

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

18 OCT 2026



ONE IN
CHRIST
UNITED IN
PROCLAMATION



**LITURGICAL-PASTORAL
RESOURCES**

I. Holy Mass

a. Mass Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today the Church celebrates the 100th World Mission Day, a century of prayer, sacrifice and solidarity for the spread of the Gospel. On this XXIX Sunday in Ordinary Time, we gather under the theme, “One in Christ. United in Proclamation.”

Mission begins not with programmes but with belonging to Christ. Because we are one in him, we are sent together to make his love known through word, witness and service. The first reading reminds us that God can work through unexpected persons and events. Saint Paul shows us a community whose faith becomes visible in work, love and steadfast hope. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. We are responsible citizens, yet our deepest identity belongs to God, whose image every human person bears.

In India, rich in religions, cultures and languages, Christian proclamation must be confident yet humble, joyful yet respectful, rooted in truth and expressed through love. We remember missionaries, pray for vocations, and support the Church’s mission. As we begin this Eucharist, let us ask pardon for our indifference and renew the missionary grace of our Baptism.

b. Introduction to Mass Readings

First Reading (Isaiah 45:1, 4-6)

The prophet Isaiah presents Cyrus, a foreign king, as an instrument in God’s hands. God’s saving purpose is larger than human boundaries and works even through unexpected people. This reading invites us to recognize God’s action beyond familiar circles and to cooperate humbly with his mission in the world today.

Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5)

Saint Paul gives thanks for the Thessalonians because their faith is active, their love is laborious, and their hope is steadfast. The Gospel has reached them not in words alone, but in power and in the Holy Spirit. Authentic proclamation becomes credible when faith is visible in transformed lives today.

c. Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Dear brothers and sisters, united as one family in Christ and sharing responsibility for his mission, let us place before the Father the needs of the Church and the world.

Response: Lord, make us one in Christ and united in proclamation.

1. For the Holy Church: that, one in Christ, all the baptized may rediscover their missionary vocation and proclaim the Gospel with courage and love daily.
2. For Pope Leo XIV, bishops, priests, religious and missionaries: that the Holy Spirit may strengthen them to serve faithfully, especially in difficult and forgotten places.
3. For our nation, India: that people of every religion, culture and language may grow in mutual respect, justice, peace, and commitment to the common good.
4. For missionaries and young Churches throughout the world: that prayers, sacrifices and offerings may sustain their evangelizing work, pastoral ministries, formation and works of charity.
5. For our community: that this centenary World Mission Day may renew our baptismal calling to witness to Christ in families, workplaces, neighbourhoods and digital spaces.
6. For the Pontifical Mission Organizations in India and the world: That their works may flourish and bear fruit, bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Father of all peoples, hear the prayers of your children. Make us one in your Son and strengthen us by your Spirit, that together we may proclaim your saving love to all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

II. Homily Notes

Today the Church celebrates a hundred years of World Mission Day. The centenary invites us not merely to remember missionaries of the past, but to ask a personal question: What does it mean for me to be missionary today? The readings offer three answers.

1. Mission Begins with God

In Isaiah, Cyrus is a foreign ruler who does not know the God of Israel, yet God calls him by name and uses him for a saving purpose. God is already at work beyond the boundaries we know. Mission therefore begins with humility. We do not carry God to places where God is absent. We enter peoples, cultures and situations believing that God has gone before us. In a religiously plural country like India, this conviction helps us proclaim Christ without arrogance, meet others with respect, and recognize whatever is true and good.

2. Mission Becomes Credible through Life

Paul praises the Thessalonians for their “work of faith,” “labour of love” and “steadfastness of hope.” The Gospel came to them not in word alone, but in power and in the Holy Spirit. Proclamation is more than speaking about Jesus. It is making his presence visible. A family that forgives, a parish that welcomes, a young person who chooses integrity, a religious who serves quietly, and a Christian who stands beside the poor are all missionary signs. Our words become believable when our lives resemble the Gospel we proclaim.

3. Mission Flows from Belonging to God

Jesus asks for the coin and says, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” The coin bears Caesar’s image. But the human person bears God’s image. We fulfil our responsibilities as citizens, yet no earthly power possesses the human conscience, dignity or ultimate destiny. We belong to God.

This gives special meaning to today’s theme: “One in Christ. United in Proclamation.” We are one not because we are identical, but because Christ is our centre. India’s Catholic community contains many languages, cultures, traditions and rites. These differences need not divide mission; they can enrich it. Unity does not mean uniformity. It means different gifts serving the same Gospel.

On this centenary, mission cannot remain the work of a few priests, religious or people who travel overseas. Every baptized person is sent. Some go across borders; others cross the street, enter a classroom, visit a suffering family, defend a vulnerable person, share faith through digital media, or support missionaries through prayer and sacrifice.

The question is no longer, “Who are the missionaries?” The question is, “How will I live my mission here and now?” One in Christ, let us become united in proclamation.

III. Post-Communion Events

a. Mission Prayer: Heralds of Hope among the People

Father of all peoples, you have made us one in your Son and sent us to share the joy of the Gospel. Renew in us the grace of Baptism and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Make our communities places of communion, reconciliation and welcome. Give courage to missionaries, generosity to those who support them, and new missionary vocations to your Church. In our diverse nation, teach us to proclaim Christ with humility, respect and love, serving especially the poor and vulnerable. Mary, Queen of Missions, walk always with us. One in Christ, may we be united in proclamation. Amen.

b. Post-Communion Announcement

Dear brothers and sisters, as we conclude this Eucharistic celebration, let us remember that World Mission Day continues beyond this Mass. For one hundred years, Catholics across the world have prayed, sacrificed and contributed so that the Gospel may be proclaimed and young Churches may be strengthened.

Our mission offering today is not merely a collection. It is a sign that we belong to one Church and share responsibility for one mission. Through our generosity, we stand with missionaries, seminarians, catechists, religious communities, children, families and pastoral initiatives in places where the Church has fewer resources.

Yet mission is not completed by giving money. Each of us is invited to carry the Gospel into the coming week: through kindness at home, honesty at work, compassion for the suffering, friendship across religious and cultural boundaries, care for the poor, and a courageous but respectful witness to Jesus Christ.

Please continue to pray for missionaries and for new missionary vocations from our families and communities. May this centenary become a new beginning for us. As we leave the church, let us remember our calling: one in Christ, united in proclamation, sent today to make his love visible wherever we live and serve.

c. Creative Pastoral Ideas to Celebrate the World Mission Day

1. 100 Lights for 100 Years. Before or after Mass, prepare a large “100” near the mission cross or parish display using one hundred lamps or LED candles. Each light represents a year of prayer, sacrifice and missionary witness. Invite one hundred families, children or youth to light them.

2. Mission Map. From India to the World. Place a large map of India and the world at the church entrance. Mark places where missionaries from the diocese or religious communities are serving. Add photographs and brief stories so that “mission” acquires real faces and names.

3. 100 Acts of Missionary Love. Invite parishioners to complete 100 concrete acts of love during Mission Month: visiting the sick, helping a poor family, teaching a child, reconciling with someone, planting trees, accompanying an elderly person, or helping a migrant family.

4. One Family – One Mission Commitment. Give each family a small card after Mass with three commitments: Pray for one missionary. Perform one missionary act. Make one missionary sacrifice. Families may place the card near their family Bible or altar.

5. Missionary Witness in Three Minutes. Before or after Sunday Masses during October, invite missionaries, religious, lay missionaries or returned mission volunteers to share a three-minute personal testimony: one person, one experience, one lesson from mission.

6. 100 Minutes of Prayer for Mission. Organize a special 100-minute prayer vigil during Mission Week with Scripture, silence, Eucharistic adoration where appropriate, the Rosary, missionary testimonies and prayer for every continent. Involve children, youth, families, religious and clergy.

7. Mission Through Friendship. Encourage parish groups to undertake one initiative with neighbours of other faiths: visiting a home for the elderly, helping vulnerable children, environmental cleaning, or supporting persons with disabilities.

8. Digital Mission Challenge. Invite young people to create a 60-second digital testimony answering one question: “What difference does Jesus make in my life?” Selected testimonies may be shared through parish social media during Mission Week, turning digital spaces into places of authentic Christian witness.

9. Centenary Mission Partnership. As a lasting fruit of the centenary, encourage the parish, with diocesan guidance, to establish a relationship with a mission parish, formation house, catechetical centre or missionary project.

10. Many Languages – One Gospel. Create a parish display of one Gospel verse in the different languages spoken by parishioners.

