

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

**World Mission Sunday: Save the date!**

World Mission Sunday - the one day in the year when the entire global Church comes together in support of mission - will happen on 24 October 2021. Coordinated by Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, World Mission Sunday is an opportunity to support every mission diocese and faith community which are in need of our help.

It 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 via Missio. This special day is celebrated in every Catholic community in the world. It is a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence and oppression.

The theme the Holy Father has chosen this year is: *'We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard'* (Acts 4:20). In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis says:

*'Once we experience the power of God's love we cannot help but proclaim and share what we have seen and heard. Jesus' relationship with his disciples and his humanity shows us the extent to which God loves our humanity and makes his own our joys and sufferings, our hopes and our concerns.'*

Our prayer, reflection and material help are a lifeline to missionaries in all continents who are striving to preach and live the Good News that God loves us.

World Mission Sunday is vital to the growth of the Church and the spread of the Gospel in predominately impoverished and remote areas overseas. Masses and collections will happen in every diocese across the world, and every single donation supports churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

One of the wonderful things about World Mission Sunday is that every parish around the world prays for and financially supports our global Church. For example, in 2020 the Church in Bangladesh gave just over £3,000 and the Church in Malawi gave almost £18,500.

These 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.

On World Mission Sunday itself, we will be honouring the brave and selfless women and men already making a huge difference in some of the world's most troubled areas. This year, our focus will be on Nigeria and the work of Sister Veronica.

Intense violence continues to rock communities in Nigeria, with fatalities, mutilations, and destruction of property devastatingly commonplace. The violence is essentially caused by poverty, and historical religious tension is easily manipulated to encourage division and mistrust.

To quell the tension and create a peaceful and harmonious environment, free from suspicion, the Women's Interfaith Council was established in Kaduna, northern Nigeria, by the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles in 2010.

The Council encourages women of different faiths to work together to build peace through training programmes. These programmes empower women and contribute to healing and reconciliation in their community. Sister Veronica has been leading the Council since 2019.

She shares: 'When you train a woman, you train a nation. We bring them together as women and build peace. Every religion talks about love, there is no religion that talks about war.'

This World Mission Sunday, help Missio ensure selfless missionaries like Sister Veronica can keep loving, serving and sharing God's peace.

### **Missio: today, tomorrow, together**

As the Pope's official charity for world mission, Missio enables Catholics in England and Wales to live out the call received at Baptism: to share in the Church's universal mission.

And in the lead-up to World Mission Sunday 2021 (WMS2021), Missio will be here to help individuals, schools, organisations, dioceses, parishes, communities, orders and congregations in England and Wales to get behind this worldwide Church initiative.

Missio invites everyone to get involved in WMS2021, joining our sisters and brothers around the world in faith and renewal. You can find out more about WMS21 on 24 October at [missio.org.uk/wms](https://missio.org.uk/wms)

### **Notes to editors:**

**Press contact: Michelle Slater ([communications@missio.org.uk](mailto:communications@missio.org.uk), 020 7821 9755)**

**Please get in touch with Michelle for more information and hi-res images.**

- World Mission Sunday is coordinated by Missio, the Pope's official charity for world mission.
- The World Mission Sunday collection is one of just three personally requested by the Pope each year.
- World Mission Sunday takes place annually on the penultimate Sunday in October.
- Missio worldwide supports every mission diocese overseas (1,070) until they are self-sufficient.
- Missio ignites God's love by helping missionaries to work alongside communities globally that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief.

Sometimes this need might be very specific: a motorbike for a priest to celebrate Mass in remote villages; a simple community hall so people can gather together; vaccinations to protect vulnerable children. Whatever our missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it.

We are proud to be the Pope's charity for world mission.

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

By volunteering, raising or donating funds, and by praying with children, grandchildren or students, YOU make our mission possible.

**Together** we are enriching **today's** global Catholic community.

**Together** we are training **tomorrow's** generation of priests and sisters.

**Together** we are giving hope to the world's poorest children.

**Together we are Missio.**

- Offerings from Catholics in England and Wales on World Mission Sunday are combined with donations to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) in all countries where the Church is present and distributed to 1,070 mission dioceses worldwide.
- In 2020, the World Mission Sunday collection in parishes across England and Wales raised £420,320 for Missio's work.