

# WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2022

**missio**  
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

## Homily notes & Intercessions

**23 October 2022** (30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C)

**First Reading:** Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 33(34):2-3, 17-19, 23

**Second Reading:** 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

**Gospel:** Luke 18:9-14

### Homily notes

‘I swear that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth’.

Every witness called to give evidence in a courtroom will make an oath or affirmation to tell the truth. Dispensing justice is a process of discerning the truth by uncovering lies and exposing falsehood.

As always, World Mission Sunday reminds us that the Church is missionary by nature, striving to give witness to the Truth, who is Jesus Christ.

Across countless generations St Paul encourages us, Jesus’ missionary disciples, to witness to him to the ends of the earth by the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). This is the theme the Holy Father Pope Francis has chosen for this year’s prayer and reflection: ‘You shall be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth’.

This Sunday’s Gospel challenges us to reflect upon how we should give authentic missionary witness.

We are presented with two contrasting witnesses: the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

The Pharisee, no doubt a good and holy man in the sight of the people, presents God with a list of egocentric achievements: I pray, I am just and faithful, I fast, I pay tithes. He thanks God he is on a higher spiritual plain than the rest of humanity, especially that wretch of a tax collector over there!

The Tax Collector knew he was considered to be ritually impure through his contact with Gentiles. His own people despised him for his dishonest and exploitative ways. In contrast to the Pharisee, his approach to God demonstrates simple humility, 'Have mercy on me a sinner'. He is conscious of his sinfulness and dependent on a forgiving God to show him the way forward in his life.

Jesus' conclusion is that humility is indispensable for all who wish to be at rights with God.

*Pope Francis teaches that 'humility is the only way that leads us to God. At the same time, specifically because it leads us to Him, humility leads us also to the essentials of life, to its truest meaning, to the most trustworthy reason for why life is truly worth living. Without humility we are 'cut off', we are cut off from understanding God and from understanding ourselves. Humility is needed to understand ourselves and each other, and all the more so to understand God.*

*'As missionary disciples we are not sent to communicate ourselves, to exhibit our persuasive qualities and abilities. Instead, we have the supreme honour of presenting Christ in words and deeds, proclaiming to everyone the Good News of his salvation with joy and boldness.*

*'A missionary disciple knows that evangelisation is not about gaining more members or about appearing powerful. Rather, it is about opening doors in order to experience and share the merciful and healing embrace of God the Father, which makes of us one family'.*

There is an image of mission that helps us understand how true humility, far from discouraging us from witnessing, is in fact the driving force of all mission.

The truth is that we are being transformed by Christ, for by knowing him we begin to see ourselves, others and God with different eyes.

We are called to give witness to the new life that Jesus gives us when we discover him present and active in the midst of our daily lives; new life that transcends death.

We know we are in need of his forgiveness, his compassion and his guiding hand. We embrace the strength of knowing we are loved by the Father, redeemed by the Son and empowered by the Spirit.

This gift of our Catholic faith is given to be shared. We cannot keep it to ourselves. We the Church must constantly keep pressing forward, beyond our own confines, in order to testify to all the love of Christ. As Vatican II instructs us, 'Above all the Church knows that her message is in harmony with the most secret desires of the human heart' (*Gaudium et Spes*, 21).

None of this is possible without a genuinely prayerful mindset. 'Prayer plays a fundamental role in missionary life for it allows us to be refreshed and strengthened by the Spirit as the inexhaustible divine source of renewed energy and joy in sharing Christ's life with others.' (Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Sunday 2022). Prayer allows us to be carried by God.

A well-worn question may provide a fitting conclusion to the theme of this year's World Mission Sunday:

**If you were on trial for being a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ, would the court find enough evidence to convict you?**

The collection today, coordinated by Missio – the Holy Father’s charity for world mission – will be a great help to missionaries like Maria, who works in an impoverished area of Ethiopia.

Through vocational training programmes run by the Kidist Mariam Centre, Maria and her amazing team are trying to bring communities together to build hope for a better future. Maria’s hope is that all people have access to opportunities to learn and thrive. She witnesses to her faith every day, believing in the potential of each person to do their best and realise their dreams of a better life. (Please read her story in *Mission Today*).

Maria tells us: ‘All of us are children of God. And we are all equal. It doesn’t matter where we come from, where we live, where we are working... we are God’s dream, and we have to fulfil that dream’.

Thank you for your support of Missio, which strives to share with all the hope that only Jesus can bring to our world.

## Prayers of the Faithful

**Celebrant:** *On this World Mission Sunday, we unite with the whole Catholic Church in praying for the coming of God’s Kingdom.*

- **For Pope Francis, our Bishop... and all the leaders of the Church:** may they continue to lead us in witnessing to God’s saving love in our world.
- **For the work of Missio, the Holy Father’s charity for world mission:** that our prayers and offerings will bear abundant fruit, especially in those countries where the Church struggles against injustice, poverty, and oppression.
- **For all missionaries overseas, men and women dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus with those who have not yet received it:** may they be given the strength and courage to persevere in their mission.
- **For us all who are called to be witnesses of the Gospel:** that the Holy Spirit may empower us to proclaim with humility God’s love and forgiveness to all.
- **For those in areas of violent conflict across the world including Ethiopia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Ukraine:** that peace and reconciliation will come through those who embrace the Gospel.
- **Mary was the first to be fully involved in witnessing to the world the greatness of the Lord, rejoicing in God our Saviour. 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 him through whom we offer these prayers, the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*