

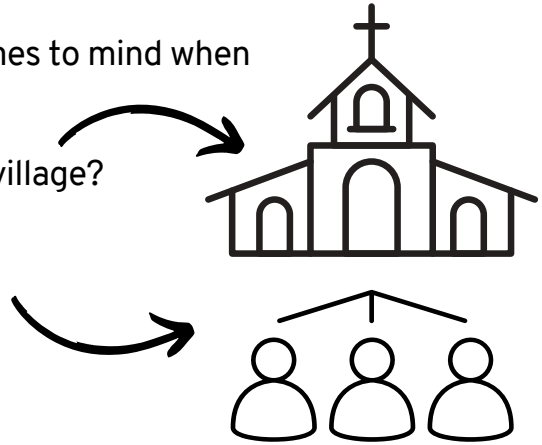


Missio is sometimes called the Red Box charity because of its well-known collection box

Missio is the Catholic Church's official charity for world mission.

Before we go any further, let's consider what comes to mind when we hear the word **Church**.

- Do you think of a building in your city/town/village?
- Or do you think of a community of Christians joining together to pray?



Both are right.

We attach the name **church** to sacred buildings where people gather to worship, but the name is not so much given to the benches and bricks, as to the people that gather inside.

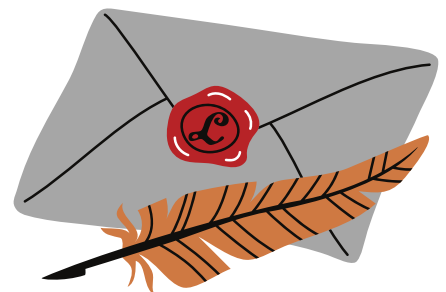
We must always remember that the **Church** is far more than a building; it is a culturally diverse, global community of Christians, united in their efforts to live and love as Jesus did.



Now we are clearer about what Church means, what about the word mission?

One way to understand the word **mission** is by going back to its original meaning. **Mission** comes from the ancient Latin word, **mittere**, meaning to send. *Missive*, an alternative word for letter, also comes from *mittere*.

As children of God and followers of Christ, we are sent into our world to share God's love with everyone, everywhere - to be missionaries, wherever we are!



This is the mission Jesus left us.

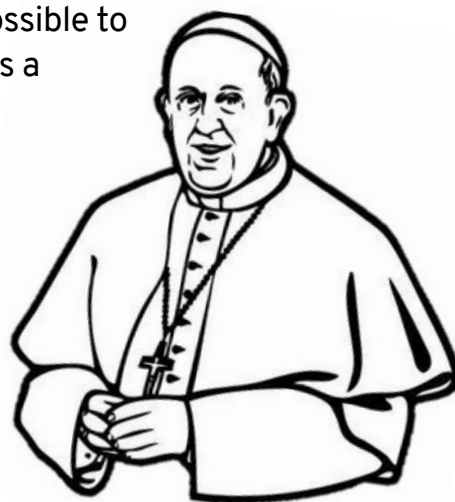
And Jesus said to them, "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation."

Mark 16:15

Sharing God's love with everyone, everywhere is impossible to do on our own, but Pope Francis reminds us that this is a mission we share together.

'Jesus invites us to build together a civilization of love, as his disciples and missionaries, here and now.' Pope Francis

As one of the Pope's official charities, Missio asks **all** Catholic communities around the world to pray for, share with, and stand by those who are struggling because of poverty, turmoil, or conflict.



What Missio does to support God's global family

By working together with Catholics around the world, Missio supports the education of thousands of children, runs clinics, feeding programmes, youth clubs, and much more.

Missio also helps to build chapels, parish centres, and trains missionary Priests, Sisters, and Lay catechists who often risk their lives to run pastoral projects in some of the most difficult and dangerous places in the world.

Missio follows the example of Jesus, who taught us that all people are made in God's image. **This means all people should be treated with dignity and have what they need to flourish.**

Jesus encouraged people to see themselves as children of one loving God. We are to recognise ourselves as one family – God's family. That's why Jesus taught us to pray **"Our Father..."**

Inspired by Jesus's words, think about how we are all connected to each other as children of one heavenly Father: **Challenge thinking that divides people.** Look for ways to work together, not apart • **Raise money for Missio** and support people worldwide who live with poverty and hardship. • **Pray for those in need**, close to home and far away. In a way beyond understanding, prayer connects us to one another and to God, our source of hope and love.



No voluntary organisation in the world does more work in the fields of education, healthcare, poverty relief, than the Catholic Church. In 2020 the Church ran:

- 150,087 schools educating about 54 million students
- 5192 Hospitals
- 15,481 Clinics & dispensaries
- 15,423 Homes for elderly, chronically ill or disabled
- 9,295 care homes for children


missio.org.uk