



missio
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Mission Today

Autumn 2023

World Mission Sunday

The National Director writes

'I have a dream...' is the beginning of a famous speech given by the civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr in 1963. His dream was that all people, from every race, would one day live together in peace and harmony – equal under God – for the good of all. As we look around our divided world, we can see that this dream is still more dream than reality.

Pope Francis has a wonderful way with words. In his recent address to us at Missio, he spoke of 'dreaming with eyes wide open'. That is, looking forward towards a new era of missionary activity when each and every one of us will live out the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ.

The Holy Father went on to say that the very heart of our Gospel message is this: 'God loves us with eternal love; he calls us to be his children and to share in the joy that comes from him. He comes to seek us when we are lost; he lifts us up when we fall and raises us from the dead. He turns no one away, but welcomes all, excludes no one, but calls everyone.'

As we approach World Mission Sunday on 22 October, we use this belief to keep the dream alive, for indeed it is God's dream for us. As an example of our mission, we will focus this year on the wonderful work

of Sister Mary in Kenya, who is reaching out with her local community to protect vulnerable children from harm.

We face many difficulties and problems, both locally and globally. We are called to hold the dream of God's Kingdom in balance with the reality we find in the world, never losing our joy, our courage, and our hope.

'Thy Kingdom Come' is the prayer to which we commit ourselves daily; mind, body, and soul. It is the dream for which Missio exists.

Father Tony.

Fr Anthony Chantry,
Missio National Director



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

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Cover: Fighting for the vulnerable – Linet with Sister Mary in Kibera, Kenya. Read more on pages 12-15.

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

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World Mission Sunday: 22 October 2023

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 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 growth of the Church and the spread of the Gospel in predominately impoverished and remote areas overseas. It provides 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, the 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.

Scan this QR code, by using the camera on your phone or a QR code scanning app, to watch a short film about why we celebrate World Mission Sunday!



Today. Tomorrow. Together.

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

Read about the difference you can make this year on pages 12-15.

Daily reflections

Prayer is the heart of mission. We hope these reflections speak to your heart and enkindle within you a passion to share God's love with those near and far. By praying together, we take an active part in God's mission of witnessing to Jesus Christ – the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Sunday 1 October

I understood that the Church had a heart and that this heart was burning with love. I understood it was love alone that made the Church's members act, that if love ever became extinct, apostles would not preach the Gospel and martyrs would not shed their blood. I understood that love comprised all vocations. Then, in the excess of my delirious joy, I cried out: 'O Jesus, my love... my vocation, at last I have found it... my vocation is love! In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I shall be love.'

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, patron of mission

We are all called to share the Good News of Christ with all people. Could you take a moment today to share these reflections with a friend and encourage them to join you in prayer and giving during Mission Month?

Monday 2 October

The Holy Guardian Angels

O Angels of the missionaries who have left their native land and all who are dear to them in order to preach the Gospel in foreign fields; protect them from the dangers that threaten them, and console their hours of discouragement and solitude.

Guardian Angels Prayer

Tuesday 3 October

Our mission must begin from our encounter with the Lord. We cannot learn this in an academy. No, no! To witness Jesus means to radiate him; but if we do not receive his light, we will be extinguished. If we do not spend time with him in prayer we will be putting ourselves forward, instead of him.

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023



Wednesday 4 October

St Francis of Assisi

Saint Francis of Assisi bears witness to the need to respect all that God has created, and that men and women are called to safeguard and protect, but above all he bears witness to respect and love for every human being. God created the world to be a place where harmony and peace can flourish. Harmony and peace!

Pope Francis, visit to Assisi 2013

Thursday 5 October

St Faustina Kowalska

Love endures everything, love is stronger than death, love fears nothing.

St Faustina Kowalska

Friday 6 October

Every baptised person participates in the mission of the Church and, in this, in the mission of Christ the King, Priest and Prophet... The missionary zeal of the believer expresses itself as a creative search for new ways of proclaiming and witnessing, new ways of encountering the wounded humanity that Christ took on. In short, new ways of serving the Gospel and serving humanity.

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023

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

Please follow us on social media:



Saturday 7 October

Our Lady of the Rosary

We pray for the people of all nations: that those who are oppressed, persecuted and live in fear may be safe and feel the comfort of God's presence. May the Church heal wounds, build bridges, and bring the hope, love and peace of Christ to all those who suffer.

Missio's Mission Rosary

Sunday 8 October

Without proclamation, without service, without mission, our relationship with Jesus cannot grow. Jesus himself sent his disciples out to tell people about the Gospel message before they had even completed their preparation. He does not ask them to first become professionals in communication and recruitment. On the contrary, he sends them out very quickly, shortly after having called them! This means that the experience of being on mission is part of being a Christian.

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023

Monday 9 October

St John Henry Newman

I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connections between persons. He has not created me for naught.

St John Henry Newman

Tuesday 10 October

The ultimate reason for our Christian mission lies in these few words of Jesus: 'Freely you have received, freely give'. Proclamation does not begin from us, but from the beauty of what we have received for free, without merit: meeting Jesus, knowing him, discovering that we are loved and saved. It is such a great gift that we cannot keep it to ourselves, we feel the need to share it.

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023

Wednesday 11 October

St John XXIII

Every believer in this world of ours must be a spark of light, a centre of love, a vivifying leaven amidst his fellow men. And he will be this all the more perfectly, the more closely he lives in communion with God in the intimacy of his own soul.

St John XXIII

Thursday 12 October

As Christians we have a gift, so we are called to make a gift of ourselves; we have received a gift and we are called to make a gift of ourselves to others; there is in us the joy of being children of God, it must be shared with our brothers and sisters who do not yet know it!

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023

Friday 13 October

St Edward the Confessor

In sharing the Gospel, Jesus does not ask us to be able to argue, to offer counter arguments, and to defend ourselves. Instead, Jesus asks his disciples to go into the world as lambs, meek and willing to sacrifice. As long as we are lambs, we will conquer. But if we become wolves we will be defeated, because we will be deprived of the shepherd's help.

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023

Saturday 14 October

How many of us pray to the Spirit? 'No, Father, I pray to Our Lady, I pray to the Saints, I pray to Jesus, but sometimes I pray the Our Father, I pray to the Father...' And the Holy Spirit? Don't you pray to the Holy Spirit, who is the one who moves your heart, who carries you forth, who brings you consolation, who brings you the desire to evangelise, to undertake mission?

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023



Sunday 15 October

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through 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 Teresa of Avila

Monday 16 October

St Margaret Mary Alacoque

Hail, most loving Heart, inflame me!
Hail, most merciful Heart, work within me!
Hail, most humble Heart, dwell within me!
Hail, most patient Heart, support me!
Hail, most faithful Heart, be my reward!
Hail, most admirable and most worthy Heart, bless me!

From St Margaret Mary Alacoque's prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Tuesday 17 October

St Ignatius of Antioch

Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So, pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with Christ himself.

St Ignatius of Antioch

Wednesday 18 October

St Luke

When they take you before synagogues and magistrates, do not worry about how to defend yourselves or what to say, because when the time comes the Holy Spirit will teach you what you must say.

Luke 12:11

Thursday 19 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

Friday 20 October

May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth. May we recognise the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, projects for the common good, and shared dreams.

Prayer from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis

Saturday 21 October

The Gospel is proclaimed by showing Jesus rather than talking about Jesus. And how do we show Jesus? With our witness. And finally, by going together, in community: the Lord sends all the disciples, but no one goes alone. The apostolic Church is completely missionary and in mission it finds its unity.

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023






Sunday 22 October

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Luke 24:32-35

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

OCTOBER 2023 REFLECTIONS

Monday 23 October

I exhort you to be evangelisers on the move, without fear, who go forward, in order to bring the beauty of Jesus, to bring the newness of Jesus who changes everything.

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023

Tuesday 24 October

A missionary is anyone who lives as an instrument of God's love where they are. Missionaries are those who do everything so that, through their witness, their prayer, their intercession, Jesus might pass by.

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023

Wednesday 25 October

Six Welsh Martyrs & Companions

Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.

Pope Benedict XVI



Thursday 26 October

Mary our Mother was fully involved in the mission of Jesus, a mission that became her own at the foot of the cross: the mission of cooperating, as Mother of the Church, in bringing new sons and daughters of God to birth in the Spirit and in faith.

Pope Francis

Friday 27 October

Mission must be a humble proposal of friendship with Christ, with profound respect for the religious freedom of men and women of our age, for their cultures, and for their history.

Extraordinary Month of Mission, 2019

Did you know that World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every single parish around the world? We are all connected through God's love for us and our faith in him!



Saturday 28 October

Ss Simon and Jude

Jesus called his disciples... from the most varied social and religious backgrounds. There must be room in the Church for all charisms, peoples and races, all human qualities that find their composition and unity in communion with Jesus.

Pope Benedict XVI

Sunday 29 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

Monday 30 October

There is no proclamation [of the Gospel] without movement, without 'going out', without initiative. This means there is no Christian if not on the move; no Christian if the Christian does not go out of him or herself in order to set out on the journey and bear the proclamation... The Gospel is proclaimed by moving, by walking, by going.

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023

Tuesday 31 October

Apostolic zeal never works by proselytism – never – or constraint – never – but by attraction. Faith is born by attraction. One does not become Christian because they are forced by someone, but because they have encountered love.

Pope Francis, General Audience 2023

Setting hearts ablaze in Kenya

'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'

cf. Luke 24:13-35



Kibera is the biggest urban 'slum' in Kenya. In fact, it is the biggest in Africa. Rife with all the problems poverty brings - malnourishment, addiction, abuse - it is easy to see Kibera as a place of despair. But missionary Sister Mary and parishioner Linet meet the challenges of life in Kibera with faith and friendship.

'Our charism is "be one with the people", "go where people are"; says Sr Mary (below). 'It's from St Paul, but our foundress, Sister Magdalene, also took it from St Charles de Foucauld: to be there with them from the grassroots, discover what is happening, and together learn what to do.'

That is why Sr Mary and her fellow Little Sisters of Jesus choose to live in the heart of Kibera, alongside the people they serve. That way, she can better understand the daily challenges, and reach all who are in need.

Sr Mary knows the problems of Kibera are too great to handle alone. So, she works hard to connect with others to inspire and motivate them to bring God's love to those who need it. She shares:

'It's important to be a bridge. I live here with them. I don't have the material things to offer, but I can listen, I can pray for them, because our work is also prayer. And it's important to be able to connect with people. If I am tired or down-hearted I find strength in the heart of Jesus.'



Among the many people Sr Mary works alongside is Linet (above), who courageously lives out her faith by rescuing and fostering children who are at risk from harm. Linet sometimes faces real danger to rescue the children who have been abandoned, orphaned, or trafficked.

Six years ago, a distraught eleven-year-old - Sharon - sought Linet out for protection as she had been hurt by men trying to take advantage of her.

When Linet attempted to reconcile Sharon with her family, she was saddened to learn that Sharon's mother was not able to engage in raising her child as she was struggling with addiction.

Linet vowed to keep Sharon safe, and sought support from Sr Mary. Linet is determined to help as many children as she can. She earned a qualification in violence recovery, which enables her to intervene appropriately when children are being abused, and to involve the right authorities.

But with three children of her own, and another 12 foster children, Linet struggles.



Linet shares:

‘We have so many challenges. I have people here who are looking to me not only for food, but for all basic things. It’s a challenge to find all of it. I need clothes. I need to pay for school. It’s difficult.’

Thankfully, Linet has people like Sr Mary who support her mission. She says:

‘Sister Mary has done so much. Sister is always there for me with support – mental, physical, everything. She has always been there for me.’

For Sr Mary, accompanying people in her community helps them live out and strengthen their faith. She explains:

‘My mission is befriending. I began with Christians I met in the church. Slowly I gained their confidence and they welcomed me to their houses. They share their problems. When the stories are painful, even if I have nothing to offer, it’s possible to find someone who can help. That makes

me create friendships with other people who are able to help.

‘I do a lot of listening. People come to our house, or I meet them at our church and we sit down and talk. When I can’t help them, because sometimes they are so damaged, I contact doctors or Sisters who work with the hospitals.

‘So, it’s friendship, but a friendship that means you can’t just sit and watch; that something has to be done.

‘In Kibera, you will find prostitution, or children initiated in things you would never imagine. And there is poverty, of course. So that’s one extreme. But here, maybe more than elsewhere, you also find people who live deep values. The ones who know a neighbour is in trouble and open their doors for one another. They know who they can go to and who can help. If a woman is in labour she will knock on someone’s door and say, “Take me to hospital”. And they do that.

‘So, there is a lot of good; people lift each other. In our church you discover groups, be it the choir, the Rosary group, or the people who meet for adoration. They say, “We need to contribute something for those who cannot”. They might not give much, but that little can help a child see the doctor. This one helps that one to return to school. Those values of respecting and supporting each other: you find it more here than elsewhere.’

Linet’s faith sees her through the darkest hours, as do the friendships she finds in the church community. She shares:

‘My faith means a lot, because when I’m down I still have that faith to keep on. So I need to hold it, to have it with me.

‘When I enter the church, my first stop is at the adoration chapel. I’ll talk to God. Then I’ll go to choir. I see my friends. I just come back feeling good, because I love singing so much. When I sing and praise my God, I’ll come home with a clean heart.’

We all have a part to play in igniting God’s love. This World Mission Sunday, we ask you to join us so that together we can bring God’s love to all people, through missionaries like Sr Mary and the inspiring people they walk alongside.

Please support our work by praying and donating whatever you can. World Mission Sunday is a lifeline for missionaries like Sr Mary who bring the love and hope of Jesus to situations of extreme poverty and injustice.

Your donations to Missio keep health clinics and schools open, train tomorrow’s generation of Priests and Sisters, and create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.

Please see how to donate to Missio in the back section!



Set hearts ablaze this World Mission Sunday by helping missionaries share their faith and passion for Christ and his people!



The Holy Father's message



This is an abridged version of the Holy Father's message for World Mission Sunday 2023. The full text, with references, is available at missio.org.uk/wms

'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'

cf. Luke 24:13-35

Dear brothers and sisters!

For this year's World Mission Sunday, I have chosen a theme inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, in the Gospel of Luke (cf. 24:13-35): 'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'.

Those two disciples were confused and dismayed, but their encounter with Christ sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen.

In the Gospel account, we perceive this change in the disciples through a few revealing images: *their hearts burned within them* as they heard the Scriptures explained by Jesus, *their eyes were opened* as they recognised him and, ultimately, *their feet set out* on the way. By meditating on these three images, which reflect the journey of all missionary disciples, we can renew our zeal for evangelisation in today's world.

1. Our hearts burned within us 'when he explained the Scriptures to us'. In missionary activity, the word of God illumines and transforms hearts.

On the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, the hearts of the two disciples were downcast... Faced with the failure of the crucified Master, their hopes that he was the Messiah collapsed (cf. v. 21).

Then, 'as they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them' (v. 15). As when he first called the disciples, so now, amid their bewilderment, the Lord takes the initiative; he approaches them and walks alongside them. So too, in his great mercy, he never tires of being with us, despite all our failings, doubts, weaknesses...

Today, as then, the Risen Lord remains close to his missionary disciples and walks beside them, particularly when they feel disoriented, discouraged, or fearful... For the Lord is greater than all our problems because this mission is his and we are nothing more than his humble co-workers (cf. Luke 17:10).

After listening to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the risen Jesus, 'beginning with Moses and all the prophets, explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself' (Luke 24:27). They later said: 'Were not our hearts burning within us

while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?' (v. 32). Jesus is himself the living Word, who alone can make our hearts burn within us, as he enlightens and transforms them.

2. Our eyes were 'opened and recognised him' in the breaking of the bread. Jesus in the Eucharist is the source and summit of mission.

The fact that their hearts burned for the Word of God prompted the disciples of Emmaus to ask the mysterious wayfarer to stay with them as evening drew near. Their eyes were opened when he took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them.

Yet at the very moment when they recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread, 'he vanished from their sight' (Luke 24:31). Here we recognise an essential reality of our faith: Christ, who breaks the bread, now becomes the bread broken, shared with the disciples, and consumed by them. He is seen no longer, for now he has entered the hearts of the disciples, to make them burn all the more, and this prompts them to set out immediately to share with everyone their unique experience of meeting the Risen Lord.

Breaking our material bread with the hungry in the name of Christ is already a work of Christian mission. How much more so is the breaking of the Eucharistic bread, which is Christ himself, a work of mission *par excellence*, since the Eucharist is the source and summit of the life and mission of the Church.

3. Our feet set out on the way, with the joy of telling others about the Risen Christ. The eternal youth of a Church that is always going forth.

The image of 'feet setting out' reminds us once more of the mission entrusted to the Church by the risen Lord: to evangelise all individuals and peoples, even to the ends of the earth. Today more than ever, our human family, wounded by so many situations of injustice, so many divisions and wars, is in need of the Good News of peace and salvation in Christ.

I take this opportunity to reiterate that 'everyone has the right to receive the Gospel' and that Christians have the duty to proclaim it without excluding anyone.

All of us can contribute to this mission: with our prayers and activities, with material offerings and the offering of our sufferings, and with our personal witness. Missio is the privileged means of fostering this missionary cooperation on both the spiritual and material levels. For this reason, the collection taken on World Mission Sunday is devoted to Missio's Association for the Propagation of the Faith.

Closer missionary cooperation on the part of all her members and at every level is an essential goal of the synodal journey that the Church has undertaken.

So let us set out once more, to make other hearts burn with the word of God, to open the eyes of others to Jesus in the Eucharist, and to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God, in Christ, has bestowed upon all humanity.

Our Lady of the Way, Mother of Christ's missionary disciples and Queen of Missions, pray for us!

+ Francis

Sharing hope in Ethiopia

‘You shall be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth’
Acts 1:8



For World Mission Sunday in 2022, we featured the work of Spanish lay missionary Maria in Meki, Ethiopia. As Director of the Kidist Mariam Centre, Maria and her amazing local team continue to work hard to provide a safe, supportive, and educational environment for vulnerable women, so they no longer have to leave their families and communities to find work.

Your generosity and prayers on World Mission Sunday in 2022 meant that people like Maria were able to keep loving, serving and sharing God’s hope with others: ‘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.’



With your support, the Kidist Mariam Centre has continued to provide vocational training, including food preparation, hairdressing, and tailoring.

According to Maria’s latest report: ‘Conflict and political instability in Ethiopia, the continuing effects of the pandemic, and



climate change affecting much of the country are making it increasingly difficult for vulnerable families to have the bare minimum necessary to live. Shortages of food and basic goods in local markets further worsen the situation.

‘In September 2022, new students were registered at the Kidist Mariam Centre. The total number of students in May 2023 are 380: 180 students in hairdressing, 163 students in tailoring, 37 in food preparation.’



You may remember Beth* (above), who featured in our World Mission Sunday 2022 campaign. Unable to find employment locally, she had travelled overseas and became a domestic worker to help support her family living in Meki. Sadly, her employer abused and exploited her.

Throughout her darkest moments, Beth’s faith was a beacon. She explained: ‘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.’



We are delighted to share that Beth graduated recently and wanted to tell you that ‘Missio helped to make it possible... May God make you prosper, may you be measured by the measure you have given... Thank you. God bless you.’

Maria wrote: ‘It is a great joy for us to express once again our most sincere gratitude for the help received from Missio in England and Wales.

‘When, despite all the difficulties that surround us, we witness how the women with whom we have worked in this project have been able to get out of poverty and have their own profession, we can only thank God for His mercy and for allowing us to be instruments of His goodness towards the neediest.

‘This project has contributed enormously to the empowerment of young women, both economically and personally. They have formed a community with many others in similar situations.’

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.

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



That's Gospel

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

The need continues for missionary disciples to be ready to set out and to be open to exploring new paths, as they seek to share the Gospel through word and deed. Pope Francis refers to this as 'evangelical zeal' and we are all called to 'rekindle the charism of God that is within you' (2 Timothy 1:6).

The founder of the Mill Hill Missionaries saw this as our charism: 'to go where the need is greatest'.

Mill Hill Missionaries have been present for well over a century in Malaysia. But in the seventies, our missionaries were expelled from the state of Sabah because of the

political situation at the time. The local government wanted the Christian missionaries out.

Despite this, the most important thing was that the foundations were built, and they were solid. The lay people and the people who had been trained or empowered were able to keep faith alive as they built up their own local Church.

One of the fruits of that experience is that the first Malaysian Mill Hill Missionary was ordained four years ago and appointed to Cambodia.

The second Malaysian Mill Hill Missionary – Elvost – has been ordained recently and



will be appointed to the Sindh province in Pakistan. He was there as a student for the Missionary Experience Programme, and he can't wait to go back. Isn't that wonderful!

We are sending a missionary from a historically persecuted Church in Malaysia to minister in another persecuted Church currently in Pakistan. Elvost (above) will be able to relate to the situation very well and he has so much to offer that local Church from his experience.

Elvost received formation in Nairobi, Kenya. He was deliberately sent there so he could live alongside students from other countries – Cameroon, Uganda, Kenya, India, and the Philippines. The Mill Hill Missionary formation is not just academic; there's much more to it. It's teaching how to live together as Christians and as human beings. And when Elvost goes to Sindh in Pakistan, he will be working with Kenyans, Filipinos, an English and an Irish Priest, alongside the local community.

There's a third Malaysian Mill Hill Missionary who is currently in formation. He will take his time and once he's ready he will be 'sent out'. Our whole Mill Hill Missionary focus is

'crossing boundaries' – crossing boundaries into a different country; the culture, the language, even the food!

In the world we live in today, I believe we are called to be signs of mercy, of forgiveness, of listening and of attentiveness to each other and to those we serve. We see a world around us fractured by disagreement, extremes on every side, an inability to listen, a quickness to categorise and a refusal to even encounter those who think differently. All of us, most especially those commissioned to go out as missionaries are called to be brothers and sisters to all, to open a dialogue of presence, of respect, of dignity... and so we live as witnesses.

I am very much aware of the generous response of all those supporting our missionary endeavours especially through our partnership with Missio. I give thanks to God and to all of you, God's people.



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

Celebrating your call to mission

This summer we took part in Mission Masses and events across England and Wales. They were opportunities to meet supporters and volunteers, celebrate our faith together, and thank them in person for the real difference they make to our global Church family. Here are just a few highlights:

At Mass in **Shrewsbury**, Bishop Mark Davies reminded us that: 'Christian missionary commitment comes not from any human motive, but from heaven itself.'

Fr Dermot MHM quoted Romans 10: 'How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?' He said Missio might add to this: 'How can anyone be sent unless their fare is paid? And this is just what our supporters help us to do.'

At the Mission Mass for **Portsmouth**, Diocesan Director Fr Innaiah Maddineni described how Missio volunteers emulate the Saints. Their work for others is truly living as Jesus commanded.

After Mass we gathered to discuss the joys and challenges of sharing the Red Box and encouraging others to support the Church around the world. Everyone enjoyed the Red Box cake!

Local Secretary Terry (opposite) created a Mission Map showing all the home countries



of her fellow parishioners, and how we are linked as a global Catholic family. Terry includes quotes from *Mission Today* in the parish newsletter, and plans to share films from our YouTube channel (Missio UK) to highlight Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries' work.

She said the Diocesan Mass 'gave her a big boost'. Terry, your commitment and creativity gives us a boost, too!



We would love to see you at our Mission Masses and events. Find one near you at missio.org.uk/mission-masses-and-events or call us on 020 7821 9755.



Children are missionaries, too!



Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio. Here in England and Wales it has an important task: to help children realise that they are each called to share God's great love with other children throughout the world.

Our free resources support the mission of Catholic education through easy-to-use catechetical and liturgical resources for schools.

In addition to assemblies for teachers and pupils to lead, volunteers visit schools to promote understanding of God's global Church family, and encourage pupils to be 'children helping children' through prayer and sharing. Our school supporters and volunteers raise thousands of pounds each year to help fund Missio's overseas children's projects.



If you would like to find out more or get free school resources, visit missiontogether.org.uk for primary and missio.org.uk/secondary for secondary

The early bird catches the worm

In our Mill Hill Formation Centre where I was teaching in Luanda, Kenya, there was a hedge between us and the family compound next to us.

There was also an empty plot. After a thunder and lightning rainstorm there was a certain delicious mushroom which would suddenly spring up out of the ground – literally overnight. Some of our Mill Hill Missionary students would be on the alert early the next morning to go and grab these mushrooms. Unfortunately, the children next door to us would often get there before them!

I would like to think that the students shared with the children if they were the first to get there – after all, I think the children needed the mushrooms to eat more than the students!

Life is not a race to see who gets there first and who claims the prize, but a sharing of resources, especially with those who are in the greatest need. For Jesus, sharing was not an option but fundamental to an honest, upright, unselfish, and moral life. Just read the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 29-37), the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) and the Parable of the Final Judgement (Matthew 25:31-46).

Father Peter

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

Coming to a parish near you!

Mission Masses and events continue to take place throughout England and Wales. Recently held in Cardiff, Clifton, Middlesbrough, Salford and Shrewsbury dioceses, these special celebrations were an opportunity to meet Missio supporters and celebrate the missionary spirit that we all share.

Margaret, a Local Secretary, shared: ‘What a lovely afternoon. Very informative and inspirational. We are now revitalised to improve on our mission.’

We are looking forward to more celebrations in the Dioceses of Portsmouth, Brentwood, Hallam, and Westminster!

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



Send Missio your Mass intentions by completing your details and the Masses section on the form opposite

In Remembrance

You can find the names for our Book of Remembrance at missio.org.uk/book-of-remembrance

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*

First Name*

Surname*

Address*

Postcode*

Tel

Parish

Email

- Please send me the monthly **Missio eNewsletter** (provide email address above)
- I want Missio to treat all donations I have made for this tax year and all donations I make in the future as Gift Aid donations until I notify Missio otherwise. I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I will notify Missio if I want to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on my Income and/or Capital Gains tax.

Date

N.B. Please ensure the box is ticked.

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 set up a Direct Debit or give by Card overleaf, or online at missio.org.uk or call us on 020 7821 9755 (office hours).
- I would like to become a volunteer for Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries in my parish
- Please tick if you do not require a receipt

- Please send me information on how to leave a gift in my Will

MASSSES

- 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 over 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 ensure you have filled in the reverse of this form first!

To donate via card

I would like to pay by: Visa/Mastercard Maestro/Delta/Visa CAF Charity Card

Name on card (PLEASE PRINT)* _____

Card No* MAESTRO ONLY

Expiry date* / Issue No MAESTRO ONLY

Signature* _____ Date* _____

Please tick if you do not require a receipt

To donate via Direct Debit

I wish to pay Missio the sum of (please tick):

£5 £10 £50 £100 Other £ _____

Monthly Quarterly Twice yearly Annually

On the: 5th day of the month 15th day of the month 28th day of the month

Starting on month _____



Instruction to your bank or building society to pay Direct Debit



Please fill in the whole form using a ballpoint pen and send to:
Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager _____ Bank/building society _____ Service user number _____

Address _____

2 5 4 5 8 8

Postcode _____

Reference (for office use) _____

Bank/building society account number _____ Branch sort code _____

Name of account holder(s) _____

Instruction to your Bank/building society: Please pay Missio Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Missio and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature of account holder(s) _____ Date _____

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

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 helping to meet 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 on page 25 and tick the yellow box.



Mission Today

Mission Today

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London SW1V 1NU

Tel: 020 7821 9755 (office hours)

Email: redbox@missio.org.uk

Missio

Web: missio.org.uk

Reg. Charity No. 1056651

Mill Hill Missionaries

Web: millhillmissionaries.com

Reg. Charity No. 220690



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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 Sr Mary in Kenya, set hearts ablaze with God's love and walk alongside vulnerable communities to share his compassion 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



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Account Number: 10824230

Reference: WMS + your postcode

missio.org.uk

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