

# Mission Sunday's Purpose

## SPEAKER'S NOTES

Jesus said "the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed," which is the smallest of all the seeds on Earth. Yet, when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of garden plants with such big branches that birds can perch in the shade.

Today, Mission Sunday, Catholics all over the world have an opportunity to sow seeds of faith that are watered and nurtured throughout the year by World Missions Ireland, the Pope's official charity for overseas mission. Through prayer and giving we can stand in solidarity with all our brothers and sisters overseas. Did you know that 40% of the Church around the world is missionary? That's thousands of parishes which are too young or too poor to support themselves. By sharing what we have with those in need we help build a worldwide Church which can reach out to people with the Gospel. Those who have never heard the message of Jesus are given the chance to experience the love of Christ and to know the support of our Church family.

Dinganay is 5 years old and lives in Rustenburg, South Africa, in a very poor mining community. Not long ago, he lost both his mother and father to illness and now finds himself alone. Thanks to the generosity of Catholics like you, the Church has built a support centre for orphans in this area, which feeds and cares for those who have no one else to look to for love and support. Dinganay is growing in confidence and hope everyday thanks to the care he receives and your generosity.

Today, on Mission Sunday, every person in every parish in every country where the Church is present, will be celebrating together and sharing what they have, no matter how little. It is the one Sunday in the year when the Mass is celebrated exclusively for missionary activity. Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses and they go to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

It is the one Sunday in the year when your generosity goes directly to help mission parishes overseas and reach out with Jesus' message of hope and love. In offering our prayers, we join 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 feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

World Missions Ireland is responsible for coordinating Mission Sunday in Ireland and, through local bishops, churches, and missionary congregations around the world ensures that resources are distributed equitably and justly on the basis of need.

### World Missions Ireland

The work of the Pontifical Mission Societies  
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