

## Introduction

Today is World Mission Sunday. World Mission Sunday is a very special day and is celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world! Today the Pope reminds us that God sends us all out on an important mission to share God's love with everyone. In a special message that Pope Francis wants us to think about today, he says that 'All of us are invited to "go out" as missionary disciples... to bring the message of God's [love] to the entire human family'.

All people, wherever they were born, whatever they believe, are part of God's family and so, are members of our family. God calls us to look after everyone, whether we see them every day, or never meet them because they live in another country. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we must do our best to be good people and help others, but that we have to do so humbly.

**Ask the children if anybody can explain what the word 'humble' means.**

If we're humble, we don't think that we're better than other people. And when we help others, we don't do so to show off. We do it quietly, knowing that God is pleased when we show kindness to other people. The reading that we will hear now tells the story of two men. One of them is humble.

**Listen carefully and see if you can identify who the humble person is.**

**Bible reading: From the Gospel of St Luke 18:9-14**

There were some people who thought that they were very good and looked down on everyone else. Jesus used this story to teach them: 'One day there was a Pharisee and a tax collector. Both went to the Temple to pray. When the Pharisee prayed he said, "God, I thank you that I am not as bad as other people. I am not like the people who steal, cheat, or who break promises. I thank you that I am better than all of them and much better than this tax collector. I go without food twice a week, and I give to the Temple leaders one-tenth of everything I earn!"

'The tax collector stood at a distance. When he prayed, he did not even look up to heaven. He beat on his chest because he was so sad. He said, "God, have mercy and forgive me. I am a sinner!"

'When the tax collector had finished his prayers and went home, he was right with God. But the Pharisee who felt that he was better than others was not right with God. This is because everyone who makes himself great like the Pharisee will fall flat on their face, but everyone who is honest about their faults and wants to change them like the tax collector, will stand tall'.

The Gospel of the Lord

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Today. Tomorrow. Together.

## **World Mission Sunday Children's Liturgical Prayer (pg 2)**

### **Gospel Reflection**

In today's Gospel we hear a story that Jesus shared with his followers. In this story Jesus tells us that we must do our best to be good and humble people. If we're humble, we don't think that we're better than other people and we are not too proud to admit mistakes or to ask for God's help. Just as the tax collector in the story did.

We all make mistakes. We do things we know we shouldn't do. Jesus' story reminds us that God forgives us if we are honest about the things we've done wrong and are truly sorry. That's why in Jesus' story, it is the tax collector that pleases God, because he was humble and asked God to forgive the bad choices he had made.

Jesus' story also warns us about judging people unfairly. In Jesus' day, Pharisees were very religious people who were expected by others to do what was right. Whereas tax collectors were seen as cheats and expected by others to do what was wrong. But Jesus turns our expectations around. In his story, it is the Pharisee who does wrong and displeases God, because the Pharisee judged others badly and was too proud to see his wrongdoing.

Jesus' story reminds us that God forgives all who are humble enough to ask for God's help and forgiveness, so they can be the good and loving people He made us all to be.

Being good and loving isn't always easy, but thankfully God helps us by working through the people around us: our family members, teachers, friends, priests and religious sisters. They encourage us and pray for us, so that we grow to be God's good and loving children.

Today on World Mission Sunday, we remember missionaries around the world who encourage and pray for others. A Missionary is someone sent out with the important job of sharing God's love and forgiveness with everyone. Jesus asks all his followers to be missionaries, that includes you and me.

Although Jesus asks us to be missionaries in our homes, school and parish, there are some men and women who travel overseas to be missionaries in places of poverty and conflict. They do this humbly, by living and working alongside people who are poor, or in danger, or need.

Sometimes these missionaries meet people who seem very different from them. But they don't make judgments about the people they help, because they understand that every person is a child of God, and every person deserves to live with love, respect and dignity.

On World Mission Sunday we are asked to pray for these overseas missionaries and to think of ways we can be missionaries wherever we are today.

***See follow up activity - A Special Delivery (pg 3)***

# World Mission Sunday Children's Liturgical Prayer (pg 3)

## Activity – A Special Delivery

This activity is designed to help the children understand the meaning of the word ‘mission’ and ‘missionary’. You will need an empty box with the address of your parish church written on the side, Postcards or slips of paper (you can use the postcard template provided below), pencils/crayons.

Invite the children to write sentences or draw a picture to show how they will deliver God's love (e.g. sharing, being kind, forgiving, raising money for Mission Together: the children's branch of Missio). Younger and differently-abled children can simply write their name or draw a picture of themselves.

Invite the children to place their postcards in the ‘Special Delivery’ box. Point out the address on the side of the box and emphasise this is a special delivery as it contains the most important things in life (e.g. care, mercy, God’s love).

Once the box is full and the children are ready to return into church, tell them that this box will now be ‘delivered’ to the parish priest and community. Remind the children that the loving words and actions that we are going to deliver are a sign that we are all missionaries and God sends us to show his love not just to our parish, but to the whole world.

**Please inform your Parish Priest about this activity, so that he is aware that the special delivery box symbolises mission and the children’s job as missionaries, to deliver God’s love to everyone.**

