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CHILDREN'S DAY OF MISSION PRAYER 11th OCTOBER 2019

A collection of prayer resources to help schools, parishes and communities celebrate.



Dear friends of Missionary Children,

Did you know that the Society of Missionary Children is one of the oldest and largest children's charities in the world? It was founded in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin Janson. As a young priest, Charles was distressed by the plight of children in China. He asked the children of France, and later the children of Europe, to help through two simple actions — to pray daily for children in mission countries and to donate a single coin. He believed this plan would have a two-way impact; by giving spiritual and financial help to children who had little, while allowing the children of Europe, who had much in comparison, to learn the importance of compassion and charity.

Within ten years of its foundation, the Society of Missionary Children was active in over one hundred countries, including Ireland. 'Children Helping Children' is our motto, and we encourage children to pray and share whatever they can, no matter how little, towards helping girls and boys who live in fear and poverty.

Children's Day of Mission Prayer

Throughout Mission Month we have a deep-rooted tradition of supporting missionaries. However, this month of love and generosity also offers great opportunities to help children to develop their missionary hearts! Being missionary is an inherent part of being Christian. But, if we want our youngest parishioners to understand and engage in mission, we need to invest time, energy and resources. This is why, since 2007, during Mission Month, we've held the Children's Day of Mission Prayer. It's a celebration that motivates and encourages girls and boys to put their love into action by praying and giving.

This year the Children's Day of Mission Prayer, with the theme 'Together We Are Mission', will be held on Friday, 11th October. The Society of Missionary Children will travel to Thurles to celebrate this great day with local children in the Cathedral of the Assumption. However, as always, we want to make the day as big and inclusive as possible. Regardless of where you are on the day, we invite you and the children of your parish to be part of this uplifting celebration!

Children's Day of Mission Prayer Booklet

To help celebrate, please feel free to use any of the following within this booklet:

- Together We Are Mission Prayer Service
- Together We Are Mission Mass
- Mission Month Activity Calendar (to photocopy)
- The Mission Rosary
- The Children's Mission Prayer

The Children's Day of Mission Prayer can be celebrated anywhere: in a local parish church, centre, school, classrooms or at home! Children do not have to donate to participate, although any support given is greatly appreciated. The most important part of the day is encouraging our young ones to pray for children around the world, who are just like them but have less.

If you can't hold a celebration on Friday, 11th October, then please consider using these resources on another day during Mission Month.

Thank you for allowing the children of your parish to be there for others!



Julieann Moran
Society of Missionary Children

TOGETHER WE ARE MISSION PRAYER SERVICE

Preparation: We are all called by God to make a difference, no matter how small. This is what being a missionary is about. This year's Children's Day of Mission Prayer is about being a community and doing good things together. We are the community that continues Jesus' mission to proclaim the Good News to the whole world. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to remain with us and help us to do his work and share his love. Each of us has a separate role to play but together we can do it better. Together We Are Mission! Ask each child to prepare a drawing of what togetherness means to them. These drawings can then be the focal point for the prayer service.

Focal Point: Globe or map of the world, display of the children's drawings, five coloured candles – one red, one green, one yellow, one white and one blue (if you cannot find coloured candles use white ones and put coloured ribbons around them) – Mission Rosary Beads, and a Bible open at Acts 2:1-13.

Hymn The Spirit of God is Upon Us (from *Grow in Love* series)

GATHERING TOGETHER

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Today is the Society of Missionary Children's Day of Mission Prayer. It is a special day when children offer prayers for the needs of children living throughout the world. One of the things we all have in common is that we are all loved by Jesus. Jesus knew that the disciples would be feeling sad and lonely when he returned to God the Father in heaven. He promised them that he would be with them always, until the end of time. He wanted them to continue the work he had done while he was on earth. He sent the Holy Spirit so the disciples would not be alone and to show them how they could be his witnesses. We are gathered now to celebrate in a special way how we are linked together and are called to love one another and to care for each other. We are called to care especially for those who live in poverty or fear. In our prayers today we remember:

Child: The children of Africa. (place green candle beside globe)

Child: The children of Asia. (place yellow candle beside globe)

Child: The children of Europe. (place white candle beside globe)

Child: The children of Oceania. (place blue candle beside globe)



Child: The children of the Americas. (place red candle beside globe)

Hymn *Connected (Grow in Love & Alive-O 6)*

Reading (Acts 2:1-33): Before Jesus ascended to heaven to be with God the Father, he gave his disciples a mission. He told them to go to the whole world and make disciples of all people, to baptise them and teach them about him. Jesus promised that he would never leave them alone, so he sent the Holy Spirit, who would help the disciples know what to do. Let us listen to that story now as it is told in the Acts of the Apostles:

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak. There were Jews living in Jerusalem and other religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard the noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, 'These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? Amazed and confused, they kept asking each other, 'What does this mean?' but others made fun of the believers, saying, 'These people are drunk!'

Then Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: 'Listen to me and let me tell you what this means. Jesus of Nazareth was a man whose divine authority was clearly proven to you by all the miracles and wonders which God performed through him. You yourselves know this, for it happened here among you. God has raised this very Jesus from death, and we are all witnesses to this fact. He has been raised to the right side of God, his Father, and we have received the Holy Spirit from him, as he promised. What you now see and hear is his gift that he has poured out on us.'

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel (Mt 28:16-20): Jesus came on earth to tell people the Good News of God's love and to show them how to live in love. Before Jesus began this mission, he was baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. But Jesus' life

and mission on earth was more than two thousand years ago, so the work of his first disciples helps us know him today. After Jesus rose from the dead, he gave his disciples important instructions. In the Gospel of Matthew (28:16-20) Jesus tells them to tell everyone about him and his teachings. They did just that. They travelled to other countries and taught about Jesus. More and more people came to believe in him. Jesus still wants his followers to bring more people to him today. We do this by learning more about him, by talking about him, and by living the way he taught us. This is the Gospel reading of what Jesus told his disciples to do:

The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus drew near and said to them, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Child: Jesus told his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit to be their helper. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at his Baptism and the believers at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray, to live, and to love like Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to be on mission together! We can pray to the Holy Spirit to guide us.



Child: Help Us Holy Spirit Prayer (*Grow in Love*)

Have you ever wondered,
 Would you like to know
 What meeting Jesus would be like
 Two thousand years ago?
 If you had been a poor man
 Back in those ancient days
 And you met Jesus on the road,
 What do you think he'd say?
 If you said, 'Sir, I'm hungry,'
 What do you think he'd do?
 He'd take out any food he had
 And share it all with you.
 He'd share all that he had with you,
 I feel quite sure he would,
 For Jesus cared for everyone
 And helped them when he could.
 Now help us Holy Spirit
 To try in our own way
 To care and share as Jesus did
 Back in those ancient days.

Leader: Loving God, you sent Jesus, the first missionary, on his great mission. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the disciples with joy and gave them the courage to witness to your love and continue this mission. We now invite the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with joy and energy so that we too might be witnesses to your love in our daily lives. We pray for the friends of Jesus in faraway countries today. Help them to spread the love of Jesus around the world.

All: Amen.

OUR PRAYERS

Leader: When the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples at Pentecost, their faith was strengthened, and they went out to live in the way Jesus asked them to. We now pray to Jesus for this same strength to be his missionaries.

Child: That all the children of the world will be filled with your love and happiness. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Child: That we may work for justice and speak out in support of someone who is having difficulty; those who may be homeless, being bullied, sick or lonely.

We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Child: That we will share the love of God with our brothers and sisters around the world and do acts of love and kindness for one another. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Child: We pray for all children who are suffering; whose spirits are crushed by war, violence and all forms of poverty. We pray that we may help them by supporting organisations such as the Society of Missionary Children. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Child: We pray for Pope Francis and the leaders of the Church, that they will always be guided by God's love through the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Child: We pray for those who have died. May they be at peace in God's loving arms in heaven. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: The sign of peace is very symbolic. It highlights the type of heart we are meant to have as Christians when we are gathered together to pray. It reminds us that if we wish to be on mission with Jesus, we must first 'love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength,' and not forget to 'love your neighbour as yourself' (Mk 12:30-31). So, let us offer each other a sign of peace to show our love.

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: As we finish our prayer service today, let us say together our Mission Prayer for all children everywhere

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever,
Amen

Closing Hymn

This Little Light of Mine (*Grow in Love*)



MISSION

Activity Calendar

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY



The first of October is the first day of Mission Month and the feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux. She is the Patron Saint of the Missions. She loved flowers and is known as 'the little flower' of Jesus. She first learned of the work of Jesus when she participated in Missionary Children at school. Thérèse is a great example for all children involved in the Society for how to be a missionary at home through prayer!

2 Today is the Feast of Guardian Angels... Say a little prayer to YOUR guardian angel to



6 Ask if you can join the children's choir in your parish



7 Today is feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary... Say one decade tonight



8 Ask teacher if your class can join in the Children's Day of Mission Prayer on Friday



9 Love the World You're



13 Pray for peace in the world



14 Say a prayer for children who are sad and lonely



15 A Íosa dhíl, nuair atá misinéirí I ndainséar, is iad ag fógairt do ghrá I dtíortha I gcéin, bí leo á gcosaint ó olc



16 Show your family how much you love them



20 MISSION SUNDAY



21 Make friends with someone new in school today



22 Why? Thank God that you are able to go to school



23 Pray for your teacher



27 YOU can make someone feel good just by being kind



28 With a friend write a list of 5 things you like about each other then swap



29 Be thankful for your food and pray for children who don't have enough



30 If you quarrel with someone, make sure you make up after



MONTH

October 2019

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>3 Ask your teacher to tell you about the work of missionaries</p>	 <p>4 Feast of St Francis of Assisi...Look after your pets!</p> 	<p>5 Téigh a chodladh go luath agus abair paidir do leanaí gan leaba</p> 	
<p>10 Pray our Mission Prayer...It's on our website!</p> <p>Our Mission Prayer</p>	<p>Children's Day of Mission Prayer</p> 	<p>12 SHARE!</p> 	
<p>17 Tonight say a special prayer for children who live with war and fear</p> 	<p>18 If you can, keep 50c of your pocket money for the Mission Sunday Collection</p> 	<p>19 Get up early and help with the chores around the house</p> 	
<p>24 Paint or draw a nice picture for someone you care about</p> 	<p>25 Mid-term break... WOOHOO!</p>	<p>26 Ring an elderly relative for a chat & catch up on all the news</p> 	
<p>31 Before you go out to have fun, pray for all your loved ones who have died</p> 	 <p>SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CHILDREN</p>		

The Society of Missionary Children is the oldest children's charity in the world. Their motto is 'Children Helping Children', and they encourage children in Ireland to pray and share whatever they can – no matter how little – to help girls and boys overseas, many of whom live in fear and poverty.

TOGETHER WE ARE MISSION MASS

Opening Procession of Priest Celebrant and Children

(Invite a child to read what is being brought to the sanctuary and why.)

We bring a globe (or map of the world) to remember all the children of the world. We bring our candles in the mission colours: Green for the children in Africa, yellow for the children of Asia, white for the children of Europe, blue for the children of Oceania, and red for the children of the Americas. We also bring our mission box (or some coins in a jar). We do without things we like, so that we can give to others. We bring some drawings of what togetherness means to each of us. We bring the book of the Gospels (Lectionary) and today we will be hearing about how Jesus tells his disciples to tell everyone about him and his teachings; to continue his mission.

Priest Celebrant: We are all called by God to make a difference, no matter how small. This is what being a missionary is about. This year's Children's Day of Mission Prayer is about being a community and doing good things together. We are the community that continues Jesus' mission to proclaim the Good News to the whole world. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to remain with us and help us to do his work and share his love. Each of us has a separate role to play, but together we can do it better. Together We Are Mission! We are gathered now to celebrate in a special way how we are linked together and are called to love one another and to care for each other. We are called to care especially for those who live in poverty or fear. In our prayers today we remember:

The children of Africa (light green candle)

The children of Asia (light yellow candle)

The children of Europe (light white candle)

The children of Oceania (light blue candle)

The children of the Americas (light red candle)

Collect Prayer: God our Father, you love us as a father loves his children. Help us to live and love like your Son, Jesus. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

First Reading (Acts 2:1-33): Before Jesus ascended to heaven to be with God the Father, he gave his disciples a mission. He told them to go to the whole world and make disciples of all people, to baptise them and teach them about him. Jesus promised that he would never leave them alone, so he sent the Holy Spirit, who would help the disciples know what to do. Let us listen to that story now:

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak. There were Jews living in Jerusalem and other religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard the noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, 'These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages?' Amazed and confused, they kept asking each other, 'What does this mean?' but others made fun of the believers, saying, 'These people are drunk!'

Then Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: 'Listen to me and let me tell you what this means. Jesus of Nazareth was a man whose divine authority was clearly proven to you by all the miracles and wonders which God performed through him. You yourselves know this, for it happened here among you. God has raised this very Jesus from death, and we are all witnesses to this fact. He has been raised to the right side of God, his Father, and we have received the Holy Spirit from him, as he promised. What you now see and hear is his gift that he has poured out on us.'

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 100):

This psalm tells us that we are all God's people.

Response: Sing to the Lord all the world!

Sing to the Lord all the world!
Worship the Lord with joy;
Come before him with happy songs! **R.**

Acknowledge that the Lord is God.
He made us, and we belong to him;
We are his people; we are his flock. **R.**

Enter the Temple gates with thanksgiving;
Go into its courts with praise.
Give thanks to him and praise him. **R.**

The Lord is good;
His love is eternal
And his faithfulness lasts forever. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia,

'Go out to the whole world and tell everyone what I have done.'

Alleluia.

Gospel (Mt 28:16-20): Jesus came on earth to tell people the Good News of God's love and to show them how to live in love. Before Jesus began this mission, he was baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. But Jesus' life and mission on earth was more than two thousand years ago so the work of his first disciples helps us know him today. After Jesus rose from the dead, he gave his disciples important instructions. This is what Jesus told his disciples to do:

The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of time."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of the Faithful: When the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples at Pentecost, their faith was strengthened, and they went out to live in the way Jesus asked them to. We now pray to Jesus for this same strength to be his missionaries.

1. That all the children of the world will be filled with your love and happiness. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That we may work for justice and speak out in support of someone who is having difficulty; those who may be homeless, being bullied, sick or lonely. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That we will share the love of God with our brothers and sisters around the world and do acts of love and kindness for one another. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

4. We pray for all children who are suffering; whose spirits are crushed by war, violence and all forms of poverty. We pray that we may help them by supporting organisations such as the Society of Missionary Children. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

5. We pray for Pope Francis and the leaders of the Church, that they will always be guided by God's love through the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

6. We pray for those who have died. May they be at peace in God's loving arms in heaven. We pray to the Lord.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer over the Offerings: God our Father, we bring you our gifts of bread and wine. With them, we bring ourselves and our brothers and sisters around the world. Help us to share the Good News. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



Prayer after Communion: God our Father, you have given us Jesus in a special way in this Mass. Help us to love each other more, with the love of Jesus, your Son, and give us the strength to continue his mission. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest Celebrant: Before our final blessing, let us pray the Society of Missionary Children's mission prayer together:

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever,
Amen

Go in peace, to love God and to show love at home, in school and at play.
All: Thanks be to God.

Suggested Hymns

The Spirit of God is Upon Us, Connected, We Come to
You Lord Jesus, This Little Light of Mine, Go Tell
Everyone



THE MISSION ROSARY

Follow the beads to say the Mission Rosary. We start with the first bead and say the Our Father. On the next three beads we say a Hail Mary on each bead. On the fourth bead we say the Glory Be. We then follow this pattern: Our Father, ten Hail Marys, and a Glory Be, all the way round until we get back to the yellow bead. At the beginning of each decade say the corresponding prayer below.



1

Our first colour is **GREEN** which represents the children in Africa. Let us pray for all the children of Africa and all the missionaries working there. Let their work be helpful to all. Let us pray for an end to all fighting and for the Church to grow.

2

Our second colour is **RED** for the children in The Americas. Let us pray for the children of The Americas and all the missionaries working there. Let us try each day to find a new way to help others and show that we love all people.

3

Our third colour is **WHITE** for the children in Europe. Let us pray for the children of Europe and all the missionaries working there. We pray that Christians in Europe remain true to Jesus and continue to spread his word.

4

Our fourth colour is **BLUE** for the children in Oceania. Let us pray for the children of Oceania and all the missionaries working there. Let us also remember all the Christians in the world, especially those that live in remote areas.

5

Our fifth colour is **YELLOW** for the children in Asia. Let us pray for the children of Asia and all the missionaries working there. Let us also pray for peace and that we may never forget the poor.

Every year schoolchildren in Ireland help us support thousands of projects in the developing world. These projects are run by missionaries who know the value of every cent or penny they receive.

If you'd like mission rosary beads, please contact Julieann at missionarychildren@wmi.ie or 01 497 2035. We suggest a donation of €1.00 per rosary.





World Missions Ireland is the Church's official charity for overseas mission.

Charity Number CHY 2318 | www.wmi.ie | info@wmi.ie | 01 497 2035