

24th September 2021

Dear and Rev. Father/Canon/Monsignor,

I hope you are well and managing despite all the restrictions we have had to endure over the past 18 months.

Please find enclosed the materials for this year's Mission Month and Mission Sunday, 24th October.

- Copies of the Mission Month Magazine, We Are Mission. Missio Scotland would be grateful if you could give these out on the first weekend of October. The number of copies you have received is 25% of the 2019 parish census figure. There is a Gift Aid declaration form inside the magazine with a freepost envelope. Those who wish to enable us to claim Gift Aid on the donation they make on Mission Sunday should not put the money inside the envelope but just state how much they have given on the form.
- If you send us a cheque for the amount raised from the collection, please send the Remittance Slip using the Freepost envelope to inform us of how much your parish has donated. If you transfer the money using online banking, then please use the Parish ID in your reference which can be found on the Remittance Slip.
- Intercession Prayers for the Mass on Mission Sunday, 24th October 2021.
- A letter from myself which you may wish to read at Mass or include in your bulletin or website.
- A sheet with bulletin announcements for each week of October.

Thank you for all you and your parishioners have done for the missions in the past and for the current year.

With every best wish.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Vincent Lockhart
National Director

Dear brothers and sisters,

If the pandemic has taught us anything, then it is perhaps the realisation that we all need one another. During the past 19 months many of us will have found that we have grown closer to our family, our friends and our neighbours. There are lots of stories of people helping others in their street with whom they had never really had a conversation until lockdown. Somehow, adversity also inspired us to find more ways to contact one another. Even our grannies have become experts at using an iPad.

Sadly, many people died, and our hearts and prayers go out to those families who did not have the chance to have a proper funeral, a proper chance to grieve together.

Looking back, though, there are many things we have to thank God for: the support of others, the chance to at least attend Mass online, the opportunity to pray more and to reflect on what is important in our life.

Today's first reading speaks of God's promise to deliver his people from exile and the responsorial psalm is a thanksgiving for having been brought home – *What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.* The idea of looking back and looking forward are contained in the theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's World Mission Sunday:

We cannot remain silent about what we have seen and heard.

This phrase is taken from the Acts of the Apostles and it is the response of St. Peter and St. John when they were forbidden to preach the Good News.

The apostles and disciples in the early Church lived with Jesus. They witnessed the miracles, heard him speak and saw at first-hand his death, resurrection and ascension. They were then led by the Holy Spirit to go out to the whole world to proclaim what they had seen and heard. That has continued for the past 2,000 years so that now the Church is present in every country and in every culture. An essential part of the life of the early Church and in the centuries which followed was how different communities helped one another.

Missio – the Pontifical Mission Societies – is the Pope's charity, and your charity, to enable all of us in today's Church to share what we have with one another and particularly to help those who are in need. Through Missio, the Catholics of Scotland have built the first churches in mission countries, helped feed and educate children, helped nuns and religious set up clinics and hospitals and enabled young men and women to enter the priesthood and religious life. World Mission Sunday is the one day during the year when Catholics worldwide can demonstrate solidarity with one another, when we can show that the Church is a family and is a way of acknowledging how we need one another through financial support and prayer.

Among the projects we are asking you to help fund this year is a project for young people in Fiji in the Pacific Ocean and another to help children in Papua New Guinea. We have chosen to highlight these because, as well as being places where the poverty is extreme, these islands are also under severe threat from climate change. You can read more about the

projects in copies of the magazine we have sent to your parish and on our Missio Scotland website.

Pope Francis sees a direct link between climate change and poverty. We can, he says, only care for our planet if, at the same time, we also care for those who are poor in our world. In some ways the pandemic has been a test for us to start seeing a different way of living together in our 'common home'. This will be part of the message which Pope Francis will give to the COP26 meeting on climate change which will take place in Glasgow next month.

Through your donations to Missio Scotland over the past year you have been able to help poor parishes and communities in Africa, Asia and South America which have had to struggle with the pandemic without the vaccines or medical care that we have here in Scotland. In their name I wish to thank you for all you have given, both financially and through your prayers.

On this World Mission Sunday I appeal to you, on behalf of Pope Francis, to give what you can and to pray for a better and safer world for all of us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Vincent Lockhart

National Director of Missio Scotland

Prayers of the Faithful
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2021
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebrant: On this World Mission Sunday, we are called to not be silent about the wonders God has done. Let us now ask for God's blessing and offer our prayers as part of our mission to pray for the Church and the world.

1. For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, primary missionary of the Church, and for the bishops and clergy of Scotland that they may lead God's people in holiness and in being witnesses to Christ, our Saviour.
Lord, in your love. **R.** Hear Our Prayer.

2. For ourselves, that we may not be silent about the blessings we have received from God but communicate our faith to the society around us in word and deed. May we continue to show our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Church, where it is small or poor, through our support for the work which Missio Scotland does on our behalf.
Lord, in your love. **R.** Hear Our Prayer.

3. For our world at this time of uncertainty. Let us pray for those whose lives are threatened by climate change, such as the peoples of Fiji and Papua New Guinea, that God may be near them in the difficulties they face. Let us pray also for the COP26 meeting in Glasgow next month.
Lord, in your love. **R.** Hear Our Prayer.

4. For those who are sick and for all those affected by the pandemic, especially those with little access to vaccines and medical care. May they receive practical assistance and prayerful support from the whole Church in their time of need.
Lord, in your love. **R.** Hear Our Prayer.

5. For our deceased relatives and friends and for those missionaries who gave their lives to proclaim the Gospel in far-away countries, especially those who came from our own communities in Scotland. May they experience eternal peace and the reward of everlasting life.
Lord, in your love. **R.** Hear Our Prayer.

Let us now spend a moment and offer our own intentions in the silence of our hearts.

Celebrant: God our Father, we give You thanks for the gift of our faith. Continue to inspire us to answer the call to take part in the mission of Your Son by building up Your Church. Accept these prayers we make and grant them through Your Son, Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the world, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

World Mission Sunday—October 24, 2021

Bulletin Inserts

Sunday October 17, 2021

Next weekend, at His Holiness Pope Francis' invitation, Catholics in parishes all over the world will be asked to contribute to a special collection for the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS)—his official charity for overseas mission—during World Mission Sunday. This year, the theme is “We cannot remain silent about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20) That is to say, everything we have received from the Lord is meant to be put to good use and freely shared with others. Missio Scotland—the Scottish branch of the PMS—aims to share with you all some of the life-saving and life-giving work being undertaken by missionary priests, sisters and catechists in mission countries and territories throughout the world such as Fiji and Papua New Guinea. Our missionary priests and religious live out their mission and support our brothers and sisters in faith throughout the world. Like them, you can help spread the Good News and play your part in the life of the universal Church by supporting Missio Scotland, so please give generously.

www.missioscotland.com <https://www.facebook.com/missioscotland> Tel: 01236 449774

Sunday October 24, 2021

Mission Month and World Mission Sunday offer you the chance to support missionaries and the Church in proclaiming the Gospel throughout the world, particularly where the Church is young or poor, and remind us of the revitalising mission that is at the heart of our faith. The World Mission Sunday collection ensures the work and service of the Mission Church, as it supports priests, religious and lay leaders who offer the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions. Your donations and prayers make a vital difference to our work in mission countries and territories and are an effective way by which you can support the universal Church. Thank you for your generosity.

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Sunday October 31, 2021

Thank you for responding to Missio Scotland's World Mission Sunday Appeal last weekend. Together as a parish we raised £.....

Your donations and prayers will go towards supporting the work of our missionaries worldwide. Furthermore, your example, like that of our missionaries all over the world, will serve as an inspiration to others to live out their Baptismal mission and play their part in the universal Church.

Thanks to your generosity, Missio Scotland has been able to send much-needed funds totalling millions down throughout the years to support a great number of projects across the five continents. Thank you!

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Mission Sunday Collection

Your parish collection can be submitted to Missio Scotland using the following methods.

1. Direct banking BACS payment

Using your Parish name and Parish ID as a reference, payments can be made to the following account. For accounting purposes, it is essential to include your Parish ID in your reference.

Bank Royal Bank of Scotland
Sort code 831713
Account number 14036020

2. Cheque

Please make all cheques payable to *Missio Scotland*. Using the enclosed freepost envelope, please return your cheque AND this remittance. Please do not send cash.

Parish ID
Parish
Address
Diocese

Mission Sunday collection	£ _____
Other	£ _____
Total	£ _____

3. By phone

Please call our office on 01236 449774 and a member of staff will be happy to process your card payment. Please have your Parish ID ready in order to complete the transaction.

If you wish to share any feedback, please use the space below.
