

MISSION MONTH TOOLKIT

2

The Mission Month Toolkit can be used to help understand, celebrate and share the message of Mission Month and World Mission Sunday. The information enclosed is for everyone. Feel free to share it from the pulpit, on your website, over social media - basically anywhere you update or post information.

What is World Mission Sunday?

World Mission Sunday is the Holy Father's annual appeal to support overseas mission and missionaries. Similar to the Good Friday collection for the Holy Land and Peter's Pence, it is one of three yearly universal Church collections. It takes place in every single parish worldwide where the Church is present.

Why is it so important?

All offerings made on behalf of World Mission Sunday become part of the Holy Father's Universal Solidarity Fund. This Fund supports missionary activities in over 1,100 young dioceses; mostly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. As young dioceses grow, so do their needs. On top of this, they are often found in remote areas devastated by conflict or natural disasters. The Universal Solidarity Fund provides aid so that missionaries can continue to go to these places to share the love of God.

What does it support?

The needs of young dioceses vary, anything from a motorbike so a priest can celebrate Mass in a remote village. To a community hall so local people can gather in safety. Or more urgently, vaccinations and medicines so that parish dispensaries can protect vulnerable children. In essence it:

- provides basic infrastructure by helping communities to build schools, clinics, parish halls and churches
- prepares the future leaders and carers of the Church by supporting the training of sisters, priests, brothers and catechists
- supports missionary programmes to care for children's spiritual and physical wellbeing by offering safe shelter, healthcare, education and hope for the future

What is the theme of World Mission Sunday?

This year's message 'We Cannot Remain Silent – we cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard' (Acts 4:20) is twofold. It is a message of hope: Jesus Christ is risen and we cannot keep his love, compassion and mercy to ourselves. It also challenges us to stand up and speak out on behalf of those whose voices are too small to be heard. For them, we cannot remain silent.

We Cannot Remain Silent – 'we cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard' Acts 4:20

**WORLD
MISSION
SUNDAY**
**24th October
2021**

MISSION MONTH UPDATES

You can help spread the message of World Mission Sunday by including the following updates in your parish newsletter, website and/or social media. If the text is too long, please feel free to edit.

Copy and paste
from
www.missio.ie

Sunday 3rd October

The world is in crisis. In many poorer parishes in Africa, Asia, and Latin America it is overseas missionaries who are on the front line. Show them your support. Donate €4.00 by texting the word 'Mission' to 50300. Alternatively donate at www.missio.ie or call Missio Ireland on 01 497 2035. To learn more go to www.missio.ie

Missio Ireland is the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission. Through your generosity they support missionaries who are caring for some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. (Texts cost €4. Missio will receive a minimum of €3.60. Service Provider: LikeCharity. Helpline: 076 680 5278. Republic of Ireland only.)

Sunday 10th October

October and World Mission Sunday is a time for the faithful of the world to show their appreciation towards the work of overseas missionaries. The generosity offered will be used to support missionary activities in over 1,100 struggling dioceses; mostly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. You can help right now. Please donate €4.00 by texting the word 'Mission' to 50300. Alternatively donate at www.missio.ie or call Missio Ireland on 01 497 2035. To learn more go to www.missio.ie *

Sunday 17th October

Next weekend we will celebrate World Mission Sunday, the Holy Father's annual appeal to support overseas mission and missionaries. Worryingly, it is in jeopardy. The pandemic means that less of us can physically attend Mass, meaning less offerings in the basket. The implications for overseas missionaries and the communities they serve over the coming months will be devastating. You can help right now. Please donate €4.00 by texting the word 'Mission' to 50300. Alternatively donate at www.missio.ie or call Missio on 01 497 2035. To learn more go to www.missio.ie *

Sunday 24th October

This weekend parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. The kindness shown will help overseas missionaries to continue to share the love of God with some of the world's most marginalised and vulnerable people. Thank you for supporting in whatever way you can, and please remember it is more than an appeal for financial help. Missionaries also need spiritual support. On World Mission Sunday missionaries take great strength in knowing that the faithful of the world are keeping them in their thoughts and prayers. Help right now. Donate €4.00 by texting the word 'Mission' to 50300. Alternatively donate at www.missio.ie or call Missio Ireland on 01 497 2035. To learn more go to www.missio.ie *

Sunday 31st October

On behalf of Pope Francis, thank you for supporting World Mission Sunday. Your kindness means that overseas missionaries can continue to share the love of God with some of the world's most marginalised and vulnerable people. If you value the work of overseas missionaries, you can donate €4.00 by texting the word 'Mission' to 50300. Alternatively donate at www.missio.ie or call Missio Ireland on 01 497 2035. To learn more go to www.missio.ie *

**Missio Ireland is the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission. Through your generosity they support missionaries who are caring for some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. (Texts cost €4. Missio will receive a minimum of €3.60. Service Provider: LikeCharity. Helpline: 076 680 5278. Republic of Ireland only.)*

On the following page we've shared the story of missionary OLA Sister Sr Veronica, and Rahila. This is a real life example of the vital work missionaries are carrying out. If you don't have a missionary who can share their experience with the congregation on World Mission Sunday, please share theirs. You can find a more detailed account of the story on www.missio.ie

BUILDING PEACE IN NIGERIA

Nigeria is one of the most diverse countries in the world. Nowhere else on the planet do so many Christians and Muslims live side-by-side. Although being one of the largest oil producers in Africa, most Nigerians live in abject poverty. Centuries of inter-religious conflict means that violence is a fact of life.

All these injustices have caused deep cracks when it comes to communities of different faiths trying to coexist. But resistance is stirring. Many Christians and Muslims no longer want to be pitted against each other. Instead, they are choosing to join forces for peaceful change.

Time to count on what unites us

To break the vicious cycles of inter-religious intolerance, the missionary sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles (the OLA sisters) founded the Women's Interfaith Council (WIC). Since its formation, it has brought over 11,500 Christian and Muslim women together with a vision of a society where both faiths can live in peace. Before its formation, reconciliation talks between Christians and Muslims were taking place. However, they were male dominated. The belief of the WIC is that if coexistence among different faiths is to be achieved, both women and men need to be involved. 'Women have a lot to contribute to peace building', says OLA sister, Sr Veronica Onyeannis, Women's Interfaith Council Executive Director, 'In African culture women are pushed behind. Most of the time, women are neglected. Society sees women as only the victim.'

Lost forever

One woman who has been horrifically affected by the inter-religious conflict is 23-year-old Rahila. In the early hours of March 2019 her whole life fell apart. She woke to shouts and screams. Attackers were coming towards her village - over 300 men carrying sticks, machetes, and guns. It's suspected that the attackers may have been neighbouring herdsmen.

The moments that ensued were blind chaos. The attackers swung out against anyone in their path. It was then a flash of pain sent her crashing to the

ground. When she woke, she was lying in a pool of blood. That flash of pain had been a machete cutting through her arm.

Rahila now lives everyday with the debilitating reminder of that gruesome morning - she lost the lower part of her arm. Most painfully she lost her son, her mother, and her mother-in-law. All murdered. Her little daughter Peace was so traumatised by the events that she lost her laughter.

Hope for the future

In her darkest hour, Rahila turned to missionary sister, Sr Veronica and the WIC. Beyond their work towards peace, the WIC offers victims of inter-religious violence the practical and psychological support they need to recover. Over several months Sr Veronica worked closely with Rahila; organising safe shelter, counselling, and physiotherapy. With encouragement Rahila has found the strength to move forward, setting up a stall to earn a small income. Today, her daughter Peace attends school. Here she learns and plays with other children. Her laughter has returned, filling Rahila with hope for the future.

Sr Veronica is just one example of the thousands of missionaries who are living and working with some of the most marginalised and vulnerable communities in the world. Generosity and prayers for World Mission Sunday means missionaries like her, and organisations like the Women's Interfaith Council, can keep loving, serving, and sharing God's peace with others.

Read the full story on www.missio.ie



By sharing God's love, Sr Veronica is helping Rahila and Peace have hope for their futures

RETURNING COLLECTIONS

Most parishes, specifically ones outside of Dublin, will return their World Mission Sunday collections directly to their diocesan office. For other parishes the safest way to return is via bank lodgement. When making a lodgement, please remember to use your parish or community name as reference. If you don't, we won't be able to confirm receipt and acknowledge your return.

**Returning via post?
Please include the Donation Return slip**



BANK LODGEMENT

Euro Bank Details

Account Name Missio Ireland
IBAN IE12 BOFI 9007 5456 9616 36
BIC BOFIIIE2D

Sterling Bank Details

Account Name Missio Ireland
IBAN IE 63 AIBK 9300 6763 0039 98
BIC AIBKIE2D



SEND CHEQUE / POSTAL ORDER

Missio Ireland
64 Lower Rathmines Road
Dublin
D06 N2H1



RETURN OVER THE PHONE

Call Missio Ireland on +3531 497 2035



RETURN ONLINE

Go to www.missio.ie

'It is time to count on what unites us, rather than what divides us'

Sr Veronica

