

CHILDREN'S DAY OF MISSION PRAYER



FRIDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2024

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

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 is a celebration that motivates and encourages girls and boys to put their love into action through prayer and giving.

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 120 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:

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Children's Day of Mission Prayer 2024

'Share the Good News' 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, 11th October, then please consider using these resources on another day during Mission Month. Thank you for allowing the children in your care to be there for others!



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 sharing the Good News and the Bible open on Acts 2:1-13.

'Share the Good News'

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 the Society of Missionary 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. This year's Children's Day of Mission Prayer is about sharing the Good News. Do you remember a time when you were told the best news you ever heard? Did you tell anyone else this good news? How did they react to the good news you shared with them? Hopefully, they were really happy for you and shared your good news with others too. Jesus had some good news to share with everyone too. He sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples at Pentecost so they would have the courage to continue sharing the Good News of God's love with the world. As Christians, we are the community that continues to share this Good News to the whole world today.

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 sharing the Good News means to each of us and we have the Word of God, the Bible. Today we will be hearing about how Jesus tells his disciples to tell everyone about him and his teachings; to continue his mission and to share the Good News.

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* 06)

Leader: 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 (**Acts 2:1-33**):

Child: 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

Leader: 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 (**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:

Gospel: 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 (*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, to continue this mission and to share the Good News. 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 came 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 Missio Ireland. 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*)



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


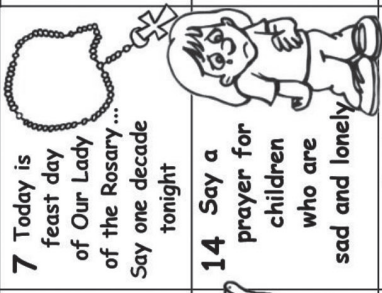




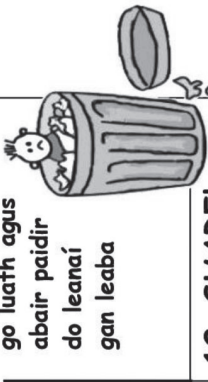
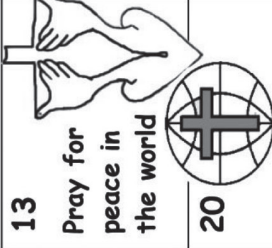
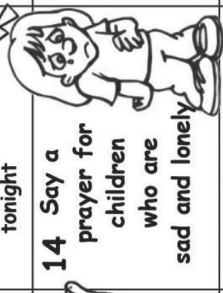
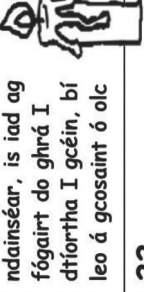






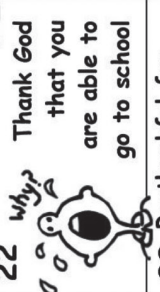








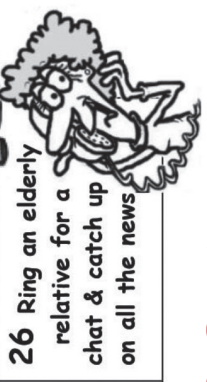



5. Asia

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



Mission Month Activity Calendar October 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>6 Ask if you can join the children's choir in your parish</p> 	<p>7 Today is feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary... Say one decade tonight</p> 	<p>8 Ask teacher if your class can join in the Children's Day of Mission Prayer on Friday</p> 	<p>2 Today is the Feast of Guardian Angels... Say a little prayer to YOUR guardian angel today</p> 	<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>13 Pray for peace in the world</p>  <p>MISSION SUNDAY</p>	<p>14 Say a prayer for children who are sad and lonely</p> 	<p>15 A Íosa dhíil, nuair atá misinéirí I ndainséar, is iad ag fógairt do ghrá I dtíortha I gcéin, bí leo á gcosaint ó olc</p> 	<p>9 RECYCLE Love the World Please On...</p> 	<p>10 Pray our Mission Prayer... It's on our website! Our Mission Prayer</p> 	<p>12 SHARE!</p> 	<p>18 If you can, keep 50c of your pocket money for the Mission Sunday Collection</p> 
<p>20</p> 	<p>21 Make friends with someone new in school today</p> 	<p>22 Thank God that you are able to go to school</p> 	<p>16 Show your family how much you love them</p> 	<p>17 Tonight say a special prayer for children who live with war and fear</p> 	<p>19 Get up early and help with the chores around the house</p> 	<p>25 Mid-term break... MOOOHOO</p> 
<p>27 YOU can make someone feel good just by being kind</p> 	<p>28 With a friend write a list of 5 things you like about each other then swap</p> 	<p>29 Be thankful for your food and pray for children who don't have enough</p> 	<p>23 Pray for your teacher</p> 	<p>24 Paint or draw a nice picture for someone you care about</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> 



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