

World Mission Sunday

19 October 2014

Celebrated in every country where the Catholic Church is present, World Mission Sunday is the one day in the year when our family in faith joins together to pray and give for the good of poorer parishes overseas.

This year, Missio's World Mission Sunday campaign focuses on the needs of the Church in Myanmar (Burma) where our brothers and sisters are struggling against oppression, lack of basic human rights and restrictions on building new churches.

What do you need to know about World Mission Sunday?

- World Mission Sunday is one of only three Papal collections that are mandatory and universal
- Donations given on World Mission Sunday go in their entirety to help mission parishes overseas that cannot support themselves – over 1,069 Catholic dioceses mostly in Africa and Asia
- Missio is the Pope's chosen instrument for sharing the Gospel and building the Church overseas
- Missio has been supporting mission parishes for more than 150 years
- Money donated on World Mission Sunday is sent to Missio to distribute directly where the need is greatest

What can you do to help?

Promote World Mission Sunday in your parish by:

- ✓ Putting up the World Mission Sunday poster in your church (*please find the poster enclosed*)
- ✓ Explaining the significance of World Mission Sunday to your parishioners (*use the inserts and Missio's website for more information – www.missio.org.uk*)
- ✓ Encouraging your congregation to pray and give what they can for the good of those in need in our Catholic family overseas
- ✓ Highlighting the Gift Aid envelopes (*enclosed*) which enable taxpayers to make a donation on which Missio can claim an extra 25%

Turn to the back of this folder to see the impact of World Mission Sunday

Thank you for helping Missio reach out to the world with God's love!

Catholics in parishes in Africa and Asia rely on the generosity of individuals in England and Wales. Please help Missio reach more people who haven't yet heard the Gospel.



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World Mission Sunday gives us the opportunity to commit ourselves through prayer and financial giving to the work of Missio in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to the people who have not yet heard of him and to give our support to newly founded Church Communities.

”

Bishop Declan Lang,
Chair of the Department
for International Affairs



**From Mgr
Canon
James
Cronin**

Missio
National
Director

Speaking to the National Directors of Missio in Rome last May, the Holy Father said: 'The Pontifical Mission Societies (Missio) are a privileged instrument in the hands of the Pope, the source and foundation of the unity and universality of the Church (LG n.23). They belong to each local Church yet they are "Pontifical" because they are directly responsible to the Bishop of Rome, for the specific purpose of ensuring that the precious gift of the Gospel may be offered to all, to the very ends of the earth.'

Please encourage your parishes and communities to be generous in responding to the Pope's call to be 'ever more open to the action of the Holy Spirit, to offer our unreserved readiness to be instruments of God's mercy, of his tenderness, of his love for every man and every woman and especially for the poor, the outcast and those who are far away from the Church.'

Thank you.

James Cronin

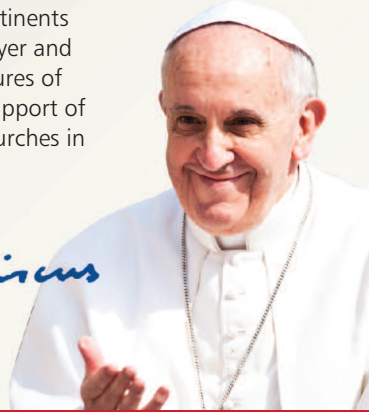
Watch Missio's 6-minute film on World Mission Sunday to find out more
www.missio.org.uk/wms

A message from Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters

On this World Mission Sunday my thoughts turn to all the local Churches. I invite you to immerse yourself in the joy of the Gospel and nurture a love that can light up your vocation and your mission. I urge each of you to recall, as if you were making an interior pilgrimage, that "first love" with which the Lord Jesus Christ warmed your heart, not for the sake of nostalgia but in order to persevere in joy. The Lord's disciples persevere in joy when they sense his presence, do his will and share with others their faith, hope and evangelical charity.

Today vast numbers of people still do not know Jesus Christ. For this reason, the mission ad gentes continues to be most urgent. All the members of the Church are called to participate in this mission, for the Church is missionary by her very nature: she was born "to go forth". World Mission Sunday is a privileged moment when the faithful of various continents engage in prayer and concrete gestures of solidarity in support of the young Churches in mission lands.



Franciscus

Thank you for your support

Read more from the Holy Father's message inside

We are all missionaries

This map highlights the countries supported by the World Mission Sunday collection in England and Wales last year. This year Missio's campaign focuses on the needs of the 100,000 displaced people in northern Myanmar (formerly known as Burma). Bishop Francis of Myitkyina diocese is running a health clinic, schools and shelters for hundreds of people in his community who have been forced to leave their homes because of the violent civil war in their State.

For more information about the life-changing work of priests in Myanmar, visit Missio's website: www.missio.org.uk.



“ Thank you to the people of England and Wales and Missio; you are doing fantastic work and you are the people with a sense of mission and solidarity and communion. ”

Bishop Kevin Dowling
World Mission Sunday 2013
Rustenburg South Africa

To provide for the different needs of the overseas Church, Missio focuses on four main areas:

- APF** – The building of Church infrastructure and support of faith communities
- SPA** – The training of local priests and sisters
- MT** – Children's projects (faith, health and education)
- PMU** – The promotion of world mission through prayer and study

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'Be missionaries of God's love'

Pope Francis

IN THIS PACK

Suggested Homily & Intercessions

Notes for Children's Liturgy

Holy Father's Message & Mission Intentions

FAQs & Parish Newsletter Inserts

Counting the Collection

Poster

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www.missio.org.uk

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Suggested Homily & Intercessions	
Notes for Children's Liturgy	
Holy Father's Message & Mission Intentions	
FAQs & Parish Newsletter Inserts	
Counting the Collection	
Poster	