

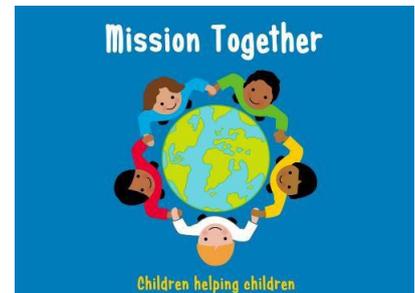
Mission Together All Saint's Day Assembly



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.

As members of God's worldwide family, we pray for one another and share what we have. This assembly focuses on All Saints' Day, when we celebrate belonging to one family in Jesus and discover how we can become saints too.



This assembly contains animations. It is advisable to run through the presentation, using the slides, before delivering the assembly. Please refer to the glossary at the end for explanations of some words.

SLIDE ONE

Today is called All Saints' Day. It is a special day when we honour all the saints in heaven. The beautiful painting on the screen is called 'All Saints Day'. The artist painted all the saints sitting near God the Father, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, and Mary.



Ask the children if anyone can explain what a saint is?

A saint is someone who devoted their life on earth to loving God and serving others. They became a saint when the Church recognises that they are especially close to God in heaven.

Ask if anyone can name any saints?

Perhaps your school, class or parish is named after a saint. You may even have a saint's name.

There are many people who loved and served God who are not so well known and are not named as saints by the Church, but they are still included in today's celebration. These may even include people who were members of our family or our school.

On All Saint's Day we think about how we on earth are united, as one family, with the saints in heaven.

[Click to reveal scripture and cartoons on screen](#)

This is what St Paul tells us: 'Together with the saints you belong to God's family.' *Ephesians 2:19 (adapted)*

St Paul wants us to know that we all belong to God's family, whether we are in heaven or on earth. Just as we ask our family on earth to help us when we are struggling, we can ask the saints in heaven to help us through their prayers too.

Now we are going to hear about some famous saints from around the world, whom people turn to for help and who are role models for us. Our first saint comes from Africa.

SLIDE TWO

St Josephine Bakhita was born in the Sudan in Africa. When she was nine, she was kidnapped by slave traders. For many years Josephine was beaten and bullied by her cruel owners.

Then one day she and her owners moved to Italy. There she met some Religious Sisters. A Religious Sister is a woman who leaves her family and friends to live with other Religious Sisters. They dedicate their whole life to loving God and helping others.

The Sisters treated Josephine with love and kindness; they showed her what God is like and they even helped Josephine win her freedom. She was so inspired by the Sisters example that soon afterwards Josephine became a Religious Sister too. Here she is pictured with the Sisters she lived with.

Sr Josephine was known for her joy and gentleness, but she is best known for being forgiving. Following the example of Jesus, Josephine forgave her kidnappers and all the slave owners who had treated her so cruelly. That is why today people ask for her help when they are struggling to forgive someone who has hurt them.

Ask the children: 'Is it hard to forgive someone who has hurt or upset you?'

It can be very hard to forgive those who hurt us and that is why it is important to tell a teacher or a parent about what has happened and how we feel. We can also pray to Jesus who is always there to comfort us and help us. And of course, we can ask St Josephine to pray for us too.



SLIDE THREE

Our next Saint comes from the Americas. He is a special type of saint called a martyr. A martyr is a very brave saint who has died because they refused to give up loving and serving God.

Fr Oscar Romero was an archbishop who lived in El Salvador over 40 years ago. At that time there was a group of tyrants who controlled the country and kept all its wealth for themselves.



These leaders took so much of El Salvador’s money that many families didn’t have enough to buy food. The people were often hungry, but they were too frightened to protest, because the leaders ordered soldiers to patrol the streets and stop anyone who asked for things to be fairer. It was a very dangerous time.

Even though he was a shy, humble man, Archbishop Romero knew that as a follower of Jesus he must do something. So he regularly broadcast messages on the radio, reminding everyone that Jesus wants us to be fair and forgiving, loving and kind.

Soon millions of people in El Salvador and around the world tuned in to listen to what Archbishop Romero had to say. The tyrants became very annoyed with Fr Romero and threatened to have him killed.

But Fr Romero knew that because of Jesus there was always hope and new life after death, so he bravely kept on sharing Jesus’s message of love and mercy. Then one sad day Archbishop Romero was shot dead.

Just as Jesus promised, Archbishop Romero went on to join other saints in heaven who dedicated their lives to helping the poor and speaking out for those treated unfairly.

Ask the children: ‘What could you do if you see something that is not fair?’

If your friend has said something unkind, you could speak quietly to them about it. Otherwise, tell a grown up like a teacher or a parent/carer. We can ask St Oscar Romero to help you make a good choice.

SLIDE FOUR

Now we will go to Asia and a country called Korea. This time we will find out about not just one, but 103 martyrs!

About 200 years ago there were no churches in Korea and only a very small number of people had heard about Jesus. This small group of Christians studied the Bible at home, prayed together, shared what they had and cared for the sick and the poor.



Because of the loving example of these Christians, other people in Korea chose to become followers of Jesus too. Two of these followers of Jesus were Peter Yu Tae-Chol, a brave thirteen-year-old, and Andrew Kim Tae-gon, who became a priest (pictured top left).

The powerful men in charge of Korea were not happy that people were following Jesus, so they spent the next 100 years treating Christians cruelly. Christians were sent to prison for years. Sometimes they were given only two handfuls of rice to eat each day. Often they were given nothing at all and died from hunger, thirst or disease. Some Christians like Peter and Andrew were killed and became martyr saints.

The Korean Christians had to be very brave. But thanks to their faith and courage, more and more Koreans became Christians. Today there are many Christians in Korea, thanks to the courage of these saints.

Ask the children: 'Sometimes we need to be brave if we are to live as Jesus asks us to. For example, we might be called names for standing up for someone who is bullied. Who can we turn to for help?'

We can seek help from teachers and parents/carers. We can ask Jesus to always give us the courage to do what is right. We can ask for the prayers of brave saints like St Peter and St Andrew.

SLIDE FIVE

Now we will meet a saint who lived in the continent of Oceania. Mary McKillop was born in Australia when only rich children could attend school. As Mary's family was poor, her father taught his children at home. When Mary grew up, she soon realised that she wanted to serve God by teaching poor children and becoming a Religious Sister. You can see a photo of Sr Mary on the screen.



Before long, many women wanted to join Sr Mary. They lived, prayed and worked together as Religious Sisters and teachers. With them, Sr Mary set up schools, helping the poorest children in the most dangerous and remote part of Australia, known as the Outback.

The Australian Outback is a huge, remote region. The sun there is fierce and there are poisonous snakes, spiders and crocodiles. The people who lived there were hardworking farmers and miners, forgotten about by the people in the far away towns and cities. You can see one of these families on this photograph.

Jesus always went in search of those who had been forgotten by other people. Mary and her Sisters did the same. They went to the Outback and lived alongside very poor families. They cared for them and taught their children. After her death, Sr Mary became Australia's first saint because of her service to the poor.

Ask the children: 'How can you include those whom others have left out?'

Look out for someone in the playground who is lonely and invite them to join in a game. Welcome someone who is new to the school.

SLIDE SIX

Next we will meet a special saint who lived in the continent of Europe. St Thérèse of Lisieux lived in France over 100 years ago.

As a child, Thérèse wanted children everywhere to know God's love, so she joined a charity called Holy Childhood. Holy Childhood was the old name for *Mission Together*!



Just like *Mission Together* children today, Thérèse prayed and shared to help children living in poverty overseas.

When she grew up, Thérèse became a nun and continued to pray for God's love to be known everywhere. She regularly wrote to missionaries and prayed for them as they travelled around the world helping others.

Thérèse never did anything exceptional, but she always carried out her daily chores willingly and she never complained or gossiped about anyone. You can see her in the centre of the photograph washing dirty sheets.

In her quiet, humble way, Thérèse achieved something very difficult. She did everything, even the dreary everyday tasks, with great love! This became known as St Thérèse's *Little Way*. *

[Click to reveal photograph of children.](#)

Even though she never travelled outside Europe, today St Thérèse is the patroness of missionaries. Children around the world follow in her footsteps by praying for children in need of help and by sharing what they have, so that all children everywhere might know that God loves them.

Ask the children: 'How can you follow St Thérèse' example to help make God's love known everywhere?'

Perhaps you can pray for missionaries and the children they help. Maybe you could fundraise for *Mission Together* as a class. Or you could try following St Thérèse's *Little Way*.

SLIDE SEVEN

Today we have heard about some well known saints from around the world. We have heard that these and all the saints in heaven are part of the family to which we all belong: God's family.

We've learned that as with our family on earth, we can ask the saints in heaven to pray for us and for the people we care about. Let's do that now, asking the saints to join with us as we end our assembly with the *Mission Together* Prayer.

May all children

In the world

Share love

Share friendship and live

In the peace

Of God's love

Now and forever. Amen.



*Find out more about St Thérèse of Lisieux and her *Little Way* in our Five Fact Assembly, Liturgy and Activities.

GLOSSARY

Martyr: A person who would die, rather than give up their faith or Christian principles.

Nun: A woman who lives in a convent with other women who dedicate their lives to loving and serving God and others through prayer. They promise to live simply, stay unmarried and obey God and the community's rules.

Religious Sister: A woman who joins a community of women who dedicate their lives to loving and serving God. They promise to live simply, stay unmarried and obey God and the community's rules. A sister serves others outside the convent as well as by praying. Both nuns and religious sisters can be called 'sister'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. There are more ways to fundraise than we can possibly count, below are a few ideas but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/>

Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Autumn term

Winter walks: get sponsored to brave the elements and hold a torch-lit hike or winter walk to raise money. Make sure you have plenty of adults to supervise and assist when organising outdoor events with children. Better still, get the whole family involved!

Family fun evenings: in colder weather and darker evenings, indoor events rule! Why not host a beetle drive, bingo night or race night at your school? You can use old horse race videos for people to place bets on, or even use wind up toys or counters and dice to create races. You could also host a board game evening. Sell snacks and drinks to boost your fundraising.

Ideas for Spring term

Pancake races: hold a Pancake Day event with races and flipping competitions. Everyone gets to enjoy their pancakes after the fun – as long as they didn't drop them!

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Why not pot some spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell to parents or as Easter gifts?

Ideas for Summer term

Scavenger hunt: this is a great team activity! Print off some sheets with things to spot on them. You can tailor the items to be outdoors, indoors or whatever suits your space and environment. Either get teams to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them! Charge teams to enter and give prizes for the fastest finishers.

Sports day fun: host a football tournament, sports day or outdoor activity day. Charge people to attend and sell refreshments. Prize for the tournament winners!