

YOUR GUIDE TO

# WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

22 October 2023

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**Q Why are all parishes throughout the world asked to support World Mission Sunday?**

**A** World Mission Sunday is vital to the growth of the Church and the spread of the Gospel in predominantly impoverished and remote areas overseas. The funds raised build much-needed infrastructure, from chapels and schools to orphanages, clinics and dispensaries. Requested by the local community, the support from Missio transforms lives and creates a hub from which the young Church can flourish and grow. World Mission Sunday is one of only three Papal collections and has been especially chosen by the Holy Father to support the mission of the Church in the world via Missio.

**Q Where do I send the World Mission Sunday collection?**

**A** Please send donations from your parish directly to Missio in the Freepost envelope provided. Cheques from parishioners, made out to World Mission Sunday or Missio, can be sent directly to us together with the parish collection and any completed Gift Aid forms and Donation envelopes. **Please do not send to your diocesan offices.** If parishioners wish to complete the form on our prepaid Donation envelopes to give by card, please remind them to return these directly to Missio, rather than place them in the parish collection. They will be added to your parish total.

**Q How can people donate online?**

**A** Individual supporters can give directly through our secure website. Simply visit [missio.org.uk/wmsdonate](https://missio.org.uk/wmsdonate) to help build a future of hope around the world.

For more information, please visit [missio.org.uk](https://missio.org.uk), call 020 7821 9755 during office hours, or email [info@missio.org.uk](mailto:info@missio.org.uk)

# Homily notes & Intercessions

**22 October 2023** (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A)

**First Reading:** Isaiah 45:1,4-6

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 95(96):1, 3-10, 7-10

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

**Gospel:** Matthew 22:15-21

This is a summary of the Homily notes.

For the complete version, please go to [missio.org.uk/wms](http://missio.org.uk/wms)

## Homily notes

For World Mission Sunday in 2023, Pope Francis has chosen the theme: **‘Hearts on fire, feet on the move’** (cf. Luke 24:13-35). Reflecting on the disciples’ encounter with Jesus on the journey to Emmaus in Luke’s Gospel, the Holy Father writes that ‘their encounter with Christ in the Word and in the breaking of bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. **Their hearts burned within them, their eyes were opened, and their feet set out on the way.**’\*

Pope Francis reminds us that wherever we are in the world, ‘the primary and principal resource of mission are those persons who have come to know the Risen Christ in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, who carry his fire in their heart and his light in their gaze. They can bear witness to the life that never dies, even in the most difficult of situations and in the darkest of moments.’

Unlike the Pharisees in today’s Gospel, we are called to open our hearts and minds to the living words of Jesus Christ. We are urged to return to the world all that belongs to the world: our deep-seated prejudices, false assumptions and irrational fears, our worship of society’s current ‘idols’, along with unhealthy desires and cravings for all that is passing and ultimately meaningless; and to give to God our unconditional commitment to his will.

World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every Catholic community in the world. On this special day, through **prayer, reflection and material help**, we express our support of missionaries who today are striving to preach and live the Gospel among those who have yet to receive it.

World Mission Sunday provides us with a time of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence, and oppression. However, this is not just a once-in-a-year celebration. We are called to reflect on our own call to mission and to embrace a missionary spirit every moment of every day.

Missio, the Holy Father’s charity for overseas mission, helps the Churches too poor or too young to support themselves. Your prayers and donations today will make a difference to people like Sister Mary and parishioner Linet in Kenya.

Kibera, the biggest 'slum' in Africa, is rife with all the problems poverty brings including unemployment, malnourishment, addiction, and abuse. It is easy to see Kibera as a place of despair. But missionary Sister Mary and Linet try to meet the challenges of life in Kibera with faith and friendship.

With the support of Sister Mary, Linet courageously lives out her faith by rescuing and fostering children who are at risk of harm. Linet has sometimes faced real danger to rescue the children who have been abandoned, orphaned, or trafficked.

World Mission Sunday is a lifeline for missionaries like Sister Mary, who give their whole lives to bring the love and hope of Jesus to situations of extreme poverty and injustice.

This year, Sister Mary needs your support to ensure her work continues to make a difference for many more vulnerable children.

**We all have a part to play in igniting God's love. This World Mission Sunday let us set hearts ablaze with Christ's love through missionaries, like Sister Mary, and the inspiring people they walk alongside.**

\*For the complete set of Homily notes and the Holy Father's message for World Mission Sunday, please go to [missio.org.uk/wms](http://missio.org.uk/wms)

## Prayers of the Faithful

**Celebrant:** *On this World Mission Sunday, we unite with the whole Catholic Church in praying for the coming of God's Kingdom.*

- **For Pope Francis, our Bishop.... and all the leaders of the Church:** may they continue to guide the Church in her mission of announcing the Gospel to the world.
- **For missionaries on the move, men and women dedicated to witnessing to the Gospel in remote areas of the world:** may they be given the strength and courage to persevere in the mission God has given them.
- **For those who have not yet received the Good News of Jesus Christ:** may their hearts burn within them as they hear the Scriptures explained to them.
- **For those who live in areas of war, poverty, and oppression:** may we be channels of God's love by healing wounds, building bridges, strengthening relationships, and confronting injustice.
- **For the work of Missio across the world:** may our prayers and our gifts continue to give hope and help to those in greatest need.

**Celebrant:** *God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ calls us all to be missionary disciples. May your Church so abound in love and compassion that the joy of the Gospel will fill the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. We ask all this through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

# Inserts for your Parish newsletter

## 'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'

### **Sunday 15 October** – Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday, when the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his charity for world mission. Please support Missio in helping missionaries to work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Join in on this special day, that unites Catholics all over the world in prayer and celebration of our Church's mission to share God's love with all people. Please call **020 7821 9755** (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible: [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk)

### **Sunday 22 October** – Today is World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world today! It supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries like Sr Mary who has given her whole life to bring the love and hope of Jesus to situations of extreme poverty and injustice. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important collection which will sustain the future of our Church. Please call **020 7821 9755** (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible: [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk)

### **Sunday 29 October** – Thank you for celebrating World Mission Sunday

Thank you very much for your donations to World Mission Sunday last week. Your prayers and support of World Mission Sunday will help missionaries work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Please pray for the work of Missio and all those working to offer the love of Jesus, that we may remain strong in our witness to Christ's love for all peoples. To continue supporting mission throughout the year, please go to [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) or call **020 7821 9755** (office hours).

## Your guide to online

World Mission Sunday materials are available on Missio's website.

This will make it easier for you to copy and paste directly into your own materials, for example, your parish newsletter.

Here is a list of the available material:

**World Mission Sunday** – [missio.org.uk/wms](http://missio.org.uk/wms)

- The Holy Father's Message
- Homily Notes & Intercessions
- Newsletter Inserts & FAQs
- World Mission Sunday poster
- Children's Activity Sheets (only online)

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Today. Tomorrow. Together.