

Key messages

What is World Mission Sunday?

Since Pope Pius XI established World Mission Sunday (WMS) in 1926, it has grown from a simple appeal to support missionaries through prayer and giving, into a global celebration of the Church's missionary identity. **This year we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday!**

Today, it unites Catholics in prayer, solidarity and support for young and growing churches, reminding every baptised person of their call to share Christ's mission.

Why does the Pope ask us to celebrate World Mission Sunday?

World Mission Sunday reminds us that we are one global family in Christ. Through prayer and generosity, all Catholics are encouraged to help share God's love and to support the Church where it is young or facing great challenges.

Why do all parishes take part?

Mission is the responsibility of the whole Church and this global celebration of WMS is a reminder that we are one family in Christ. This special day is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas. In offering our prayers, we unite with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to share our faith in Jesus so that all may experience God's love.

The Pope asks Missio, his charity for world mission, to coordinate World Mission Sunday (WMS) every year so that support can reach missionaries and communities living in great poverty, conflict and turmoil.

Missio exists to help all Catholics take part in Christ's mission. So, on WMS, every parish contributes according to its means, so that churches in greatest need receive support from the worldwide Catholic family. For example, in 2025 Catholics in Myanmar raised £13,395; Malawi gave £31,310; Ecuador contributed £312,896; France donated £921,000; and here in England and Wales, we raised £713,954.

How has mission changed over the last 100 years?

The Church's mission remains the same: to proclaim Christ and to serve humanity. Today, we understand that mission is the responsibility of every baptised person and is carried out through dialogue, justice, peace, care for creation, respect for cultures and witness to the Gospel.

Mission is an **invitation** to experience God's goodness. We discover God's unconditional, compassionate, life-giving love by encountering, getting to know and loving Jesus. A love in truth that sets us free.

The Church exists to help us carry out the mission we have all received from the Lord to bear witness to his words in our everyday lives. We are called to reach out to the lost, the oppressed and discouraged, and to tenderly care for those who suffer. Through the Church, we support and encourage each other to set out over and over again; never losing heart in the face of difficulties and obstacles.

What did Pope Francis teach about mission?

- Every baptised Christian is a missionary disciple
- The Church must go out to those on the margins
- Mission is lived through joy, mercy, encounter and accompaniment

What does Pope Leo XIV say about mission?

- The Church exists to share Christ with the world
- Mission grows through unity with Christ and one another
- Christians are called to bring hope – with courage, joy and openness

How does World Mission Sunday help?

Prayers and donations support local churches in providing such things as pastoral care, education and healthcare.

Donations to WMS go directly to missionaries and local churches in mission dioceses. Funds are distributed via local bishops in order to meet the priorities identified by the community, to support the community.

These communities request the support they need to share their faith and to bring lasting change – whether it's help to build a simple chapel, provide vital healthcare, set up a school or create a safe space for children. Your support encourages communities to grow in faith, dignity and self-reliance.

What is Missio's role?

Missio coordinates World Mission Sunday on behalf of the Pope. We help Catholics participate in the Church's worldwide mission and ensure support reaches those communities that are most in need.

What does it mean to support the Church's mission today?

It means enabling missionaries and local communities to share their faith by helping people encounter Christ through their words and actions, and by providing opportunities for the Spirit of God's infinite love to transform lives.

What is this year's theme?

One in Christ, united in mission. A united, reconciled Church offers a credible and powerful witness to the Gospel and invites everyone to know Christ. The theme reminds us that mission is lived by witnessing to God's love.

Everyone deserves to know that they are loved by God and that they are part of God's human family.

Why has the Pope chosen the theme 'One in Christ, united in mission'?

The mission of every disciple, and of the Church as a whole, is to continue Christ's mission in the Holy Spirit: a mission 'born of love, lived in love and leading others to love' (Pope Leo XIV).

To be '**one in Christ**' means keeping our gaze fixed on the Lord, so that he remains at the centre of our lives and communities – at the centre of our words, our actions and our relationships with one another.

We are united in Christ so that we can share in his mission. Jesus makes this clear when he prays for his disciples: 'That they may all be one... so that the world may believe that you have sent me' (John 17:21).

When we live as a reconciled, loving and united community, our lives become a powerful witness to the Gospel. Our unity gives credibility to our proclamation and invites others to encounter Christ. The more deeply we are united in him, the better able we are to work together in carrying out the mission he entrusts to us.

The global Missio network, the Pontifical Mission Societies, has a unique role in making this unity visible. As a worldwide network of prayer, solidarity and support, Missio is a living sign of the Church's missionary communion, uniting Catholics together in prayer and support of the Church's mission.

How can I take part?

- Pray for missionaries and the people they serve and empower
- Give what you can to the World Mission Sunday collection in your parish or donate directly to Missio: **missio.org.uk/donate**
- Invite others to celebrate our belonging to the universal Church by sharing our appeal in person or online, or both!

World Mission Sunday is a special day of prayer, solidarity and giving that unites Catholics in sharing the Good News of God's love for all people.