

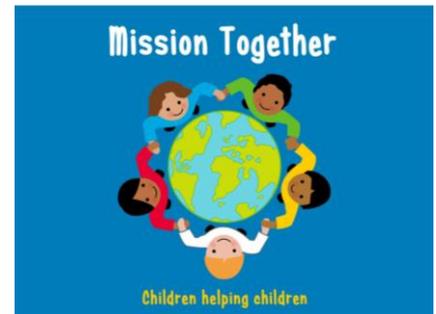
Mission Together

Five Fact Assembly: Our Lady



LEADER'S NOTES: NOT TO BE READ OUT LOUD

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. When we pray for one another and share what we have, we remember that we belong to God's worldwide family.



This assembly focuses on Our Lady, Mother of God, whom Pope Francis calls 'the first missionary disciple'. It explores the virtues Mary possessed and how, by practicing them in our lives, we can bring the love of God into the world just as she did.

This assembly has been written for either pupils or staff to deliver. As it contains animations, it's advisable to run through the presentation slides before delivering the assembly.

SLIDE TWO

Today's assembly is about a young Jewish lady who lived in a small town a long time ago. Her family didn't have much money and she wasn't able to go to school.

But this young lady was very wise. She learned through listening carefully to others and reflecting upon what she heard.

She listened especially when people read from the *Tanach*. The *Tanach* is the Jewish Bible.

This young lady had a deep faith and was very close to God. So close that one day God sent an angel to ask her to undertake a very important mission.

Who do you think this young lady is?

This young lady is Mary, whom we know as Our Lady, the mother of Jesus. [Click to reveal image of Our Lady.](#)

Today we are going to hear five facts that show us how this ordinary girl from Nazareth, became a very special saint.

And we'll think about how we too can bring God's love into the world by following Mary's example.



SLIDE THREE

FACT ONE: Mary bravely agreed to undertake a very important mission.

The painting pictures the moment when God asked Mary to be the mother of Jesus.

Look closely at Mary's face. What do you think she is feeling?

The artist wanted us to think about how nervous Mary must have been, maybe a bit scared too! Being the mother of Jesus was such a huge mission and she was so small! Mary must have wondered if she'd be up to the task.

But still she said yes! Just think about how much faith and courage this took.

Sometimes we think that being brave requires us to look big and strong, but Mary shows us that little people can possess great courage and great faith. And with courage and faith we can change the world!

Mary teaches us how to be courageous.

Click to reveal question: *How can we practise being brave today?*

Possible answers: *By doing things that we find a bit scary, like reading out loud, learning to swim, or trying something new. By speaking up for someone who is being bullied. By making new friends. By being YOU!*

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FACT ONE
Mary bravely agreed to undertake a very important mission.

How can we practice being brave today?

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The slide features a blue header with the text 'Mission Together'. On the left is a painting of the Annunciation, showing the Virgin Mary seated and the Angel Gabriel standing before her. On the right is a photograph of a young child in a wheelchair. Below the painting is the 'missio' logo. A small circular logo is in the bottom right corner.

SLIDE FOUR

FACT TWO: Mary was humble and appreciated the help of others.

The Bible shows us that even though she was chosen by God to undertake this special mission – to become the mother of Jesus – Mary never became proud or bossy. She remained humble.

When someone is humble, they understand that they are no better than other people. They never think of themselves as too important or too special to care for and serve others, especially those in need.

A humble person does not think themselves too important to pick up their litter or tidy away their things. They will not boss others around, even if they are in charge.

Someone who is humble also knows that they are not always right and are not ashamed to ask for help and learn from others, as Mary is doing with her mother in the painting on screen.

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FACT TWO
Mary was humble and appreciated the help of others.

How can we practice being humble today?

missio

The slide features a blue header with the text 'Mission Together'. On the left is a painting of the Visitation, showing the Virgin Mary seated and Elizabeth standing before her. On the right is a photograph of a young child kicking a ball. Below the painting is the 'missio' logo. A small circular logo is in the bottom right corner.

Mary teaches us how to be humble.

Click to reveal question: How can we practice being humble today?

Possible answers: By listening and learning from others. By asking for help. By being proud of our achievements but not showing off or making others feel small. By teaching others what we have learned, so that they can achieve too. By being happy for others when they succeed.

SLIDE FIVE

FACT THREE: Mary was generous with her time and always ready to care.

In the Bible we learn how Mary made a difficult journey of 100 miles, on foot, to care for her pregnant cousin Elizabeth.

If you look closely at the painting of this special visit you can see the baby Jesus and Elizabeth's baby, John the Baptist, greeting each other from inside their mother's tummies!

Mary's visit to Elizabeth shows us how generous Mary was. Although she had no money to spare, Mary gave what she could – her time and attention – to care for Elizabeth.

Sometimes we can think that being generous is about giving away our money or buying gifts for others, but Mary teaches us that the greatest offering we can make, far greater than gifts or money, is to love, to care, and to help others.

Mary teaches us how to be generous.

Click to reveal question: How can we be generous this week?

Possible answers: By giving up some time to help others. By reading a story to our younger brother or sister. By giving up our break time to pray the mission rosary (or other prayers). By sharing what we have with those less fortunate: donating toys to charity, sharing our pocket money with Mission Together.

SLIDE SIX

FACT FOUR: Mary was resilient and hopeful.

The Bible tells us that Mary cared for Elizabeth for three months before making the long journey back home.

Then just a few weeks later she and Joseph had to make another difficult journey to Bethlehem, which is hundreds of miles from Nazareth.



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FACT THREE
Mary was generous with her time and always ready to care.

How can we be generous this week?

missio

The slide features a blue header with the text 'Mission Together'. Below the header is a painting of the Visitation, showing Mary and Elizabeth. To the right of the painting is a small illustration of two children sitting on the floor. The text 'FACT THREE' is followed by the statement 'Mary was generous with her time and always ready to care.' Below this is the question 'How can we be generous this week?'. The 'missio' logo is in the bottom left corner, and a small globe icon is in the bottom right corner.



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FACT FOUR
Mary was resilient and hopeful.

Who can help us to be resilient and not give up?

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The slide features a blue header with the text 'Mission Together'. Below the header is a painting of Mary and Joseph. To the right of the painting is a small illustration of a child sitting at a desk with a pencil and paper. The text 'FACT FOUR' is followed by the statement 'Mary was resilient and hopeful.' Below this is the question 'Who can help us to be resilient and not give up?'. The 'missio' logo is in the bottom left corner, and a small globe icon is in the bottom right corner.

When Mary and Joseph finally arrived in Bethlehem, after days spent walking over dusty roads and rocky hills, did they find a comfortable place to rest?

Mary and Joseph couldn't find anywhere to stay! And Jesus was ready to be born!

Imagine how tired, fed up and worried they must have been. This was not how they expected things to be.

But Mary was resilient. She didn't lose hope. And when the time came for Jesus to be born, with God and Joseph there to help, Mary gladly welcomed her baby into our world.

Mary teaches us how to be resilient; not to give up when things become difficult, and to overcome challenges with faith in God and the help of others.

Click to reveal question: Who can help us to be resilient and not give up?

Possible answers: Our family, teachers, teaching assistants, good friends, Jesus (we may hear him speak to us through the Bible, in our prayers, through our priests, religious sisters, and chaplains) and Our Lady.

SLIDE SEVEN

FACT FIVE: Mary made time to be silent and reflect.

Mary is one of the most famous women in history, but there are very few of her own words written in the Bible. Most of the time Mary says nothing, she watches, reflects and prays.

Reflecting in this way allowed Mary to make wise decisions – decisions that would help to change the world.

Mary's silence reminds us that we don't have to be loud or big or tough to make a difference. Strength and determination can be expressed in quiet and calmness too.

Mary teaches us how important it is to make time to be silent and still.

Click to reveal question: Is there a place we can go to be quiet and reflect?

Possible answers: The prayer corner/shed/garden at school. Our bedroom. Our garden. Under a tree. In our churches and chapels.

SLIDE EIGHT

Because there are so few words spoken by Mary that are written in the Bible, those that are included contain very special lessons for us.

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FACT FIVE
Mary made time to be silent and reflect.

Is there a place we can go to be quiet and reflect?

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Mary said: 'My soul worships the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. For he has looked upon his servant in her littleness. From now on all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things through me. Holy is His name.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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Let's listen to some of Mary's words now.

*Mary said "My soul worships the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
For he has looked upon his servant in her littleness.
From now on all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things through me. Holy is His name."*

Luke 1:46-55 (Abridged for children).

Mary's words teach us that being joyful and grateful are important to practise if we want to share the love of God in our world.

She also teaches us to love and care for all God's children, especially those who struggle because of poverty or hardship.

If you look closely at the painting on the slide, you can see Mary doing this as she shelters and comforts the sad and suffering.

SLIDE NINE

As we close our assembly let's remember those children who struggle around the world and the missionaries who help them to be healthy and happy.

Let us say together the *Hail Mary* then the *Mission Together* Prayer.

Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God,
Pray for us sinners
Now and at the hour of our death. **Amen.**

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. **Amen.**





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

Rake-a-Thon

With autumn leaves falling, children can ask family members or caregivers for suggested donations to clear up the garden, yard or driveway. Challenge pupils to clear as many of these spaces as possible. Make sure children have strong gloves and bags if they take up the Rake-a-Thon challenge.

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.

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!

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?

Egg hunt: hide small chocolate eggs around your school or playground. Charge pupils to join in for a massive Easter egg hunt! To maximise your fundraising, why not ask all pupils to donate some eggs so you don't need to spend money to buy them?

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!

Sponsored swim, walk or cycle: get everyone involved in some outdoor fun once the weather's better. Could you get sponsored to walk a certain distance, or hold a sponsored swim?