

# CHILDREN'S DAY OF MISSION PRAYER



## FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022

A prayer resource to help schools, parishes and communities celebrate

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Here in Ireland, we have a deep-rooted tradition of supporting missionaries. Being missionary is an inherent part of being Christian. But, if we want our youngest Christians to engage with the missionary outreach of the Church, we need to invest time, energy and resources. This is why, since 2007, we've celebrated Children's Day of Mission Prayer. Held on the second Friday of October, it's a celebration that motivates and encourages children to put their love into action through prayer and giving.

### Theme for Children's Day of Mission Prayer 2022

'You Shall Be My Witnesses' is the theme for this year's Children's Day of Mission Prayer. As always, we want to make this day of celebration as large and inclusive as possible. Regardless of where you are on the day, we invite you and the children of your parish, school, or community to be part of this uplifting celebration! The day can be celebrated anywhere: in a local parish church, parish centre, school, classrooms or at home. Remember, children do not have to donate to participate, although any support given is always 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, 14<sup>th</sup> October, then please consider using this resource on another day during Mission Month. Thank you for allowing the children in your care to be there for others!

### Preparing the Prayer Space

Prepare the prayer space with a large globe or map of the world along with five coloured candles representing the five continents where the Missio Family supports children around the world – one red candle, one green, one yellow, one white and one blue (if you cannot find coloured candles use white ones and put coloured ribbons around them). If you have one of our blue donation globes, you can add this to the prayer space also. If not, include a donation jar with some small coins inside. Add some drawings from the children based on their understanding of the theme and the Bible open on Acts 1:8.

### Children Helping Children

Thanks to children living out our motto **Children Helping Children**, the Missio family supports millions of the world's poorest children every year. This is done when children in over 150 countries, including Ireland, offer solidarity and hope through their prayers and donations. As a result, thousands of children's projects, led by missionaries, are supported. To find out more or to support our work, contact:

# You Shall Be My Witnesses'

## Prayer Service

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

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

**All:** Amen

**Leader:** Today is Children's Day of Mission Prayer. It is a special day when children in Ireland offer prayers for the needs of children living throughout the world. Our prayer service today is about living as Jesus asked us to, and sharing the Good News that God loves us all. In our readings today, we will hear how Jesus asked his disciples to carry on doing his good work since he was returning to heaven to be with God the Father. He said that the disciples were to be his witnesses.

In our prayer space today, we have a globe (or map of the world) to remember all the children of the world. We have 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 have our mission box (or some coins in a jar). We do without the things we like, so that we can give to others. We have some drawings of what being a witness for Jesus means, and we have the Word of God, the Bible.

In our prayers today we remember:

**Child:** The children of Africa (with an adult light the green candle)

**Child:** The children of Asia (with an adult light the yellow candle)

**Child:** The children of Europe (with an adult light the white candle)

**Child:** The children of Oceania (with an adult light the blue candle)

**Child:** The children of the Americas (with an adult light the red candle)

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

**Leader:** We know that after Jesus died, and was buried, and rose from the dead that he appeared to many of his followers. But before Jesus went back to heaven to be with God the Father, he gave his disciples a special 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 the story in the Acts of the Apostles when Jesus asked his disciples to be his witnesses (**Acts 1:3-9**).

**Child:** After his suffering, Jesus appeared to his disciples and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know



the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

The Word of the Lord

**All:** **Thanks be to God**

**Leader:** Jesus came on earth to tell everyone the Good News of God's love and to show them how to live in love; how to be his witnesses. But Jesus' life on earth was more than two thousand years ago so the Bible helps us to know the things that Jesus said and did. In the reading we just heard we know Jesus asked them to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. In the Gospel of Matthew (**Matthew 25:34-40**) we know that Jesus shared a parable with his disciples which would help them understand more about how to be his witnesses. This is the Gospel reading of what Jesus told his disciples to do:

**Gospel:** Then the King will say, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

The Gospel of the Lord

**All:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Child:** Jesus knew that he would soon be going back to his Father in heaven so before he died, he gave his followers a new law to live by. He said, "love one another as I have loved you."

**The Law of Love** (*Grow in Love Second Class/P4*)

Jesus, Son of God.

You showed love to everyone you met.

You told your followers to show love to others, just as you did.

Help us to do that too.

Help us to live like you.

Amen.



**Leader:** Loving God, you sent Jesus, the first missionary, on his great mission. Jesus then asked us to be missionaries, witnesses, too. We now invite the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with joy and energy so that we might be witnesses in our daily lives. We also pray for the friends of Jesus in faraway countries today. Help them to spread the love of Jesus around the world too.

**All:** **Amen**

## Our Prayers

**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 like Children Helping 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

## Closing Prayer



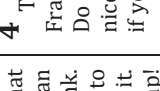


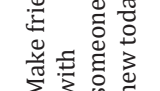
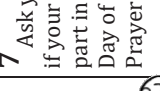




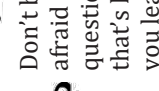

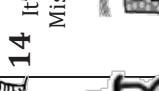

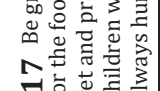

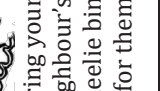




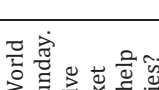



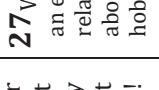

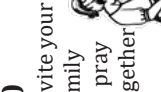

**Leader:** As we finish our prayer service today, let us say together our Mission Prayer for all children everywhere:

Lord,  
May all children  
In the world  
Share love  
Share friendship and live  
In the peace  
Of your love  
Now and forever, Amen



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

# Mission Month Activity Calendar 2022

Dé Domhnaigh	Dé Luain	Dé Máirt	Dé Céadaoin	Dé Déardaoin	Dé h-Aoine	Dé Sathairn
<p><b>October</b> is the month when we celebrate the missionary work of the Church around the world. During this month, we ask young people to share hope and solidarity with the world's poorest children through prayer and little acts of kindness that they can carry out each day. On <b>World Mission Sunday</b> we ask Catholics to support this work by giving generously to the collection at Mass.</p>						
<p><b>2</b> Guí ar son ár misineirí go léir!</p> 	<p><b>3</b> Be thankful that you have clean water to drink. Try not to waste it. Turn off the tap!</p> 	<p><b>4</b> Today is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Do something nice for your pet if you have one</p> 	<p><b>5</b> Tell someone you love how great they are!</p> 	<p><b>6</b> Make friends with someone new today</p> 	<p><b>7</b> Ask your teacher if your class can take part in Children's Day of Mission Prayer next Friday</p> 	<p><b>8</b> Why not go to the library today and get your head into a good book for the weekend</p> 
<p><b>9</b> Pray for children who are sad and lonely today</p> 	<p><b>10</b> Turn off the TV and hang out with a friend</p> 	<p><b>11</b> Cheer an Elderly relative up with a chat on the phone</p> 	<p><b>12</b> Don't be afraid to ask questions, that's how you learn!</p> 	<p><b>13</b> Make someone SMILE!</p> 	<p><b>14</b> It's Children's Day of Mission Prayer. Is your class taking part?</p> 	<p><b>15</b> <b>RECYCLE</b></p> 
<p><b>16</b> Pray for Peace</p> 	<p><b>17</b> Be grateful for the food you get and pray for children who are always hungry</p> 	<p><b>18</b> Bring your neighbour's wheelie bin back in for them</p> 	<p><b>19</b> Eat some fruit today instead of sweets</p> 	<p><b>20</b> Say a prayer before bed for children who have nowhere safe to sleep</p> 	<p><b>21</b> Replace the toilet roll when it's gone. It makes a difference!</p> 	<p><b>22</b> Today is the feast of St Pope John Paul II. Ask an adult about him today</p> 
<p><b>23</b> Today is World Mission Sunday. Can you give some pocket money to help missionaries?</p> 	<p><b>24</b> Clean out your schoolbag so there's no sticky surprises next week</p> 	<p><b>25</b> Help to tidy the house for mid-term</p> 	<p><b>26</b> Wash up for dinner tonight because every little helps at home!</p> 	<p><b>27</b> When you visit an elderly relative, ask them about their hobbies</p> 	<p><b>28</b> Thank your teacher and say a prayer for them today</p> 	<p><b>29</b> Prepare breakfast for your family today</p> 
<p><b>30</b> Invite your family to pray together!</p> 	<p><b>31</b> It's mid-term break so have a lie in, but thank god for your home</p> 	<p>Thanks to children living out our motto <b>Children Helping Children</b>, the Missio family supports millions of the world's poorest children every year. This is done when children in Ireland offer solidarity and hope through their prayers and donations. As a result, thousands of projects, led by missionaries, are supported. To find out more or to support our work, please contact Missio Ireland, 64 Lower Rathmines Rd, Dublin, D06 N1H2. T: +353 (0)1 497 2035 or E: schools@missio.ie</p>				

# THE MISSION ROSARY

The rosary is a very special tool to help us pray. The World Mission Rosary is especially important because it reminds us to pray for others around the world as a family of families! Each decade of the World Mission Rosary represents a different area of the world where missionaries continue to share the Good News of Jesus. A missionary is someone sent by God to help others and to share His love with them. When you have completed the World Mission Rosary, you have given the world a very prayerful gift.

## Praying the World Mission Rosary

Follow the beads to pray the rosary. To begin, hold the crucifix and make the Sign of the Cross. We start on the first bead and pray the Our Father. On each of the next three beads we pray one Hail Mary. On the fourth bead, we pray the Glory Be. You can now start the first decade of the rosary. A decade includes one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, and a Glory Be.



### 1. Africa

Our first colour is green which represents our prayer for Africa. Let us pray for the people of Africa and all the missionaries working there. Let their work be helpful for all. Let us pray for an end to all fighting and for the Church to grow. Amen



### 2. The Americas

Our second colour is red which represents our prayer for the Americas. Let us pray for the people 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. Amen



### 3. Europe

Our third colour is white which represents our prayer for Europe. Let us pray for the people of Europe and all missionaries working there. We pray that the Church there continues to help all those in need, especially the sick. Amen



### 4. Oceania

Our fourth colour is blue which represents our prayer for Oceania. Let us pray for the people of Oceania and all missionaries working there. Let us also remember all Christians in the world, especially those that live in remote areas. Amen



### 5. Asia

Our fifth colour is yellow which represents Asia. Let us pray for the people of Asia and all missionaries working there. Let us also pray for peace and that we may never forget the poor. Amen