

# WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

20 October 2019

**missio**  
Today. Tomorrow. Together.



## Together we are Mission

- World Mission Sunday Appeal – India
- The Holy Father's Message
- Homily Notes & Intercessions
- Newsletter Inserts & FAQs



October  
2019



Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Dear friends,

**Pope Francis has declared that October 2019 will be a special month of prayer and action to strengthen and grow God's mission through the Church – an Extraordinary Month of Mission (EMM2019).**

It is an opportunity to encourage us all to reflect on and pray for the Church's mission, and for the whole Church to fully realise that in our rapidly changing world the Gospel is needed now more than ever!

It has been 100 years since Pope Benedict XV issued the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, which Pope Francis describes as 'a milestone in the evolution of the Church's missionary work'. One century later, the call to *missio ad gentes* is as urgent as ever.

**World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on 20 October. It is an opportunity for every Catholic community in the world to support the missionary work of the Church through prayer and offerings. The collection taken up in your parish will go directly towards helping people in areas of poverty across the world. Please encourage your parish to be generous.**

I hope this World Mission Sunday booklet will assist you and your community in celebrating the great gift of our faith and our mission to share it with those near and far.

Thank you so much for your generous support of Missio, a worldwide network at the service of the Holy Father to sustain mission and young churches through prayer and charity.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

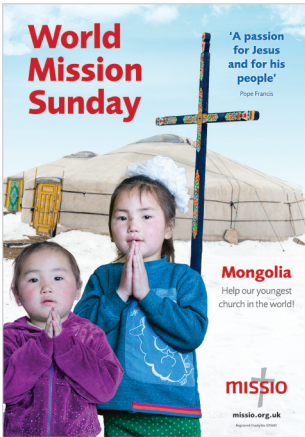
**Fr Anthony Chantry**  
Missio National Director



**Cover: Sr Clara is with Shorti\* and Vandoosha\* who were rescued from exploitation in India**

**\*Names changed to protect identity**

# The difference World Mission Sunday makes



## Mongolia – Our youngest church in the world!

**2015 World Mission Sunday collection: £533,397**

In 2015, Missio encouraged the faithful of England and Wales to share the warmth of God’s love with those living in Mongolia – our youngest church in the world. Since its establishment in 1992, the church has created programmes of service and education for the poorest and most neglected in society.

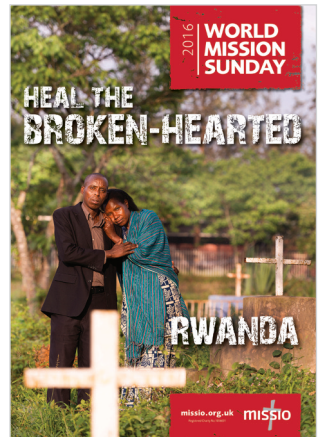
With your support, the growing community of Catholics is providing food, shelter, schooling and medical care to many people who are experiencing great hardship due to the harsh climate and lack of employment.

## Rwanda – Heal the broken-hearted

**2016 World Mission Sunday collection: £540,967**

In 2016, Missio shared about the work of the Church in supporting those who survived the Rwandan genocide, where one million people were slaughtered in just 100 days.

With funds from Missio supporters, priests and sisters continue to assist in healing psychological wounds through reconciliation programmes. They help survivors find the strength to forgive. Sadly, the past cannot be changed. Yet the spiritual support that comes from experiencing God’s love and mercy is helping those whose lives were shattered to look to the future with hope.



Last year supporters in England and Wales gave **£543,456** on World Mission Sunday

*Thank you*  
for all your support

# World Mission Sunday 20 October 2019

## India – Together we are Mission

Every single day, all over the world, countless young girls are exploited. Often stolen from their families or sold against their will, these children become trapped in lives of poverty and despair.

When she was five years old, Vandoosha\* was sold to be a domestic worker. She was then sold again, and this time her cries of distress were overheard. The local authorities rescued her with the aid of Sr Clara – one of the missionaries you have supported through Missio.

Sr Clara, a Sister from India, has dedicated her life to educating vulnerable young girls, giving them the skills to break free from exploitation and abuse.

2019  
**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

**missio**  
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**2013**  
Thanks to you Sr Clara rescued these girls from exploitation

**Mission, yesterday & today**

**TODAY**  
'We give them the confidence that Jesus loves them' Sr Clara

missio.org.uk  
Reg. Charity No. 1056651

**Together we are Mission**

The Sisters provide a loving, safe home where the girls who are rescued can receive education, medical care, spiritual formation and counselling.

Through their devotion and faith, the Sisters help them to see their worth as a beloved child of God: *'We always give them the confidence that Jesus loves them'.*

This World Mission Sunday, join with Missio to help missionaries rescue more vulnerable children. You can give a child a new home, show them how much God loves them and change their life forever.

By supporting Missio, you play a valuable part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.

[missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk)

\*Name changed to protect identity

# The Holy Father's message

This is an abridged version of the Holy Father's message for World Mission Sunday 2019. The full text is available at [missio.org.uk/wms](http://missio.org.uk/wms)

## Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World

For October 2019, we commemorate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* by Pope Benedict XV. Its vision has made me realise once again the importance of renewing the Church's missionary commitment and giving fresh impulse to her work of bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ.

## Extraordinary Month of Mission (EMM2019)

Celebrating this month will help us to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ. Through our communion with God, we are born to new life. This divine life is not a product for sale but a treasure to be given: that is the meaning of mission. We received this gift freely and share it freely (cf. Mt 10:8).

## Faith, Hope and Charity

Faith in Christ enables us to see things in their proper perspective, as we view the world with God's own eyes and heart. Hope opens us up to the eternal horizons of the divine life that we share. Charity impels us to go forth to the ends of the earth (cf. Mic 5:4; Mt 28:19; Acts 1:8; Rom 10:18). How many saints, how many men and women of faith witness to the fact that this unlimited openness, this going forth in mercy is indeed possible and realistic, driven by love, sacrifice and selflessness (cf. 2 Cor 5:14-21)!

## Baptised and Sent

This missionary mandate touches us personally: I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptised man and woman is a mission. People in love never stand still: they are drawn out of themselves; they give themselves to others and build life-giving relationships. As far as God's love is concerned, no one is useless or insignificant. Each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God's love.



The mandate given by the Risen Jesus at Easter is inherent in Baptism: 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you, filled with the Holy Spirit, for the reconciliation of the world' (cf. Jn 20:19-23; Mt 28:16-20). This mission makes us responsible for enabling all men and women to realise their vocation to be God's children, to recognise their personal dignity and to appreciate the intrinsic worth of every human life.

Today, the Church needs men and women who, by virtue of their baptism, respond generously to the call to leave behind home, family, country, language and local Church, and be sent forth to the nations, to a world not yet transformed by the sacraments of Jesus Christ and his holy Church.

By proclaiming God's word, bearing witness to the Gospel and celebrating the life of the Spirit, they summon to conversion, baptise and offer Christian salvation, with respect for the freedom of each person and in dialogue with the cultures and religions of the peoples to whom they are sent.

The Easter event of Jesus breaks through the narrow limits of worlds, religions and cultures. It calls them to grow in respect for the dignity of men and women, and towards a deeper conversion to the truth of the Risen Lord, who gives authentic life to all.

We entrust the Church's mission to Mary our Mother. She was fully involved in the mission of Jesus, a mission that became her own at the foot of the Cross: the mission of cooperating, as Mother of the Church, in bringing new sons and daughters of God to birth in the Spirit and in faith.

### **A Mission to the World**

Missio (the Pontifical Mission Societies) serves the Church's universality as a global network of support for the Pope in his missionary commitment – by prayer, the soul of mission, and charitable offerings from Christians throughout the world. Their donations assist the Pope in supporting local churches in their work of sharing the Gospel, in the formation of local clergy, in raising missionary awareness in children and in encouraging the missionary dimension of Christian faith. In renewing my support for Missio, I trust that the Extraordinary Mission Month of October 2019 will contribute to the renewal of their missionary service to my ministry.

To missionaries, and to all those who, by virtue of their baptism, share in the mission of the Church, I send my heartfelt blessing.

*Franciscus*



# Homily Notes & Intercessions

## **Sunday 20 October 2019** **29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**

**First Reading: Exodus 17:8-13**

**Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2**

**Gospel: Luke 18:1-8**

Today is a day of support for the mission given to the Church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all peoples. On this day Sacred Scripture teaches us to persevere, in prayer and action, with patience and determination.

The purpose of mission is to witness to Jesus Christ, to communicate his Gospel and build up his Church, in a climate of mutual respect and religious freedom, in the common search for justice in the world.

We do not have a product to sell or impose upon the world; we have a treasure to share.

Mission here and abroad requires patient perseverance and when, like Moses' arms, our spirits tire, we rely on our faith in the true God who comforts the weak and frees the oppressed.

In the second reading, Paul reminds Timothy of the importance of the Sacred Scripture. Timothy is a young man who, together with his family, embraced the faith during the first missionary journey of the apostle Paul, and later became a member of his missionary group.

Like Timothy, we are called to proclaim the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it.

We find our inspiration in Sacred Scripture, which guides us and teaches us that our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

In the Gospel, Jesus' parable portrays a woman who has been denied the right to express herself by a corrupt judge; an experience that many people all over the world suffer today.

**Sr Clara, featured on the front of this booklet, is a missionary from India who has dedicated her life to educating vulnerable young girls, giving them the skills to break free from exploitation and abuse. Please read about her struggle against injustice on page 4, and online at [missio.org.uk/wms](http://missio.org.uk/wms)**

The widow in the parable is not a friend of the judge, so she does not receive an audience. This widow lost her husband's support, and in the first-century Palestinian world, she could not inherit his property. Widows were economically vulnerable and could be exploited. Not being able to afford a lawyer, the widow presents herself to offer her case against her opponent.

The corrupt judge does not fear God and does not care for the good of people. The widow is determined not to remain invisible or unheard until the case is resolved in her favour.

Jesus uses the parable to teach us about the necessity of determination in our prayer life. Prayer is at the heart of the Church's mission, as we plead for the coming of a world of justice and peace, with a healing of creation. Prayer puts Christ at the centre of our lives, so that we as his Church will be permanently on mission in the world.

Today God promises to see justice done to his chosen, who cry to him day and night.

**For a full commentary on the biblical texts of World Mission Sunday, please find them in the EMM Guide: [missio.org.uk/emm](http://missio.org.uk/emm)**

**An abridged version of the Holy Father's Message for World Mission Sunday is on page 5.**

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

***Celebrant:** Let us bring our prayer to the God of our salvation, for all our hope rests in him who made heaven and earth.*

- For us all who are baptised and sent: may the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us as we proclaim the message of God's love and forgiveness to all nations.
- For the women and men committed to mission who have left home and country to bear witness to Jesus Christ: that they may persevere in patient service of those in greatest need.
- For the work of Missio, the Holy Father's charity for world mission: that our prayers and offerings will bear abundant fruit in those countries where the Church struggles against injustice and rejection.
- For the Church in India: that it may create a community where peace and harmony will flourish by the power of God's promise to see justice done to them.
- For our own parish community: that our faith in Jesus Christ will enable us to view the world with God's eyes and heart.
- As Mother of the Church, Mary was fully involved in the mission of Jesus to bring new sons and daughters of God to birth in the Spirit and in faith. We ask her to pray for us as we say: Hail Mary...

***Celebrant:** God our Father, help us to renew our commitment to the mission of your son Jesus, that by the power of the Holy Spirit our prayers and actions will bear witness to the grace of your saving love, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*



# EMM2019

## Your questions answered



### Q What is EMM2019?

A EMM2019 is the Extraordinary Month of Mission. Pope Francis has declared that October 2019 will be a special month of prayer and action to strengthen and grow God's mission through the Church.

### Q Why is it important?

A EMM2019 aims: To encourage Catholics into a deeper relationship with Jesus through prayer;

To look to, and learn from, the actions and sacrifices of our saints, martyrs and living missionaries;

To financially support overseas mission, through Missio;

To rediscover and renew our understanding of overseas mission (*missio ad gentes*).

### Q Who is coordinating EMM2019?

A Missio, also known as Pontifical Mission Societies. Pope Francis asks schools, parishes, organisations, orders, dioceses, communities and individuals to get creative in supporting this global Church initiative.

### Q Where will it happen?

A Every Catholic diocese in the world!

### Q When does EMM2019 start?

A October – it runs throughout October, but many are already celebrating this special occasion, and will continue until the end of the year.

### Q Is EMM2019 replacing World Mission Sunday?

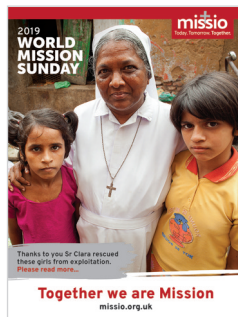
A No – EMM2019 and World Mission Sunday are separate but complementary events.

### Q How can I get involved?

A Go to Missio's website for information on how to play your part: [missio.org.uk/emm](http://missio.org.uk/emm)

# World Mission Sunday

## Your questions answered



**Q When is World Mission Sunday?**

**A** Sunday 20 October 2019.

**Q Why are all parishes throughout the world asked to support World Mission Sunday?**

**A** World Mission Sunday is vital to the growth of the Church and the spread of the Gospel in predominately impoverished and remote areas overseas. The funds raised build much-needed infrastructure, from chapels and schools to orphanages, clinics and dispensaries. Requested by the local community, the support from Missio transforms lives and creates a hub from which the young Church can flourish and grow. **World Mission Sunday is one of only three Papal collections and has been especially chosen by the Holy Father to support the mission of the Church in the world.**

**Q Where do I send the World Mission Sunday collection to?**

**A** Please send donations and all completed Gift Aid envelopes from your parish directly to Missio in the Freepost envelope provided. Cheques from parishioners, made out to World Mission Sunday or Missio, can be sent directly to us together with the parish collection. Please do not send to your diocesan offices.

**Q How can I donate online?**

**A** Individual supporters can give directly through our secure website. Simply visit [missio.org.uk/donate](https://missio.org.uk/donate) and select 'WMS' to help build a future of hope both in India and around the world.

For more answers to questions, including the difference between World Mission Sunday and Home Mission, and how you can support Missio throughout the year, please visit [missio.org.uk](https://missio.org.uk), call 020 7821 9755 during office hours, or email [info@missio.org.uk](mailto:info@missio.org.uk)

**Q Where can I find more information about World Mission Sunday?**

**A** Please give us a call during office hours on 020 7821 9755, email us at [info@missio.org.uk](mailto:info@missio.org.uk) or visit our website: [missio.org.uk](https://missio.org.uk)

# Inserts for your Parish Newsletter

2019  
**WORLD  
MISSION  
SUNDAY**

## **World Mission Sunday – Together we are Mission**

### **Sunday 13 October 2019 – Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday**

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday, when the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his charity for world mission. Please support Missio in helping missionaries to work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Join in on this special day, that unites Catholics all over the world in prayer and celebration of our Church's mission to share God's love with all creation – 'Together we are Mission'. You will be able to Gift Aid your donations by using envelopes provided by Missio. For more information, visit [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) Thank you.

### **Sunday 20 October 2018 – Today is World Mission Sunday**

World Mission Sunday supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries like Sr Clara share the love of Christ with those most in need. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can. If you are a taxpayer, please use the Gift Aid envelopes. For more information, visit [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) Thank you.

### **Sunday 27 October 2018 – Thank you**

Thank you very much for your contribution to last week's World Mission Sunday collection. Your prayers and donations will help missionaries work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Please pray for the work of Missio and all those working to offer the love of Jesus, that we may remain strong in our witness to Christ's love for all peoples. To continue supporting mission throughout the year, please go to [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) or call 020 7821 9755.

## **Extraordinary Month of Mission – Baptised and Sent**

### **For the month of October**

Pope Francis has declared that October 2019 will be a special month of prayer and action to strengthen and grow God's mission through the Church. This month aims to encourage Catholics into a deeper relationship with Jesus through prayer; to look to, and learn from, the actions and sacrifices of our saints, martyrs and living missionaries; to financially support overseas mission, through Missio; and to rediscover and renew our understanding of overseas mission (*missio ad gentes*). For more information, please visit [missio.org.uk/emm](http://missio.org.uk/emm)



# Your guide to online

All of the EMM2019 and World Mission Sunday materials are available on Missio's website: [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk)

This will make it easier for you to copy and paste directly into your own materials, for example, your parish newsletter.



Here is a list of the available material:

## World Mission Sunday – [missio.org.uk/wms](http://missio.org.uk/wms)

- The Holy Father's Message
- Homily Notes & Intercessions
- Newsletter Inserts & FAQs
- World Mission Sunday poster
- Children's Liturgy & Calendar (only online)

## EMM2019 – [missio.org.uk/emm](http://missio.org.uk/emm)

- The official Extraordinary Month of Mission handbook
- EMM2019 Presentation
- EMM2019 Social Media campaign
- EMM2019 Holy Hours
- Additional EMM2019 Newsletter Inserts
- EMM2019 October Intercessions
- EMM2019 Prayer
- EMM2019 Film
- EMM2019 Song

Look out for the *Mission Today* EMM Special Edition, which features updates on the impact of World Mission Sunday and prayerful reflections for the Extraordinary Month of Mission

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