

# TOGETHER WE ARE MISSION

World Mission Sunday, 20th October 2019

Dear Friends,

This year's World Mission Sunday theme, 'Together We Are Mission', is a message for everyone. As Pope Francis said in his World Mission Sunday message, 'I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptised man and woman is a mission.' This goes to the heart of our baptismal call. It also challenges the idea that mission work is solely done by missionaries, by asking people to consider the part their own missionary hearts can play in changing the lives of others.

During this Extraordinary Month of Mission, World Mission Sunday will take place over the weekend of Sunday 20th October. Since its announcement in 1926 by Pope Pius XI, the entire global Church comes together during this time to support mission. Our Church is a global community. We depend on one another, on our shared prayer, solidarity and generosity. This special papal celebration recognises this by calling every parish, in every corner of the world, to stand together and share what they can – no matter how little.

The contributions offered on this day are **essential** for the survival of the Church. Funds are used to help build much-needed church infrastructure, from chapels and clinics, to nurseries and schools, in some of the most impoverished communities in our Church family. It also supports the training and education of priests, brothers and sisters overseas. Through your support, World Mission Sunday not only helps the Church to survive; it allows it to thrive by enabling local people to form and sustain communities of faith.

To help during Mission Month, World Missions Ireland, the Church's official charity for overseas mission, has prepared the enclosed pack. I encourage you to explore these resources. They will guide and help you celebrate a successful Mission Month and enrich your daily liturgies especially World Mission Sunday.

## You will find:

- 1. Mission Month Booklet** *A collection of reflections for the daily Liturgy*
- 2. Mission Sunday Mass** *Mass for the Evangelisation of Peoples, B [Missal, pp. 1183-1184] (English & Irish)*
- 3. Children's Day of Mission Prayer Booklet** *National day of celebration, 11th October*
- 4. Mission Month Toolkit** *Theme, Speaker's Notes, Inserts, FAQs, Returns*
- 5. 2 Posters** *Display prior to the 20th and (ideally) on the pulpit during the day (English & Irish)*
- 6. Donation Return Slip & Feedback Form** *Your contact details and feedback*
- 7. Freepost Return Envelope** *For your convenience when returning contributions*

On behalf of the missionaries, and the men, women and children's lives you continue to change because of your on-going support of World Mission Sunday, I extend my gratitude.

Jesus said 'The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches' (Mt 13:31-32). Jesus knew what this tiny seed would achieve, and, similarly, when he began his mission with his disciples.

Together we have grown to become one of the largest community of believers in the world. A tree where all can find refuge and shelter. Together we are mission!



**Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly, SMA  
Chair, National Mission Council, IEC**