

MISSION MONTH OCTOBER 2018

Children's Day of Mission Prayer



Society of Missionary Children

Children's Day of Mission Prayer 2018



GROW IN LOVE

Friday, October 12th



'Grow in Love' Prayer Service

Preparation

We are all called by God to make a difference, no matter how small. This is what being a missionary is about. This year's Children's Day of Mission Prayer is about God's gift of love and how we can all grow in love of God and grow in love of each other too. Ask each child to prepare a drawing of what love means to them. These drawings can then be the focal point for the prayer service.

Focal Point

Globe or Map of the World, display of the children's drawings, five coloured candles – one red, one green, one yellow, one white and one blue (if you cannot find coloured candles use white ones and put coloured ribbons around them), Mission Rosary Beads, and a Bible open at 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Hymn

Grow in Love (from Grow in Love series)

Gathering Together

Leader In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen**

Leader Today is the Society of Missionary Children's Day of Mission Prayer. It is a special day when children will offer prayers for the needs of children living throughout the world. One of the things we all have in common is that we are all loved by God. God knows each one of us and loves each of us very much.

The Bible is full of stories and parables encouraging us to love God and to love each other. In fact, if we explore these stories and parables we learn that the Kingdom of God is found wherever people live a life of love and service, loving God and their neighbour. We are gathered now to celebrate in a special way how we are linked together and are called to love one another and to care for each other. We are called to care especially for those who live in poverty or fear.





Child Saint Thérèse of Liseux, Patron Saint of Mission, invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. One of her favourite books to read about the divine love of God was called 'The Imitation Christ' by Thomas Kempis. Here are some words about love from this book.

Child “Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good; Love alone lightens every burden, and makes the rough places smooth. It bears every hardship as though it was nothing, and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable. The love of Jesus is noble, and inspires great deeds. It moves us always to desire perfection. Love aspires to high things. Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing is more pleasant, nothing fuller or better in heaven or on earth; for love is born of God and can only rest in God, above all created things. Love flies, runs, and leaps for joy; it is free and unrestrained. Love gives all for all, resting in the One who is highest above all things, from whom every good flows and proceeds. Love sees nothing as impossible, for it feels able to achieve all things. Love therefore does great things.”

Leader Loving God, we thank you for your constant and unconditional love. Help us to appreciate and trust in your loving ways, as your faithful servants Saint Paul and Saint Thérèse did. Help us to live in love of God and others as Jesus taught us in today's Gospel. We ask this through Mary, our blessed Mother, all the angels and saints, and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen**

Our Prayers

Child That those who care for us and love us are newly blessed.
We pray to the Lord.

All **Oh Lord hear our prayer**





- Child Lord, we pray for all the children of the world. Fill them with your love and happiness. We pray to the Lord.
- All Oh Lord hear our prayer**
- Child That we will share the love of God with our brothers and sisters around the world. We pray to the Lord.
- All Oh Lord hear our prayer**
- Child We pray for Pope Francis and the leaders of the Church, that they will always be guided by God's love through the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord.
- All Oh Lord hear our prayer**
- Child We pray for all children who are suffering; whose spirits are crushed by war, violence and all forms of poverty. We pray that we may help them by supporting organisations such as the Society of Missionary Children. We pray to the Lord.
- All Oh Lord hear our prayer**
- Child We pray for those who have died. May they be at peace in God's loving arms in heaven. We pray to the Lord.
- All Oh Lord hear our prayer**
- Leader The sign of peace is very symbolic. It highlights the type of heart we are meant to have as Christians when we are gathered together to pray. It reminds us that if we wish to be in full communion with Christ, we must first "love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength," and not forget to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31). So, let us offer each other a sign of peace to show our love.





In our prayers today we remember:

Child The children of Africa (place green candle beside globe)
 Child The children of Asia (place yellow candle beside globe)
 Child The children of Europe (place white candle beside globe)
 Child The children of Oceania (place blue candle beside globe)
 Child The children of the Americas (place red candle beside globe)

Hymn Connected (Grow in Love & Alive O 6)

Reading St Paul was a follower of Jesus and a great writer of letters to other people who also wished to follow Jesus. He wrote to the people of Corinth to help them understand more about love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). This is what he said: Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

The Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gospel Jesus came on earth to tell people the Good News of God's love and to show them how to live in love. Before Jesus began this mission, he went to the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth and read aloud some words from the book of the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament. St Luke later recorded these words in his Gospel (Luke 4:18-19). This is what Jesus said:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people.

The Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ





Closing Prayer

Leader As we finish our prayer service today, let us say together
our Mission Prayer for all children everywhere:

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever, Amen

Closing Hymn This Little Light of Mine (Grow in Love)





Mass to Celebrate the Society of Missionary Children's Day of Mission Prayer 'Grow in Love'

Opening Procession of Priest Celebrant and Children. *Invite a child to read what is being brought to the sanctuary and why.*

We bring a globe (or map of the world) to remember all the children of the world. We bring our candles in the mission colours: Green for the children in Africa, yellow for the children of Asia, white for the children of Europe, blue for the children of Oceania, and red for the children of the Americas. We also bring our mission box (or some coins in a jar). We do without things we like, so that we can give to others. We bring some drawings of what love means to each of us. We bring the book of the Gospels (Lectionary) and today we will be hearing about how Jesus helps us to grow in love by following his example.

Priest Celebrant

We are all called by God to make a difference, no matter how small. This is what being a missionary is about. Today is the Society of Missionary Children's Day of Mission Prayer. It is a special day when children offer prayers for the needs of each other and for children living throughout the world. This year's theme is "Grow in Love." One of the things we all have in common is that we are all loved by God. The Bible is full of stories about God's love for everyone and how God wants us to love one another in the same way as He loves us. Today's reading from the Bible is from a letter written by St Paul to the people of Corinth where he tries to tell them more about love. The Gospel today is also about love. St Luke writes how Jesus preached in the Synagogue telling people all the things they must do for others to show love. We are gathered now to celebrate in a special way how we are linked together and are called to love one another and to care for each other. We are called to care especially for those who live in poverty or fear.

In our prayers today we remember:

The children of Africa (light green candle)

The children of Asia (light yellow candle)

The children of Europe (light white candle)

The children of Oceania (light blue candle)

The children of the Americas (light red candle)





Collect Prayer

God our Father, you love us as a father loves his children. Help us to live and love like your Son, Jesus. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

First Reading (1 Corinthians 13:4-7): St Paul was a follower of Jesus and a great writer of letters to other people who also wished to follow Jesus. He wrote to the people of Corinth to help them understand more about love. This is what he said:

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 36): This psalm tells us about God's constant love for us.

Response: God the Father Loves Us.

Lord, your constant love reaches the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the skies.

Your righteousness is towering like the mountains; your justice is like the depths of the sea.

People and animals are in your care.

How precious, O God, is your constant love! We find protection under the shadow of your wings.

We feast on the abundant food you provide; you let us drink from the river of your goodness.

You are the source of all life, and because of your light we see the light.

Continue to love those who know you and to do good to those who are righteous.

Do not let proud people attack me or the wicked make me run away.





Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia,

“If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples,” says the Lord.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading (Luke 4:18-19): Jesus came on earth to tell people the Good News of God's love and to show them how to live in love. Before Jesus began this mission, he went to the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth and read aloud some words from the book of the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament. St Luke later recorded these words in his Gospel. This is what Jesus said:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer of the Faithful

1. That those who care for us and love us are newly blessed.
We pray to the Lord.
Oh Lord hear our prayer
2. Lord, we pray for all the children of the world. Fill them with your love and happiness. We pray to the Lord.
Oh Lord hear our prayer
3. That we will share the love of God with our brothers and sisters around the world. We pray to the Lord.
Oh Lord hear our prayer
4. We pray for Pope Francis and the leaders of the Church, that they will always be guided by God's love through the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord.
Oh Lord hear our prayer





5. We pray for all children who are suffering; whose spirits are crushed by war, violence and all forms of poverty. We pray that we may help them by supporting organisations such as the Society of Missionary Children. We pray to the Lord.
Oh Lord hear our prayer
6. We pray for those who have died. May they be at peace in God's loving arms in heaven. We pray to the Lord.
Oh Lord hear our prayer

Prayer over the Offerings

God our Father, we bring you our gifts of bread and wine. With them, we bring our love for one another.

Help us to grow more in love of you and for all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer after Communion

God our Father, you have given us Jesus in a special way in this Mass. Help us to love each other more, with the love of Jesus, your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Priest Celebrant

Before our final blessing, let us pray the Society of Missionary Children's mission prayer together.

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever, Amen

Go in peace, to love God and to show love at home, in school and at play.

Thanks be to God.

Suggested Hymns for Mass: Grow in Love, Connected, We Come to You Lord Jesus, This Little Light of Mine, and Go Tell Everyone



The Mission Rosary

Follow the beads to say the mission rosary. We start with the first bead and say the Our Father. On the next three beads we say a Hail Mary on each bead. On the fourth bead we say the Glory Be. We then follow this pattern: Our Father, ten Hail Marys, and a Glory Be, all the way round until we get back to the yellow bead. At the beginning of each decade say the corresponding prayer below.

Our first colour is GREEN which represents the children in AFRICA: Let us pray for all the children of Africa and all the missionaries working there. Let their work be helpful to all. Let us pray for an end to all fighting and for the Church to grow.

Our second colour is RED for the children in THE AMERICAS: Let us pray for the children of the Americas and all the missionaries working there. Let us try each day to find a new way to help others and show that we love all people.

Our third colour is WHITE for the children in EUROPE: Let us pray for the children of Europe and all the missionaries working there. We pray that Christians in Europe remain true to Jesus and continue to spread His word.

Our fourth colour is BLUE for the children in OCEANIA: Let us pray for the children of Oceania and all the missionaries working there. Let us also remember all the Christians in the world, especially those that live in remote areas.

Our fifth colour is YELLOW for the children in ASIA: Let us pray for the children of Asia and all the missionaries working there. Let us also pray for peace and that we may never forget the poor.



Each year schoolchildren in Ireland help us to support thousands of projects in the developing world. These projects are run by missionaries who know the value of every cent they receive.

If you require mission rosary beads, please contact us at missionarychildren@wmi.ie / 01 497 2035.
(We suggest a donation of €1.00 per rosary).



Children Helping Children