

MISSION MONTH TOOLKIT

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. It takes place in every single parish worldwide where the Church is present. In Ireland, Missio Ireland is tasked with organising the Mission Sunday collection. Missio Ireland is the Pope's official charity for overseas mission.

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 for World Mission Sunday?

For Mission Sunday 2023, Pope Francis has chosen the theme inspired by the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus in the Gospel of St Luke (Lk 24:13-35 "Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move").

Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move
Luke (24:13-35)

**WORLD
MISSION
SUNDAY**
**22nd October
2023**

INDIA

On 22nd October 2023, Catholics worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. For almost 100 years, since 1926, we at Missio Ireland have been organising the World Mission Sunday collection for the universal Church, on behalf of the Pope. About 1,100 of the world's 2,500 dioceses in Africa, Asia and Latin America are poor, some even in distress. They face challenges that they cannot cope with themselves, because hunger and poverty are omnipresent.



In Calcutta, former place of work of Holy Mother Teresa, great progress has been made. Nevertheless many families still live in abject poverty and unimaginable suffering. The tracks of the railway share realities of life. Ward 58 is one of Calcutta's notorious slums, where people live in the middle of the tracks. A mother lovingly takes care of her baby. But the child was born into an environment of need and poverty. Without the intervention of missionaries on the ground, their future offers little hope.

People who live in Ward 58 live hand to mouth – they eke out an existence in whatever way they can. They often only have one euro a day to get by. They live in makeshift shacks where they are exposed to wind and weather and where rats and vermin thrive. But there is hope: even in the desolate slums, people are not left alone.



The local children's education is being prioritised. Missio is active in the slums and offers schools for children and education for parents. This increases their income and with it the chance of a life in dignity. Building has commenced on simple, clean apartments for the local people. In addition, the Salesians of Don Bosco are building brick shelters in the slums. For the first time, people have a roof over their heads and solid ground under their feet.

Through World Mission Sunday, each and every one of us is connected to the universal Church. Through prayer and donation, World Mission Sunday is the biggest solidarity action in the world! Thank you for your support and I ask for God's blessing for you.



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.

Sunday 1st 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 *

Sunday 8th 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 15th October

Next weekend we will celebrate World Mission Sunday, the Holy Father's annual appeal to support overseas mission and missionaries. 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 very challenging. 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 22nd 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 29th 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).*

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	BOFIE2D

Sterling Bank Details

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



SEND CHEQUE / POSTAL ORDER / BANK DRAFT

Missio Ireland
64 Lower Rathmines Road
Dublin D06 N2H1



RETURN OVER THE PHONE

Call Missio Ireland on: +353 1 497 2035



RETURN ONLINE

Go to: www.missio.ie/donate

Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move

Luke (24:13-35)

 **MISSIO**
IRELAND