

Assembly: Mission Rosary

LEADER'S NOTES

As Christians, we all have a mission: to share God's love with the whole world. No one is too young or too small to take part. Through Mission Together, children everywhere pray for and share with one another in a unique exchange of love and friendship. By praying for one another and sharing what we have, we belong to God's worldwide family.



Pope Francis has designated October 2019 an Extraordinary Month of Mission. Its objective: to renew the efforts of the entire Church to share God's love around the world.

This assembly focuses on the Mission Rosary and how, through its use, children and adults are invited to pray for and with our universal family.

*Visit our website to download resources and find out more about the **Extraordinary Month of Mission**.*

This assembly contains animations. It is advisable you run through the presentation, using the slides, before delivering the assembly.

HOLDING SLIDE

In today's assembly we're going to do something very special. We're going to find out how we can pray for and with children all around the world!

Draw attention to the words and images on the screen before asking the children the following questions:

Has anyone has heard of Mission Together?

Answer: Mission Together is the Pope's own children's charity. With our support, it helps children who live in places of poverty around the world.

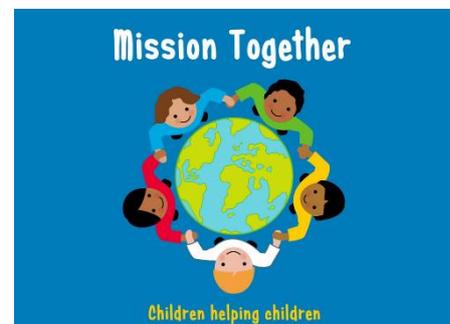
Why do you think the charity is called Mission Together? Start by thinking about what the word 'mission' means.

Answers might be: a special job, a quest, or going away to do something important.

Do you know what special job Jesus has given us?

Answer: 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.



Sharing God's love with everyone around the world is a big task! But we don't have to do this special job alone. Jesus wants us to do it together.

In the Mission Together logo you can see that the children are holding hands together and smiling. They are sharing God's love with everyone and they look as if they are giving the whole world a great big HUG!

Through the charity Mission Together, children are helping children around the world to have happier lives.

How do you think they do this?

Answer: Mission Together asks children to help other children, by sharing what they have and through their prayers.

SLIDE TWO

One special way we can pray for children around the world is by using one of these.

Point to the image of the rosary.

Can anyone tell me what this is?

Answer: A rosary.

Can anyone explain what a rosary is and how we use it?

Answer: The rosary is a special set of beads that Catholics use to help them pray.

Does anyone here use a rosary or know someone that does?

People of other faiths also use beads to help them pray.

[Click to reveal images.](#)

Here are some prayer beads used by people of other faiths. Do you recognise them?

Top left: Misbaha, used by Muslims. Bottom left: Japamala, used by Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains.



SLIDE THREE

Let's now take a closer look at the rosary beads that Catholics use to help them pray, and let's find out what the beads mean and how we can use them too.

Can you see that just above the crucifix (the cross on which Jesus is depicted) there are five beads?

The crucifix and the five beads are used for the opening prayers of the rosary. We say an *Our Father* prayer on the first bead, then we say a *Hail Mary* prayer on each of the three next beads. On the fifth bead the *Glory Be* prayer is said.



After the *Glory Be* is said on the fifth bead above the crucifix, we begin the first decade.

How many *Hail Marys* do you think make up a decade?

Answer: There are ten Hail Marys in a decade.

To say a decade of the rosary we start with the *Our Father*, followed by the *Hail Mary* on each of the ten beads and end with the *Glory Be*.

There are five decades altogether. How many *Hail Marys* will we have prayed by the time we're finished?

Answer: 53!

While we're saying the rosary we are also encouraged to think about Mary's life and the life of her son Jesus, so that by thinking about their example we might try even harder to copy their good actions.

[Click to reveal small the images for each set of mysteries](#)

Sometimes we think about the joyful times, such as when Jesus was born. Other times, we might contemplate the sorrowful events that happened when Jesus suffered and died on the cross. And sometimes, we can consider the glorious things that happened, such as when Jesus rose from the dead.

SLIDE FOUR

Rosaries come in all different colours and sizes. The large rosary we can see here (right of screen), is called a Mission Rosary. As well as thinking about Jesus' life, we use the Mission Rosary to think of and pray for something else too.

The colours of the beads give us a clue to what, or who, this might be. What do you think the different colours represent?



[Click to reveal map.](#)

The Mission Together rosary helps us think about, and pray for, children around the world who are poor or struggling and need our support. We use the beads to help us to think about children from the continent represented by that colour.

For example, the yellow beads represent which continent?

Answer: Asia.

So, if I'm saying Hail Marys on my yellow beads who then am I praying for?

Answer: The children of Asia.

[Click to reveal cartoon](#)

It's important to remember that Catholic children all around the world use the Mission Rosary.

This means that Catholic children of Asia are also praying for us in Europe when they are holding which coloured beads?

Answer: White.

SLIDE SIX

Jesus knew how important it is to pray. He prayed every day and sometimes spent hours alone praying to God, his Father. Jesus also taught his disciples to pray, so they might grow in love of God and all people. One prayer Jesus taught his disciples is used in the rosary too.

What do you think this prayer is called?

[Click to reveal scripture.](#)

The Bible passage on screen is the first version of the Our Father, taught to us by Jesus. Let's listen to this Bible reading now.

*'This is what Jesus taught the people...
"When you pray, you should pray like this:
Our Father in heaven,
we pray that your name will always be kept holy.
We pray that your kingdom will come.
We pray that what you want, will be done,
here on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us the food we need for each day.
Forgive the sins we have done,
just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.'"*

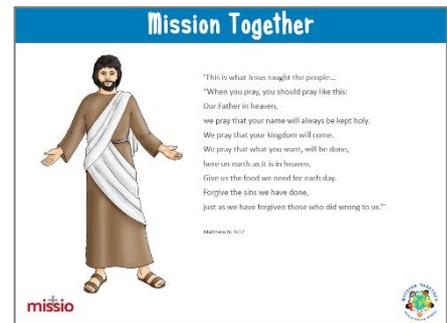
Matthew 6: 9-12 (International Children's Bible).

The *Our Father* reminds us that everyone on earth is a child of God, our Father in heaven. That makes us all brothers and sisters! Even more reason to work together and do what we can to make sure everyone has food to eat, is shown mercy and love, and works to build God's kingdom of peace on earth.

SLIDE SEVEN

Mission Together encourages children to help other children, through their prayers and by sharing what they can, so that children in poor countries do not go hungry; so that they are able to go to school; so that they can receive medicine if they are sick and know that God loves and cares for them.

Here are some pictures of children around the world who have been helped by children like you.



SLIDE EIGHT

Today we've learned about the Mission Rosary, how to say it, and who to say it for.

Choose one of the options below to conclude this assembly.

- It can take a while to complete the full rosary, so let's finish today by saying one decade for all children around the world in need of our support. After this we'll also say the Mission Together Prayer.
- It can take a while to complete the full rosary, so maybe we can say the rosary together in class time or in another assembly. Today let's finish by saying the Mission Together Prayer, remembering all children in need of our support and asking God to help us to be children helping children.

