worldwide Mass collections that day and every single donation supports churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

Where does it take place? World Mission Sunday Masses take place in every single Catholic parish in the world. Through our prayers, we support missionaries everywhere in spreading the Good News. And by donating, we respond to Christ's call to tell everyone the Good News that God loves them.

Why is it important? World Mission Sunday is vital to the spread of the Gospel in predominately impoverished and remote areas overseas. It offers the financial assistance needed to help struggling communities survive, and ultimately flourish, through the work of dedicated missionaries.

Who organises it? Missio is responsible for World Mission Sunday through the international network of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Missio is proud to be the Pope's charity for world mission and works with the global Missio family to bring the

Church together in compassion and communion. We provide mission dioceses with the essential support they need to become self-sufficient: local church directly helping local church!

What happens to my donation? Your donations build much-needed infrastructure, from chapels and schools to orphanages, clinics and dispensaries. Requested by the local community, support from Missio transforms lives. It creates a hub from which the young Church can spread the Good News of the Gospel, minister to the faithful, and deliver essential services in health and education.



Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Thank you for helping us support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations around the world.

Read about the difference you can make in 2022 on pages 12-15.

Daily reflections

Prayer is an outpouring of love based on a passion for mission and a passion for people. We hope these reflections inspire you to pray for, and therefore participate in, the mission of witnessing to Jesus Christ in our troubled world, for he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Saturday 1 October

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus

Holiness consists simply in doing God's will and being just what God wants us to be.

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, patron of mission



Sunday 2 October

Never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord... bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

2 Timothy 1:8



Monday 3 October

Mission is being able to love without measure, without remorse, and without fear.

Blessed Pauline Jaricot



Tuesday 4 October

St Francis of Assisi

St Francis' first and most essential witness is this: that being a Christian means having a living relationship with the person of Jesus; it means putting on Christ, being conformed to him.

Pope Francis, *Homily on the Feast of St Francis*, 2013

Wednesday 5 October

St Faustina Kowalska

Great love can change small things into great ones, and it is only love which lends value to our actions.

St Faustina Kowalska

Thursday 6 October

Those who truly forgive do not forget. Instead, they choose not to yield to the same destructive force that caused them so much suffering. They break the vicious circle; they halt the advance of the forces of destruction.

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 251



Friday 7 October

Our Lady of the Rosary

The recitation of the Rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations.

Pope Francis, *Homily*, 2021





Saturday 8 October

May the great Mother of God, the Queen of Apostles, hear our united prayers and call down upon the heralds of the Gospel the graces of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Benedict XV, *Maximum Illud*, 42



Sunday 9 October

If we have died with him, then we shall live with him... We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful.

2 Timothy 2:11, 13

Monday 10 October

Mission is to work for the salvation, not of one person, not of a single city, not even of a single people, but of the whole world.

Blessed Pauline Jaricot



Tuesday 11 October

Our lives can be miraculously reborn if we find the courage to live them in accordance with the Gospel.

Pope Francis, *Patris Corde*, 4



Wednesday 12 October

We advance together in mission, even amid trials, thanks to the gifts and consolations of the Lord. At every step we joyfully acknowledge that all of us are useless servants, beginning with myself.

Pope Francis, *Message to Missio*, 2020

Thursday 13 October

Modern people listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.

Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 67

Friday 14 October

Jesus said: 'Everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear'.

Luke 12:2



Saturday 15 October

St Teresa of Ávila

Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness. In her we see that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong...

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 288





Sunday 16 October

I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it.

2 Timothy 4:1-2



Monday 17 October

Mission is living the mystery of God in the present, with the Gospel on our lips, emptying ourselves, opening our hearts and filling us with the highest good.

Blessed Pauline Jaricot

Tuesday 18 October

St Luke

'I am sending you out like lambs among wolves... cure the sick and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you"'.
Luke 10:3, 9



Wednesday 19 October

We need to communicate with each other, to discover the gifts of each person, to promote that which unites us, and to regard our differences as an opportunity to grow in mutual respect.

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 134

Thursday 20 October

Jesus said: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!'

Luke 12:49



Friday 21 October

We pray for the Church, ever faithful and courageous in preaching the Gospel; may it be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

Pope Francis, *Prayer Intention for October*

Saturday 22 October

St John Paul II

Mary is the model of that maternal love which should inspire all who cooperate in the Church's apostolic mission for the rebirth of humanity.

Pope St John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, 92




Sunday 23 October

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth'.

Acts of the Apostles 1:8

Your prayers and your donations on World Mission Sunday support our Church family overseas through:

-  **Faith and Outreach Projects** which restore the dignity and hope of vulnerable children and families in need of your care
-  **Supporting Catholic Missionaries** who give their lives to share God's mercy and compassion with those most in need
-  **Building New Churches** to be beacons of hope for those seeking a place to pray and to celebrate God's love for us

For more information, visit missio.org.uk/wms





Monday 24 October

Our children are God's children; our brothers and sisters are God's brothers and sisters. God's works are our works. God's will is for us to help the sick. The poor are God's true favourites.

Blessed Pauline Jaricot

Tuesday 25 October

The command given by the Risen Lord to the Apostles: 'Go and teach all nations, baptising them' resounds today with all its vigour and worth. The Church cannot and will not neglect this responsibility...

Cardinal Tomko, *Cooperatio Missionalis*, 1

Wednesday 26 October

God's love gives value to the smallest actions.

Blessed Pauline Jaricot

Thursday 27 October

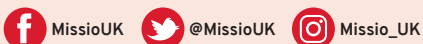
To the question, 'why mission?' we reply with the Church's faith and experience that true liberation consists in opening oneself to the love of Christ. In him, and only in him, are we set free from all alienation and doubt, from slavery to the power of sin and death.

Pope St John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, 11



You can find the Holy Father's monthly prayer intentions on our website: missio.org.uk/pray

Please follow us on social media:



Friday 28 October

Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles

To God, the only God, who saves us through Jesus Christ our Lord, be the glory, majesty, authority and power, which he had before time began, now and for ever. Amen.

Jude v.25

Saturday 29 October

Mary, Virgin and Mother, shows us what love is and whence it draws its origin and its constantly renewed power. To her we entrust the Church and her mission in the service of love.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, 42

Sunday 30 October

The name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:12

Monday 31 October

You are, I am not. You are my God and that is enough for me. Do your work in me!

Blessed Pauline Jaricot



Sharing hope in Ethiopia

‘You shall be my witnesses’

Acts 1:8

Ethiopia is perhaps a country most well-known for the suffering it has experienced through intense famine and desperate poverty. Amongst these ongoing challenges, missionaries like Maria are bringing communities together to build hope for a better future.

Maria – a Spanish lay missionary from the Community of St Paul – works and lives with an Ethiopian community in Meki. This very large population is situated in a rural area and the people of Meki survive by working the land and rearing cattle.

As Director for the Kidist Mariam Centre, Maria’s role involves providing a safe, supportive, and educational environment for vulnerable women.

When asked about her motivation, Maria shares that she believes all women should have access to the same opportunities to thrive. She wants to provide women in Ethiopia with the chance to turn their dreams into a reality. Maria and an amazing local team are making this possible through the Kidist Mariam Centre.

Maria respects everyone who comes to the Centre hoping for the opportunity to learn new skills. She also hopes that through them, they will reach out to other vulnerable women in need of support: ‘For me, every

person in the Centre is unique... every person is full of joy, full of hopes. And my dream is to see all of them, not only the ones coming here, but even the ones they are inviting; every person coming to the Centre to feel happy and to feel they are doing their best’.



Maria is just one example of many selfless missionaries throughout the world who live amongst and serve some of the most vulnerable communities in our society. Your generosity and prayers on World Mission Sunday mean that people like Maria can keep loving, serving and sharing God’s hope with others:

‘All of us are children of God. And we are all equal. It doesn’t matter where we come from, where we live, where we are working... we are God’s dream, and we have to fulfil that dream... So, we have to do our best not only to live out our dream, but also to make real the dreams of so many other people and so many other young women’.

Maria’s faith, perseverance and dedication to the local people are inspired by her love of Mary: ‘Being a woman, a very humble woman, being the mother of God, and also being a very good inspiration for the disciples... she inspires me. I hope she also will inspire all the women and all the staff, everybody who comes to the Centre to see her as an example of a woman able to transform her life... She’s the best inspiration we can have in the Centre’.

Supported by the international Missio network, the Kidist Mariam Centre has seen nearly 3,000 women complete training courses and build brighter futures for themselves and their families. Women are given the opportunity to choose from

vocational training including food preparation, tailoring and hairdressing.

Beth* is one such woman who has seen her life dramatically change through her involvement with the Centre. Living with her mother, brother and sister in Meki, Beth needed to support her family by working as a domestic worker in another country.



Unfortunately, when she went overseas the families were not kind to her, and she suffered years of abuse. Beth shared that she became 'mentally unwell' and returned to her homeland. At the time, she was being supported by a friend who introduced her to a local Catholic priest. He encouraged Beth to seek assistance through the Kidist Mariam Centre.

Maria witnesses to her faith by sharing the love and compassion that comes from knowing Jesus every single day. She remembers when she first met Beth: 'She came to our Centre to get advice. We started employing her as a cleaner because she needed some help to support her family. And little by little she developed an interest. She wanted to become a food preparation student.

'It's amazing now to see the smile on her face. She's taking medication and has improved a lot and seems like a different person... Before she was not happy and was wondering "what am I doing in this life?"

'Now she's so happy... She started being a food preparation student. Now we have a project in the rural area with women raising goats to produce milk. And she's the one in charge of preparing goat's cheese. She has become the goat cheese expert in our Centre. It's most impressive that she's so happy, she's so self-confident. And she's even taught many other people.'

Beth's faith has been a beacon through some of her darkest moments. And in sharing her faith, witnessing to her experiences of Christ's mercy and healing, Beth is helping other women at the Centre. She says, 'I believe that God is always before you and behind you in all your troubles... He is prominent for a person like me, who has fallen in life. He is my life. God is my life and my everything.

'I think that without this Centre, we would be out on the street. Because there was no alternative... It is a Centre where you can have confidence, eat, and rest... It allows



you to have confidence in yourself. And if people come to this Centre, there will be a change'.

Beth is very grateful for the care she has been receiving from the Centre, which would not be possible without the faithful support of people like you through the international Missio network. She wanted to share: 'Every human being faces trials. In our time of trouble, particularly in relation to my problems, you have reached out to me. This approach is good, particularly towards developing countries, particularly for us, as only those who have been through such a trauma can understand. May God make you prosper, may you be measured by the measure you have given, that's what I can say, that is what I think... Thank you. God bless you'.

With your help, Maria and the Centre can continue to provide women with the vital training they need to sustain an income through their skill. This, in turn, benefits their families and their local community because the women do not have to risk going overseas to seek work.

This World Mission Sunday you have the chance to partner with Maria, and missionaries like her, to support vulnerable women in Ethiopia and around the world. Please lend your invaluable support to ensure this work continues to make a difference for many more women.

*Beth's name has been changed to protect her identity

Missio empowers the Catholic Church globally, showing the love of Christ to everyone, and especially to those in need. Your donations keep health clinics and schools open, train tomorrow's generation of Priests and Sisters, and create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.



Share God's hope this World Mission Sunday by reaching out in faith to those in need

The Holy Father's message



This is an abridged version of the Holy Father's message for World Mission Sunday 2022. The full text, with references, is available at missio.org.uk/wms

'You shall be my witnesses'

Acts 1:8

The theme for World Mission Sunday this year is based on the words spoken by the Risen Jesus to his disciples just before his Ascension into heaven: 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

'You shall be my witnesses'

This is the heart of Jesus' teaching to the disciples regarding their mission in the world. The disciples are to be witnesses of Jesus, in every place and situation, thanks to the grace of the Holy Spirit that they will receive. Christ was the first to be sent, as a 'missionary' of the Father (Jn 20:21), and as such, he is the Father's 'faithful witness' (cf. Rev 1:5).

In a similar way, every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. The Church's only mission, as the community of Christ's disciples, is to bring the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ. Each baptised person is called to

mission, in the Church and by the mandate of the Church: consequently, mission is carried out together, not individually, in communion with the ecclesial community.

Missionaries of Christ are not sent to communicate themselves, to demonstrate their powers of persuasion or their managerial skills. Instead, they have the supreme honour of presenting Christ in words and actions, proclaiming to everyone the Good News of his salvation, with joy and boldness, as the first apostles did.

In evangelisation, the example of a Christian life and the proclamation of Christ are inseparable. This kind of complete, consistent, and joyful witness to Christ will surely be a force of attraction also for the growth of the Church in the third millennium. I urge everyone to have the courage, frankness and *parrhesia* (ability to speak the truth) of the first Christians, to bear witness to Christ in word and deed in every area of life.

'To the ends of the earth'

The words 'to the ends of the earth' challenge us all to go beyond our geographical boundaries and comfort zones

into situations and places where missionary witnesses of Christ have not arrived, to bring the Good News of his love. The Church must constantly keep looking outwards and testify to all people, whatever their circumstances, the love of Christ. Here I would like to remember and express my gratitude to all those missionaries who have given their lives to share Christ's love with all the brothers and sisters they encounter.

Strengthened and guided by the Spirit

When the risen Christ commissioned the disciples to be his witnesses, he also promised them the grace needed for this great responsibility. We see in Acts 1:8, that it was precisely following the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples that the first act of witnessing to the crucified and risen Christ took place. Whereas they had previously been weak, fearful and closed in on themselves, the Holy Spirit gave them the strength, courage and wisdom to bear witness to Christ before all people.

It is precisely when we feel tired, unmotivated or confused that we should remember to turn to the Holy Spirit in prayer. Prayer plays a fundamental role in our missionary life, for it allows us to be refreshed and strengthened by the Spirit, the inexhaustible divine source of renewed energy and joy in sharing Christ's life with others. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the right word, at the right time, and in the right way.

The same Spirit which guides the universal Church, also inspires ordinary men and women to undertake extraordinary missions. And so it was that exactly two

hundred years ago, a young French woman, Blessed Pauline Jaricot, founded the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (Missio's APF). She established a network of prayer and fundraising for missionaries, so that the faithful could actively participate in God's mission 'to the ends of the earth'.

This brilliant idea gave rise to the annual celebration of World Mission Sunday. The funds collected by parishes worldwide are sent to the universal solidarity fund which the Pope administers to support the mission of the Church throughout the world.

This same Spirit guided and inspired the founders of the other three societies which now make up Missio (the Pontifical Mission Societies). I encourage you to rejoice with them, in this special year, for the evangelising work they enable the Church to carry out globally and locally. My hope is that local Churches will increasingly look to Missio as a tangible means of fostering a missionary spirit among the people of God.

Dear brothers and sisters, I continue to dream of a completely missionary Church, and a new era of missionary activity among Christian communities. I repeat Moses' great desire for the people of God on their journey: 'Would that all the Lord's people were prophets!' (Num 11:29). Indeed, would that all of us in the Church were what we already are by virtue of our baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the earth! Mary, Queen of the Missions, pray for us!

+ Francis

Building peace in Nigeria

For World Mission Sunday in 2021, we shared about the work of Sr Veronica with the Women's Interfaith Council (WIC)



The WIC addresses the challenges of peace and gender-based violence due to the prolonged conflict and retaliatory actions by both farming and herder communities in Nigeria. While the violence has decimated communities' sources of income, women are disproportionately affected by its short and long-term consequences.

Upon hearing about Missio's World Mission Sunday focus, you reached out in prayer for the many shattered communities in Nigeria and gave generously to help missionaries, like Sr Veronica, support those communities affected by conflict.

The donations you gave improved the livelihoods of many vulnerable women and girls through skill acquisition programmes. And strong bonds of friendship and trust continue to be built amongst the Christian and Muslim communities.

Sr Veronica wrote: 'Women have been acquiring new skills while keeping in mind that they are not the only ones who benefit;

they are positioning their new skills to benefit their immediate families financially and in sharing their new talent with their children, younger siblings, and husbands'.

Despite this good news, the challenges in Nigeria continue. Sr Veronica shared: 'The project's implementation was delayed due to the area's insecurity. There were violent attacks that led to killings and destruction of properties and livelihood... places were not very safe at the time of the project's implementation, but the effort was successful.'



'We live in fear, but we are comforted by your continued support and prayers, and encouraged not to relent because we are not alone in these challenges. People live in fear and the cost of living has gone up and livelihood for the rural people is very challenging. We need your prayers...

'In the picture opposite I was encouraging the women, as mothers of a culture of peace, not to relent in keeping their faith and working together to build peace in their communities irrespective of their cultural and religious differences. I was also asking them to make use of this wonderful opportunity to learn together – Muslims and Christians – the skills that will empower them economically to contribute positively to their family income and deepen their relationship with one another.'

'The skills acquisition programme has given new skills and trades to people. This will engage them and prevent them from putting hands into violence. It is helping to boost the economy of the communities in these trying times where economies have been affected by the violence.'

And Sr Veronica had a special message for you: 'Thank you for the support of the people of England and Wales in putting smiles on the faces of the most vulnerable'.

The Women's Interfaith Council recently featured on Arise TV in Nigeria and Sr Veronica kindly shared it with us!

Scan this QR code to watch the news report. Simply use the camera on your phone. You can also visit Missio's YouTube channel and click on 'Videos': youtube.com/MissioUK



DID YOU KNOW? In much of the developing world, many public services, such as hospitals and schools, are run by the Catholic Church. Missio is the only Catholic charity which supports all of the 40% of the Universal Church currently in need of support from the rest of the Church.



Mission Alive

Fr Michael Corcoran MHM, newly re-elected General Superior of St Joseph's Missionary Society, reports on the latest news from the Mill Hill Missionaries

Representatives of our Mill Hill Missionaries from around the world gathered together in May to reflect, pray and give direction to the work of our Mill Hill Missionary Society for the next five years. It was an opportunity to share with each other, and more importantly to listen to what the Holy Spirit had to say to us, in over a century and a half of our long history.

We began our work with a time of prayer. Then, like the apostles who after returning from their first mission told Christ 'everything they had done', we listened to the reports from the worldwide Society. We were filled with gratitude towards the unique way our Members and Lay Associates give human form to the light of the Gospel where they are – living and working alongside their communities.



Centrepiece of our Chapter Prayer Space



The new leadership team: Fr Gerry Hastie (Scotland), Fr Bernie Luna (Philippines), Fr Michael Corcoran (Ireland), Fr Philip Adede (Kenya)

Our missionaries stand side by side with the people they serve, shaping the future together. This is all part of our missionary commitment and encourages us to pursue our particular mission in the Church with renewed generosity.

In today's world we are increasingly called to connect and interact 'well' with people across a wide spectrum of ages, backgrounds, social strata and walks of life. Pope Francis, in one of his quotes, asks us to 'think well, feel well, do well and allow yourselves to be surprised by the love of God'.

Beyond the diversity of the missionary path which makes our Mill Hill Society so beautiful, in our meeting I recognised the common spirit and charism of the Mill Hill Missionaries – going 'where the need is greatest', putting ourselves at the service of the local churches and continuing to take part in their growth, especially within their own missionary dynamic. Strengthened by the charism of our Society, we continue with renewed vigour and enthusiasm to do what we do best: mission.

The Chapter allowed us to determine the direction to be taken over the next five years for our Mill Hill Society, a mission that clearly mandates us to reach out to those on the peripheries. We look with confidence to all that God may be asking of us in the continuing mission to build the Kingdom of God in our world today.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped our Mill Hill Missionaries over the years. Many people who are rooted in mission have never left their home countries, but are a tremendous support to those 'on mission' overseas. Missionaries like yourselves, our supporters, have been involved in mission right where you are through your prayers, friendship and monies raised for various projects.

For Mill Hill Missionaries news, please visit millhillmissionaries.com or follow them on Facebook: [@MillHillMissionaries](https://www.facebook.com/MillHillMissionaries)

An impossible situation

Many Missio supporters want to know if we are helping those suffering as a result of the war in Ukraine. While emergency aid is not necessarily within our mandate, we have sent funds to help the Church support refugees fleeing their homes in Ukraine to the surrounding countries of Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.



In Romania, local parishioners are doing what they can to provide mattresses, bedsheets, pillows, and food, as well as nappies and basic sanitary items.

The National Director for Missio in Romania, Fr Eugen, shared: 'The situation of the war does not diminish but becomes worse. More refugees are crossing the border daily.'

'I recently received two young women with a child. They told me very simply: "We want to stay the three of us in the same room; we do not have any food; we do not have any money; we want to stay until we find a job and get some money to be able to rent a room and to get the basic things for living". I try to provide what they need, and I also pray for them to get a job to be able to live independently.'

'I try to understand their souls: to understand how hard it is to daily depend on the compassion of others for an undetermined time, to start life from zero and with the family split by the war. May God have compassion on them.'

John* is a Ukrainian currently residing in a Catholic parish house in Romania. When the



Painted by a Ukrainian refugee as part of trauma therapy, it says 'thank you' in Ukrainian (top) and Romanian (bottom)

war broke out in February this year, John was working overseas. He knows that the government has banned all men aged 18-60 from leaving the country, and fears that he will be forced to join the Ukrainian military if he was to return home.

The conflict continues to rage, but John does not want to fight, saying: 'I don't want to kill or be killed'.

If John was to return now, he fears that he will possibly be arrested, jailed, fined and penalised by having his citizenship stripped. He explained that the conflict is multifaceted; there are political, historical, economic, cultural and social complexities that make a ceasefire almost impossible. He indicated that what we see in the media and the reality of the situation are very different.

'We don't know when the war will be stopping. It is very dangerous for everybody... I ask all of the world, for help to stop this war. We need to stop this war so everybody can go back home'.



Scan this QR code to read and watch Fr Eugen's update from Romania. Simply use the camera on your phone. You can also visit our website: missio.org.uk/romania

John arrived in Romania with very little and is almost completely dependant on the charity of our global Church: 'I am very grateful to Fr Eugen because he found us this place – to come here and to live here.'

'Not only me, but other Ukrainian refugees have been able to live here. All of us are very, very grateful to the Catholic Church as they have helped us very much, regardless of religion or denomination to which we belong. Really, we cannot forget this experience, this help that we got from the Catholic Church'.

The Catholic Church in Romania and surrounding countries continues to provide accommodation, food and emergency packages containing essential toiletries to those who have arrived with nothing. Trauma counselling, education and employment are also being provided, where possible.

Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine.

*John's name has been changed to protect his identity

Small acts

I was driving slowly in the countryside on one of Kenya's dusty, gravelly roads. Just ahead of me I saw a young girl walking by the side of the road carrying a chicken. As I drove past, the chicken jumped out of her hands and flew into the side of my car and was killed.

I stopped the car, got out, and apologised to the girl – although it was not my fault. The poor girl was distraught, looking down at her dead chicken lying on the road which would now not lay any eggs for the family.

Seeing her distress, I gave her 10 shillings. Her eyes lit up and a smile crossed her face. With that money she could go back to the market and buy not just one but two egg-laying chickens! Not only that, but she could also take the dead chicken home and she and her family could have a tasty meal. Best of all – she would not face the wrath of her parents!

To live a Christ-like life, one does not need to perform heroic acts of self-sacrifice! Small everyday acts of kindness, compassion and caring can turn sadness into joy and make us channels of God's love.

Father Peter

You can write to Fr Peter at:
41 Victoria Road, Formby,
Liverpool L37 1LW



Coming to a parish near you!

Mission Masses continue to take place throughout England and Wales. Recently held in Clifton, East Anglia, Hallam, Hexham and Newcastle, Salford and Shrewsbury dioceses, these special celebrations were an opportunity to meet Missio supporters and celebrate Blessed Pauline Jaricot.

Anne, a Local Secretary, shared: 'This has been a wonderful occasion and something we can build on as a Diocesan community. Thank you Missio for coming to the Diocese to be with us'.

To find out if there is a Mission Mass near you, please visit: missio.org.uk/mission-masses-and-events/

Could you contribute your skills and experience to further our mission? Missio is looking to recruit three new charity Trustees. For further information please visit missio.org.uk/trustees

Build a vibrant Catholic Church for the future

Remember Missio in your Will

For generations, people like you have been sharing their blessings by helping missionaries serve in communities overseas that are struggling through conflict, poverty, and crises.

As the Pope's charity for world mission, Missio follows Christ's example by enabling the Church to reach out to those in greatest need, regardless of background or belief.

When you choose to remember Missio in your Will, you support Churches that are too new, young or poor to flourish and grow. Your gift will transform lives by listening to local needs.

Small and large gifts add up to:

- build chapels, schools and orphanages, and help run health clinics
- build more classrooms or dormitories so that more young men can train for the priesthood
- help Sisters share God's love with the poorest children, by educating them, keeping them healthy and giving them a safe home

Now, more than ever, we depend on the support and care of Catholics like you: to pass on the gift of faith to future generations.



Will you consider leaving a gift in your Will to Missio? To receive simple information on how to remember Missio in your Will or to speak to someone (in confidence and with no obligation) please call Angelica on 020 7821 9755 or email: legacy@missio.org.uk

You can also visit missio.org.uk/legacies or complete the form overleaf, ticking the box on the back page.



Mission Today

Missio

23 Eccleston Square,
London SW1V 1NU

Reg. Charity No. 1056651

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Mission Today is the magazine for supporters of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries.

Published by Missio © 2022
ISSN 0967-8379

Missio continues the vital work of The Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) and the other Pontifical Mission Societies.

Mission Today is printed on paper from renewable resources – managed forests in which new trees are planted for each one felled.

This World Mission Sunday will you help dedicated missionaries, like Maria in Ethiopia, live amongst and serve some of the world's most vulnerable communities to share faith and hope?

You can make a donation:



Send a cheque: Make it payable to Missio and post it to **World Mission Sunday, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU**



Give online: Visit missio.org.uk/donate and select 'World Mission Sunday'



Give via text: Text **MISSIO 5** (to donate £5) or **MISSIO 10** (to donate £10) to **70085**

This costs £5 or £10 plus your standard rate message



Give via phone: Call us on **020 7821 9755** during office hours to donate with your credit or debit card



Bank transfer:

Account Name: Missio

Sort Code: 16-00-16

Account Number: 10824230

Reference: WMS + your postcode

Thank you!

missio.org.uk

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Today. Tomorrow. Together.



Please fill in the form below and return it in the **freepost envelope attached**

(Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU)

Your details (PLEASE PRINT)

*Required fields

Title*

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Surname*

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Parish

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Please send me the monthly **Missio eNewsletter** (provide email address above)

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Please tick if you do not require a receipt

Please complete the Gift Aid section overleaf, if possible

Support

I enclose a donation of £ _____ (please make cheques/postal orders payable to Missio-Mill Hill)

I enclose a donation of £ _____ towards the training of future Priests and Sisters (please make cheques/postal orders payable to Missio)

You can also give online at missio.org.uk or call us on **020 7821 9755** (office hours) or donate via Credit Card (please call to set up a Direct Debit)

I would like to become a **volunteer for Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries** in my parish

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I would like _____ (please state number) **Mass/es** offered for the following intentions (please use a separate sheet if necessary):

Intentions:

I enclose £ _____ (the recommended offering is £10 or more per Mass; please make cheques payable to Missio Mass a/c or see above to pay by card)

Please tick if you do not require a receipt

If you would like to receive a Mass Card, please contact us on **020 7821 9755**

Please complete your details overleaf
and return the entire page to Missio in the
freepost envelope attached

Build a vibrant Catholic Church for the future

Tick here to receive your guide to making a Will
and our free Will writing service

In Remembrance

You can find the names for our Book of Remembrance at
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a difference, and about our latest projects and appeals. If you
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or if we write to you currently and you would like us to stop,
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