

YOUR GUIDE TO

Mission Month for Parishes & Communities

Q What is World Mission Sunday?

A World Mission Sunday is the one Sunday in the year when the global Catholic community prays for and supports the missionary activity of the Church. In 2023 this special day will be on **22 October** with the theme 'Hearts on fire, feet on the move' (cf. Luke 24:13-35). Celebrated in every country where the Church has a presence – it's a truly global celebration of mission!

Q What is Mission month?

A During October, we encourage you to join us in prayer and fundraising for global mission. Help us raise awareness of missionaries around the world, pray with and for them, and support their vital work.

Q What can you do?

A You can set hearts ablaze with God's love in your own parish this October in three simple ways (read on for more details):

1. Highlight your own community's global connections with a **world map**
2. Take part in an **Emmaus Walk** to pray and raise funds for world mission
3. Come together for a **parish meal or coffee morning**, to connect with others and support world mission

Our global family

The World Mission map

Celebrate our global family in your Parish

In our increasingly global community, we all have personal connections with countries overseas – whether that's through family, travel, or prayer. Missio supports the Church in 157 countries around the world.

Your local world map

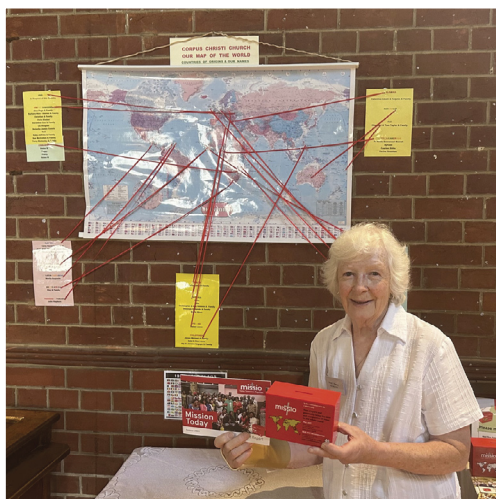
Recently Terry, a Red Box Local Secretary from Portsmouth, shared the world map she had put up in her parish. Terry invited her fellow parishioners to add their personal connections to communities and countries overseas to the map, to show the truly global nature of their local parish family. What a beautiful way to celebrate our connections with our sisters and brothers overseas!

What can you do?

This Mission Month, you could set up a similar map display in your parish, and invite your parish family to add their personal connections, prayers and messages to the map. We've created a printable map, which you are welcome to download and use, or you can use or create your own. Find printable resources at missio.org.uk/wms

Let us know

We always love hearing from you and seeing how you're supporting Missio and each other as God's global family. Please do share your photos and news with us on our social media channels (find all our links on the back page) or by contacting us at info@missio.org.uk



Feet on the move

The Emmaus Walk

'Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?'

Luke 24:32

This Mission Month activity is designed to bring parishes together, celebrating our local community while raising much needed funds for our sisters and brothers around the world.

Inspired by the Road to Emmaus, which Pope Francis references in this year's World Mission Sunday message, we have added ways to make a sponsored walk a mindful and prayerful family event.

Road to Emmaus Walk

Walking is one of the simplest ways to bring the community together to fundraise for Missio. This can also be a parish event. If there is more than one church in your parish, you could even plan a walk that takes you to each of them, stopping to pray and refresh at each.

Ask parishioners to get sponsored to join the walk, or you could set up a parish Just Giving page to maximise fundraising.

Keep the prayer focus by stopping on the way to pray, using our Mission Month prayers to guide your journey. Download them at missio.org.uk/wms

Make your event inclusive: *Is the route wheelchair and pushchair friendly?*
Could you create a shorter route to ensure everyone's included?
Are there places to stop and refresh?

We can help!

More active parishioners can plan a sponsored walk or fun run to raise money for Missio. Our sponsor forms, posters and other free resources can help you maximise the success of your fundraising. Visit missio.org.uk/wms



Break bread

The community meal

'Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them.'

(Luke 24:30)

Coming together for a meal is a wonderful way to celebrate that we are one family in Christ. After your parish walk, why not come together for refreshments? This could be as simple as a coffee and biscuits, a celebratory meal, or you could go even bigger with an international evening.

Planning an event to remember

Recently, students in Crewe raised £226.95 with a fantastic International Evening. The event was organised by the Year 10 Mission Team, with pupils, parents and staff running food stalls, so guests could sample food from countries around the world. Pupils also provided entertainment, which highlighted the arts from many different countries.

Coffee Morning – a tried and tested formula and always a winner. Ask for donations or place collection plates on each table. Bring your parish together and get baking for mission!

Running Dinner – plan to host a different course of a meal at each church in the parish or at several venues. Participants pay for a ticket and travel from one stop to another, enjoying coming together as a parish family.

International evening – Celebrate all the cultures and heritages in your parish with an evening of food and/or music from around the world.



Need more inspiration?

For all our ideas for a great fundraising event, visit missio.org.uk/fundraise

Missio
23 Eccleston Square
London SW1V 1NU

Reg. Charity No. 1056651

missio.org.uk



/MissioUK
@MissioUK



Missio_UK
Missio UK

missio
Today. Tomorrow. Together.