

# A Rosary for Peace: Assembly Notes



## LEADER'S NOTES

This assembly has been prepared by **Mission Together**, the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's official charity for overseas mission. The assembly encourages children to pray for peace in the world so that children everywhere might live in safety and in the love and friendship of God.

The presentation lasts up to 20 minutes. We recommend you deliver the whole assembly **but please feel free to use the material as time and circumstances allow.**

This PowerPoint uses animations. It is advisable to run through the assembly before you present to your pupils.

**Slides Two and Three make links with 'World Mission Sunday' which is celebrated annually in every Catholic parish around the world when Catholics pray for each other and celebrate that we are all children of God, regardless of background or belief. This year's 'World Mission Sunday' focus is on peace building in South Sudan. If you wish to omit the reference to South Sudan please skip Slides Two and Three.**

## SLIDE ONE

Welcome to your **Mission Together** assembly!

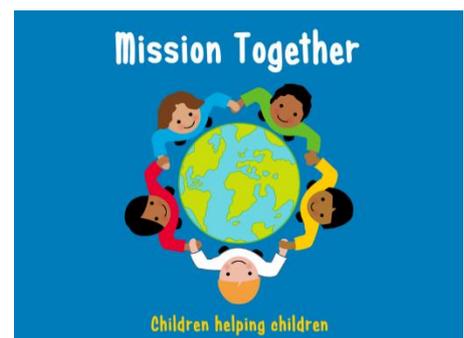
Explain to the children that the slide shows the **Mission Together** logo. Draw their attention to the words and images on the logo before asking them the following questions.

**Q:** Does anyone know what a Mission is?

**A:** A special job, a quest, or going away to do something important.

**Q:** Do you know what special job Jesus has given us?

**A:** To share God's love with everyone. We do this by being like Jesus – kind, loving, helpful, prayerful and respectful to those near to us and those far away.



We do not have to do this special job alone. Jesus wants us to do it together. Jesus gathered his disciples around him and he sent them out in twos to tell everyone about him. Now he wants us to join him.

In our **Mission Together** logo you can see that the children are holding hands together and smiling. They are 'children helping children' and they look as if they are giving the whole world a great big HUG! In today's Assembly we are going to hear how **Mission Together** children have a special role in bringing God's love into the world to help other children have safer, peaceful lives.

All people, wherever they are born, whatever they believe, are part of God's family and so are members of our human family. Sadly, just like in our own families, there are times when people disagree or quarrel.

## SLIDE TWO

One country where there is fighting is called South Sudan. It is in Africa and is shown on the map. Sadly, in South Sudan, people have been at war for many years. It is a poor country and the people there have little money to buy food or water. It is also very hot and it doesn't rain much which makes it difficult to grow things to eat. This means that the people get worried and often argue about food, water or land.



## SLIDE THREE

Some people work very hard to encourage others to forgive one another, just as Jesus taught us. This October, people in parishes all over the world are praying for one another. This special day is called '**World Mission Sunday**' and we remember how God wants each and every one of us to be safe, happy, and to live in peace.

**Q:** Has anyone has seen the poster on the slide? It is a picture of a little girl living in South Sudan.



**A:** The children may have seen it in their church as part of the '**World Mission Sunday**' celebration.

Although this little girl lives far away, when we pray for her and others living in South Sudan, we are reminded that we are all brothers and sisters, with God as our loving father. Our prayers bring us together in a special way and help us bring love into places where there is sadness.

## SLIDE FOUR

Jesus didn't lose his temper or become unkind. He stayed calm and showed respect to other people. He also taught about the importance of forgiveness and how we must reach out to people in peace. As God's children we are loved very much and when we share that love we can create a wonderful world where all people live in friendship, safety and without worry.

Let's hear what Jesus said about the peace he brings us:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid."(John 14:27)



## SLIDE FIVE

An important way we can bring peace is to pray for other people.

We are now in the month of October when we say a special prayer.

**Q:** Can anyone tell me what that prayer is?

**A:** The Rosary.

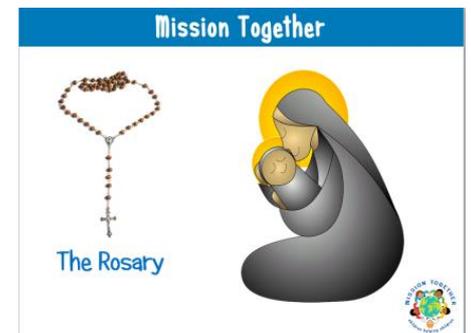
**Q:** Who do we think of and pray with in the Rosary?

**A:** Jesus' mother, Mary.

It's important to remember that Mary is our mother too. She wants us to turn to her with our worries and upsets and she is always ready to listen and to ask her son, Jesus, to help us.

The Rosary is a special prayer that Mary has asked us to say to pray for peace in the world.

We use beads like these to help us pray the Rosary.



## SLIDE SIX

**Mission Together** children have a special Rosary. It looks like this:

**Q:** Why do you think the beads are different colours? Do you think the colours represent something?

This poster might give us a clue. Have a good look at the colours on the beads and on the poster.



**A:** The **Mission Together** Rosary helps us to pray for children around the world who live in poverty, are struggling and need our support. The colours represent the five continents in the world- green- Africa, red- the Americas, white- Europe, yellow- Asia and blue- Oceania.

## SLIDE SEVEN

**Q:** Can anybody explain how we pray the Rosary?

**A:** *(Click twice to bring up arrow where we start)* If you look closely, you will notice that just above the crucifix there are five beads. The crucifix and the five beads are sometimes used for the opening prayers. We say an 'Our Father' on the first bead then we say three 'Hail Marys' on the next beads. On the fifth bead we say the 'Glory Be'.



The Rosary is made up of five sections called decades. *(Click twice to bring up arrow and show a decade.)*

A decade of the Rosary starts with one prayer of the 'Our Father' followed by ten prayers of the 'Hail Mary' and ends with one prayer of the 'Glory Be'.

Using the same bead on which we prayed the 'Glory Be' we pray 'Our Father' to start the first decade.

Whilst we say these prayers we think about Mary's life and the life of her son Jesus, so that we might copy them and try to bring love, hope, joy and peace into the world.

## SLIDE EIGHT

Prayer is an important way that we can stay close to Jesus and feel his peace. **Mission Together** children are encouraged to pray often for other children. That is where the Mission Rosary is a big help.

Praying the Mission Rosary is very similar to praying a normal Rosary. As well as thinking about the events in Jesus' and Mary's lives, in the Mission Rosary, we use the coloured beads to help us to think about children from the continent represented by that colour.\*



[If you used slides Two and Three

**Q:** Can you remember in which continent we will find South Sudan?

**A:** Africa.]

**Q:** If you were praying for the children in Africa which beads will you use to pray for the children there?

**A:** The green beads.

What is important to remember is that children all around the world use the Mission Rosary.

**Q:** This means that the children of Africa are also praying for us in Europe, when they are holding which coloured beads?

**A:** White.

## SLIDE NINE

Perhaps during this month of October you could try praying the Mission Rosary in another assembly or in class time?

Today, let's finish by saying together a 'Hail Mary', and (if time permits) the **Mission Together** Prayer, asking God to help us to bring God's peace and love to children at home and across the world.



*[Click to reveal Mission Together prayer](#)*

## END OF ASSEMBLY

\*[LEADERS' NOTE: **Mission Together** also encourages children to help other children, through sharing what they can so that children living in poverty do not go hungry, can attend school and so that they can receive medicine if they are sick . They also learn that they are God's children who are loved and valued. All these things are happening with the help of children around the world. To find out more about **Mission Together's** many worldwide children's projects, please visit [missiontogether.org.uk/teachers-resources](http://missiontogether.org.uk/teachers-resources)]

