

World

MISSION SUNDAY

20 October 2024

LITURGICAL RESOURCES



**Go and invite everyone
to the banquet.**

Cf. Matthew 22:9



I. Holy Mass

a. Mass Introduction

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

Today, on the twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary time, we celebrate World Mission Day or Mission Sunday. This celebration is a call to mobilise faith, resources, and action in introducing the Gospel to our brothers and sisters across the world.

As the theme for this year's World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis has chosen: "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," inspired by the parable of the wedding banquet in Mt 22:9. This theme calls us to reach out and welcome all to the feast of God's love, echoing the inclusivity and urgency of the king's invitation. Our mission is to reflect this divine hospitality, bringing joy, compassion, and hope to everyone we encounter, especially in territories where the Gospel has not yet been received, has been only recently embraced, or is courageously upheld in the face of persecution.

The invitation to the banquet is more than just a call; it is a transformative journey of embracing and sharing God's love. On this day let us pray for the Universal Mission of the Church, and show our solidarity by sharing our resources.

b. Introduction to Mass Readings

First Reading (Isaiah 53:10-11)

The first reading speaks of the Suffering Servant, whose sacrifice brings redemption and fulfilment. In the light of mission, this passage reminds us that true service often involves suffering and self-giving for the sake of others. Our mission is to embody this love, bringing hope and salvation to the world.

Second Reading (Hebrews 4:14-16)

The second reading presents Jesus as our compassionate High Priest who understands our weaknesses. In the light of mission, this passage encourages us to approach God with confidence, knowing that we are called to extend His mercy and grace to others. Our mission is to guide people to the throne of grace, where they find help in times of need.



c. Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: On this World Mission Sunday, we unite with the whole Catholic Church in praying for the joyful proclamation of the Gospel to all nations.

- For Pope Francis, our Bishop... and all Church leaders: may they be given the strength to follow the example of Christ who came not to be served, but to serve. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For missionaries, especially those working in places of danger and persecution: may they find the courage and wisdom to witness to the Gospel of peace and justice. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For our parish community: That we may open our hearts to the needs of the missions and respond generously on this World Mission Sunday. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For the Synod on Synodality: That the Church may grow in unity and shared mission through the insights and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For those who suffer through poverty, violence, and oppression: may the power of the Gospel heal division, dispel the darkness of ignorance, and bring hope to those who despair. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For the work of Pontifical Mission Organizations across the world: may our prayers and gifts be a means by which God's grace reaches out in love to our brothers and sisters in need of help. Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Loving Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son and the call to share His love with the world. Hear our prayers and help us to be faithful witnesses of Your mercy and grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

II. Homily Notes

(on Day's Gospel [Mk 10:35-45] or Mission Day Theme [Mt 22:9])

From Master Plan to Master's Plan

In the gospel of Mark, Jesus foretells his passion, death, and resurrection three times, and all the three times he is misunderstood, misrepresented, and mistaken. Today's gospel reading is the narrative that follows Jesus' third and final passion prediction. The sons of Zebedee come to Jesus with a special request, to be allowed to sit at the right and the left.



One of the primordial archetypes in us is 'to believe and assert that we are the most important person in the world.' This primal instinct for greatness lies in every human heart. Jesus wants us to keep this instinct under control. Besides, the reading invites us to set aside our master plan and to embrace the Master's Plan. Being a missionary means to set aside our master plan and to embrace the Master's plan.

Reflection on the theme: Pope Francis has chosen the theme "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," inspired by the parable of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22:9. This theme emphasizes two core aspects: (a) Going out: Mission work involves going out into the world, reaching out to those who have not heard the Gospel, and inviting them to experience God's love. It's a call to be active and engaged in spreading the faith. (b) Inviting everyone: The invitation is universal, reflecting God's love for all. It calls on us to welcome everyone to the feast of the Eucharist and the ultimate banquet in the Kingdom of God.

The gospel reading offers us three life lessons:

(i) True greatness in service: In Mark 10:35-45, Jesus teaches that true greatness comes from serving others, not from seeking power or prestige. On World Mission Day, we are reminded that our mission is not about being first but about humbly serving others. Inviting everyone to the banquet means embodying Christ's servant heart, reaching out to those in need, and offering our lives for the sake of the Gospel.

(ii) Breaking barriers of exclusion: The call to "invite everyone to the banquet" challenges us to break down the barriers of exclusion and favouritism. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. Our mission involves extending God's invitation to all, especially those marginalized or overlooked by society, ensuring that everyone knows they have a place in God's kingdom.

(iii) Sacrificial Love as a Witness: Jesus' example of sacrificial love in serving others is the core of our missionary call. To invite others to the banquet, we must be willing to give of ourselves, even when it involves sacrifice. By living out this love, we become credible witnesses to the Gospel, showing the world that the kingdom of God is open to all who come in faith.

Today we celebrate World Mission Day, a yearly commemoration which highlights the important role missionary organizations and mission-oriented individuals have in sharing the Good News of God's Kingdom and working in co-operation with God to make the Kingdom more visible right now.



This year the Holy Father encourages us to consider how the work of the Missions is at heart one of invitation and hospitality. Meaning, the missionary is effective when mission work lovingly and generously offers to share God's gifts with persons and communities who might not be aware of what those gifts are.

The work of Mission is not about force, control or status. It is fundamentality about open hospitality, an offering of an invitation into better, fuller life within the earthly setting we find now - and, ultimately into the fullness of God's life in the Kingdom.

On World Mission Day we pay special attention to the organizations and individuals who do this work in places of dire need. But, in truth, each one of us is called to be a missionary. Each of us is asked by Christ to share with others our love and commitment to discipleship within the specific circumstances of our own lives. The deeper our commitment to discipleship the more passionate our desire to share it with others can be. But in all this, we should take to heart the truth of the scriptures today. It is good to step up and take responsibility, but not in ways which 'lord it over' others. Responsibility and authority in Christ are not about issuing commands or bullying. True Christian leadership is service of one another in response to the real earthly and spiritual needs of the world.

III. Post-Communion Events

a. Pope Francis' Mission Prayer

Heavenly Father,

when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ
rose from the dead,
he commissioned his followers
to "go and make disciples of all nations"
and you remind us that through our Baptism
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to be courageous and zealous
in bearing witness to the Gospel,
so that the mission entrusted to the Church,
which is still very far from completion,
may find new and efficacious expressions
that bring life and light to the world.



Help us make it possible for all peoples
to experience the saving love
and mercy of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever.

Amen.

b. Post-Communion-Announcement

What is mission? Mission can mean so many things. At its core it is an invitation to experience God's unconditional, compassionate, life-giving love, and to want to share it with everyone, everywhere.

Pope Francis tells us, 'Mission is a tireless going out to all men and women, in order to invite them to encounter God and enter into communion with him' and that 'the mission for all requires the commitment of all'. Faithful to the mission received from the Lord, we – the Church – are called to go to the ends of the earth. To set out repeatedly, without growing weary or losing heart in the face of difficulties and obstacles. One of the many wonderful ways to support mission is through the annual celebration of World Mission Sunday in October.

On the Mission Sunday (20 October 2024), the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Pontifical Mission Societies, his charity for world mission, through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity, and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. Let us participate in the celebrations and show our solidarity to the Universal Church. Whatever we give today will come back to us, to support mission in our homeland.

Go and invite everyone to the banquet.

Cf. Matthew 22:9



POPE FRANCIS' MISSION PRAYER

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may find new and efficacious expressions
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Help us make it possible for all peoples
to experience the saving love
and mercy of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
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God, forever and ever.

Amen.



The mission for all
requires the
commitment of all
- Pope Francis

Celebrate!
Participate!
Promote!
Give!



HOW?

- ✓ Participate in the Holy Mass.
- ✓ Pray for missionaries.
- ✓ Educate and raise awareness.
- ✓ Support financially.
- ✓ Engage in local mission activities.
- ✓ Reflect on your call to mission.
- ✓ Join our Mission Societies.

Rev. Dr. Ambrose Pitchaimuthu
National Director

One Mission. Four Faces.

- PONTIFICAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH (POPF)
- PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE (POSPA)
- PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATIONS (MCA)
- PONTIFICAL MISSIONARY UNION OF THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS AND THE CONSECRATED LAITY (PMU)



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