Mission Together

Day of Many Colours Liturgical Prayer

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS / CHAPLAINS

The Day of Many Colours is a day for children to celebrate belonging to God's Universal Family. Based on the five colours of the Mission Rosary, this special day encourages children to unite in prayer with their sisters and brothers in Africa, the Americas, Europe, Oceania, and Asia.

The Day of Many Colours is not exclusive to England and Wales. Through Mission Together, similar days are held around the world, each sharing the same aim: to develop in children a missionary spirit of attention towards others; expressed through prayer, charity, and action.

LITURGY PLAN

Setting the scene
Please refer to our guide: *How to Pray with Children* missiontogether.org.uk/prayer-resources/

Opening hymn or recorded music
Our suggestion: *He's Got the Whole World.* See missiontogether.org.uk/sing-with-mission-together/

Sign of the cross and opening prayer
Print the opening prayer on page 2 and ask a pupil to read.

Introduction
Print the introduction on page 2 and ask pupils to read.

Bible reading *adapted for children from NJB*
Print the Bible reading on page 3 and ask a pupil to read.

Bible reflection
See page 3. We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain.

Prayers of intercession
Print the prayers on page 4 and ask pupils to read.

Mission Together prayer
See to the right.

Sign of the cross

Closing hymn or recorded music
Our suggestion: *Bind us Together Lord* or *One Mind, One Heart.*
See missiontogether.org.uk/sing-with-mission-together/

Follow up activity (Appendix One)
Hands of Friendship

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.**

Opening Prayer

Reader: God our Father, through your Son, Jesus,
You taught us to love one another as sisters and brothers,
wherever we live in the world.
Teach us today to work together as one family,
so that the world may know your mercy and love.
We make this prayer through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Introduction

Reader 1: Today we are celebrating our Day of Many Colours. On this day we remember and celebrate that we all belong to God's worldwide family. Each of us loved and valued equally by God the Father, and his son, Our Lord, Jesus.

Reader 2: The Day of Many Colours is named after the Mission Rosary and the five rows of coloured beads that help us to pray with, and for, our sisters and brothers in the continents of Africa, the Americas, Europe, Oceania, and Asia.

Reader 3: Children in all these continents celebrate their own Day of Many Colours in their schools and churches too. With us, they join together in prayer as one family and share what they can to support other children in need.

Reader 4: The Day of Many Colours reminds us all that when we work together, as children helping children, the world feels God's love in a special way. Together we show the world what can be achieved when we unite as God's children.

Reader 5: Let us now hear a Bible reading, in which Jesus makes a special prayer to God the Father. Listen carefully to the prayer Jesus makes and think about why this prayer was so important to Jesus.

Bible reading: From St John's Gospel 17:21, 23 (adapted from he Jerusalem Bible)

Reader: Jesus lifted his eyes to heaven and said,
'Father, may my followers all be one.
May they be one in heart and mind with us,
So that the world may believe that it was you who sent me…
May they be one with us and one with each other.
Then the world will know that you sent me.
And that you loved these people the same as you loved me.

The Gospel of the Lord **R/ Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Bible Reflection: *We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain.*

Q: In today's Gospel reading, what was the special prayer that Jesus made to God the Father?

Jesus prayed that his followers may all be one. Why do you think this is so important to Jesus?

A: Jesus wanted his followers to know that God lives in everyone, and that we love God by loving each other. One way we show this love is by looking out for each other and working together. Like a team.

Q: Why is it that when we work as a team we achieve more than working alone?

A: Together we can support one another, solve problems easier; we are happier and less lonely.

So working as a team is great! But Jesus taught us that we belong to more than a team. We belong to God's family. And to remind us of this, he taught his followers an important prayer which Christians around the world say every day.

Q: Can anybody tell us what this prayer might be?

A: *The Lord's Prayer* / *Our Father*

The *Our Father* prayer reminds us that just as we love, support, and pray for our family members at home; even if we live apart from some of our family; or do some things differently; or have different interests. So we are to love, support, and pray for our family in God too.

It doesn't matter if our brothers and sisters in Christ live in Africa; the Americas; Europe; Oceania; and Asia. As members of God's family we are all connected, just like the beads on a Mission Rosary.

One way we can show love and support for our brothers and sisters around the world is by praying. Let's do that now as we listen to our prayers for the continents.

Prayers of Intercession

Reader: The response to our prayer is: **Lord, hear us.**

Reader: God our Father, hear our prayer for our brothers and sisters in Africa.
Help us to stop climate change which threatens Africa's beautiful lands,
so that all who live in Africa are able to build safe homes,
plant crops and look after their families and communities.
We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: God our Father, hear our prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Americas.
May your Holy Spirit help them to find new ways to share your love,
and may we learn from them how to show the world
that we are all children of God.
We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us**.

Reader: God our Father, hear our prayer for our brothers and sisters in Europe.
May your children in Europe work together
so that the lonely find friends,
the homeless find a home,
and the sick find care.
We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us**.

Reader: God our Father, hear our prayer for our brothers and sisters in Oceania,
and all people there whose work involves the sea.
Help us all to value and care for the oceans,
So that people continue to have fresh fish to eat
and clean oxygen to breathe.
We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: God our Father, hear our prayer for our brothers and sisters in Asia.
Help them to work together to build a land of mercy and peace,
where all are treated fairly and treasured as children of God.
We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: We end our prayers by saying together the ***Mission Together Prayer.***

Closing hymn or recorded music

Appendix 1: Hands of friendship

Through our prayers and sharing we use our hands to bring God's love into the world. Our prayers unite us in love and friendship and, by sharing what we have, children living in poverty overseas can access food, school, safety, medicine and much more. Children learn that they are loved by God, our Father, and that there are children in the world who care about them.

For this activity children will need:

- Copies of Appendix 2 or 3
- Coloured pens/pencils
- Scissors

Below is a list of greetings from different countries. Select those applicable to the age and ability of your pupils and copy the selected greetings and translation on a whiteboard. Read a few out together. Use a Mission Together Prayer Poster or our Virtual World Map to point out the countries where the greetings are used.

Using the sheet on Appendix Two, ask pupils to draw around their hand. For younger children, you may wish to use Appendix Three, where the hand is already drawn. Then ask the children to write one of the greetings below on their hand. After they have done so, the children can colour and decorate their sheet.

When they have finished, and if permitted, take a photograph of each child with their hand (or just the sheet with their hand) and tweet **@MissioUK** using #MissionTogether #DOMC

CHINESE MANDARIN: *Ni hao ma* – Hello, how are you?
FILIPINO: *Magandang araw* – Good / Beautiful day!
HINDI: *Namaste* – Hello (literal translation is 'I bow to the divine in you')

CZECH: *Dobrý den* – Good day
GERMAN: *Guten Tag!* – I wish you a good day!
ITALIAN: *Ciao!* – Hello (also goodbye)!

ARABIC: *As-salamu alaykum* – Peace be upon you
SOMALI: *Soo dhowow* – Welcome
SWAHILI: *Jambo!* – Hello!

SPANISH (El Salvador): *Buenos dias* – Good day
NATIVE SOUTH AMERICAN (QUECHUA): Rimaykullayki – Hello
CREOLE (Haiti): *Enchante* – Pleased to meet you

YUGARA (Aboriginal): *Gurumba bigi* – Good day
TONGAN: *Mālō e lelei* – Hello
YABEM (Papua New Guinea): *Bibic ngayam* – Good day!

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Appendix Two

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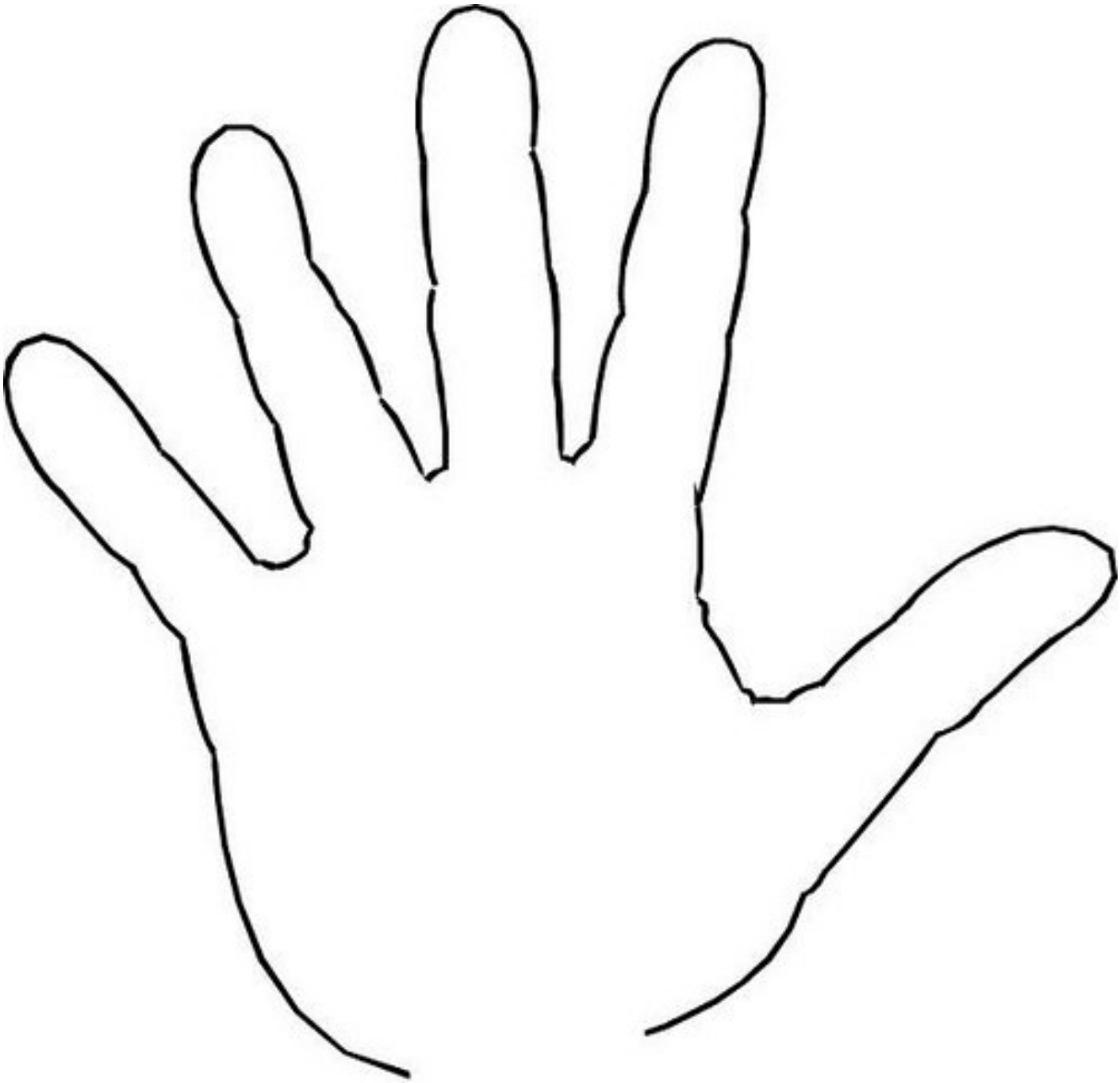

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Appendix Three

Fundraising ideas

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few seasonal 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 Summer term

Weeding Week: while the days are sunny and warm, why not raise money by weeding gardens? Ask for suggested donation, or sponsorship per bag of weeds. Children can work alone, with friends, or siblings. Maybe green fingered children could also offer to plant and prune too. Who knows if your Weeding Week might inspire the next Monty Don!

Open air cinema: a big sheet, a projector and some fairy lights and you can host a magical movie night under the stars! Charge people entry to come and see movies on your outdoor screen. Invite whole families and make a big picnic of it.

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?

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.

Big summer BBQ: hold a family barbecue, street party or big picnic at your school. Serve up food and treats, hold stalls with tombolas and raffle prizes, even set up some games like hook a duck or skittles and quoits. The great thing about these events is that they can be as simple or involved as you like. Sell tickets to attend.

Ideas that work all year round

Bake Sale: you know what to do :)
Mufti-day: charge pupils to wear their own clothes or come in themed costumes. You could make this themed around the colours of the mission rosary.
Helping angels: encourage children to take on extra chores at home, for a donation to Mission Together or contribution to the Red Box.