Together in the Philippines Campaign Assembly

LEADER'S NOTES

These notes accompany the Together in the Philippines *PowerPoint assembly slides and provide the information you need to present the assembly to children.*

This assembly has been prepared by Mission Together, which is the children's branch of Missio – the Pope's official charity for overseas mission. 96% of money raised by children for Mission Together goes towards our work supporting children overseas.

While all projects are supported by the Catholic Church, Mission Together follows Christ's example – helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief.

SLIDE ONE

Welcome to your Mission Together assembly. This picture is the Mission Together logo.

A logo is a symbol that communicates a message or idea.

What do you notice about the Mission Together logo?

Invite suggestions and guide answers to the following:

The logo shows children holding hands around the world. They are wearing different colours to show they are from different continents. But even though they live far apart, they can still be friends and work together.

What do you think the word 'mission' means?

A mission is an important task or job. We all have a special mission from Jesus: to help others and share God's love with them. When we do this, we become missionaries.

Working with the charity Mission Together means we can do the special job of being missionaries along with children everywhere.

Just like the children holding hands in the logo, children all around the world reach out to help other children through Mission Together, no matter how far away they are.

SLIDE TWO

Last year, children in England and Wales helped to raise money for pupils at Mua Deaf School, in Malawi. We had planned to buy the school a mini-bus, but after lockdown the greatest need was to feed the pupils.

So, the Sisters asked if they could use the money you raised to stock up the school's food supplies and buy a new fridge so their food could be kept for longer and stay safe to eat.

Thank you for helping to ensure the pupils at Mua had enough good food to eat, so they could stay well and study over their time at school.

Today we're going to hear about some children many miles away who also need our prayers and support. Let's begin by finding out where these children live.

SLIDE THREE

Here is a map of the world. Can you see where we are?

We'll use Big Ben as our landmark**.**

Click once to reveal Big Ben.

Let's jump on a plane to discover where we are travelling to!

Click to start plane animation.

We've reached the Philippines in South-East Asia! The Philippines is over 6,700 miles away. If we were on a real plane, it would take 16 hours to get there!

Once we arrived in the Philippines it would be important for us to say hello; that's one way we can show our respect and friendliness to others. To say hello in the Philippines we say 'Mabuhay'.

Can we try saying it together? You have to say it with a big smile. 'Ma-bu-hay'.

The cartoon boy on the slide is based on real boy called Manha who we shall hear about later.

Can anyone guess what Manha's t-shirt design is based on?

It's based on the Filipino flag.

Now let's have a closer look at the country and its people.

SLIDE FOUR

Manha is pointing to the location of Philippines on the globe. The Philippines is an archipelago.

Can anyone tell us what an archipelago is?

An archipelago is a string of islands. The Philippines is made up of over 7,600 islands. There are so many islands that it's impossible to find a map showing them all!

Although the Philippines is made up 7,600 islands, there are only about 2,000 islands that people can live on. The rest are too difficult to live on, as much of the Philippines is covered by mountains.

SLIDE FIVE

The Philippines is one of the countries along the Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire is a belt of volcanoes and earthquake epicenters bordering the Pacific Ocean.

As well as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, typhoons and tropical storms also affect the Philippines.

That's quite a lot to cope with don't you think? But Filipinos are a resilient people.

Can anyone tell us what the word *resilient* means?

Resilience is the ability to cope when things go wrong. It helps us tackle challenges with courage. Resilience is a very important virtue to have. We can practise being resilient by giving new things a go, and trying again when things are hard or when we've made a mistake.

If you look at the photograph, what can you see?

This is a photograph taken after a powerful typhoon, called typhoon Odette, hit the Philippines in December 2021. As you can see from the photograph, many homes were damaged and some destroyed completely. Power cables were blown down, meaning that electricity supplies were cut off for weeks. Fresh water supplies were also affected. Life became very hard for the people.

Can you also see teenagers on the photograph? They are helping to remove the rubble, so that the community can rebuild their homes. They show us a good example of resilience. Our friend Manha is next to the photograph as his community was also badly affected by typhoon Odette.

Manha belongs to the Badjao (Bad-jow) tribe. He's going to help us learn more about his people and their resilience, and how we can support them.

SLIDE SIX

The Badjao are an ancient group of people who for hundreds of years lived entirely on the sea.

The Badjao lived in special house boats (like that seen on screen). These boats would drift into deep water where the adults would catch fish or dive deep into the water to find pearls which they would trade to make a living.

Click to view image of Badjao boys on boats.

Badjao children learned from a young age how to fish, so they could help to support their family too.

Hands up if you think this sounds like a wonderful way to live?

The Badjao loved their sea life and were known as a happy, peaceful, and gentle tribe.

Then sadly, about 50 years ago, their way of life changed.

SLIDE SEVEN

Pollution of the seas began to make their special way of life very difficult. To stay alive, the Badjao tribe had to move onto land. So they settled on the coast in a part of the Philippines called Cebu. But here life was hard too.

If you look at the photograph, what can you see?

The land on which the Badjao settled was a place where other Filipinos didn't want to live. There is no bin collection in the area or clean running water, and the coastline is full of rubbish.

The Badjao have had to stay in this area since they moved onto land many years ago, because the local people don't want the Badjao to live near to them. Even though they don't know the Badjao, some local people have decided they don't like them and discriminate against the tribe.

Can anybody tell us what the word *discriminate* means?

Discriminate means to unfairly treat a person or group differently to other people.

Sadly, since they moved on land the Badjao have been refused treatment in hospitals and their children have been bullied at school. The Badjao have been treated as if they had no dignity. This is very wrong. Jesus taught us that all people have dignity and should be treated with dignity too.

Can anybody tell us what the word *dignity* means?

Dignity means being worthy of respect. Everyone in the world has dignity because we are all children of God and are all made in God's image.

Can anyone tell us how we treat others with dignity?

We treat others with dignity when we show them kindness and respect. Treating people with dignity means never bullying them, or treating them badly, or making them feel different or not good enough.

SLIDE EIGHT

Thankfully, about 30 years ago a Religious Sister called Sr Evelyn got to know the Badjao and showed them the dignity that they deserved. You can see a picture of Sr Evelyn on screen.

Can anyone tell us what a Religious Sister is?

A Religious Sister is a woman who leaves her family and friends to live with other Religious Sisters. They pray together and do what they can to help people so that everybody might know how much God loves and values us.

Sr Evelyn left her home in Ireland and went to the Philippines to share God's love with the Badjao people. Because of this she is also a Missionary Sister. A Missionary is someone sent out with the important job of sharing God's love around the world.

Sr Evelyn chose to live alongside the Badjao people and listened carefully as they talked about the problems they faced.

If you look at the photo of a Badjao home, can you identify some of the problems they faced?

The big problem the Badjao faced was poverty. Pollution in the water meant that the Badjao couldn't fish or look for pearls easily.

That meant they were unable to make enough money to build safe homes to live in or feed their families. This led to another problem; the Badjao began to get very sick and couldn't get the medical care they needed to get better.

Sr Evelyn believes that God doesn't want any of his children to suffer. This is what Jesus helped us to see. She wanted to help the Badjao have better lives.

But rather than telling the Badjoa what ***she thought they should do*** to make their lives better, ***she asked them*** what they thought they should do. This was very important.

Why do you think it was important that the Badjao decided for themselves what help they needed?

It was important because by listening to the Badjao and asking them to decide for themselves, Sr Evelyn recognised their dignity and reminded the Badjao that their views were important, and that with support they could resolve their own problems.

Raise your hand if you feel better when you are listened to. Well then, if we feel better when we are listened to, that should help us to remember to listen to other people too.

How can we listen well to others?

To listen well it's important to look at the person who is talking to you, this helps the person to see that we are interested in them and helps us to understand how the person is feeling as they speak. For example, a friend may smile as they tell you about Brownies. This would help you understand how much they enjoy going to their Brownie meetings.

To listen well, it's also good to avoid talking about ourselves too much. Instead, we could ask our friend questions, like what they enjoy most about being a Brownie.

SLIDE NINE

Sr Evelyn is a very good listener, so the Badjao explained to her that helping their children study and learn was the best way they could solve their problems. If their children did well in school, they could get good jobs as adults and they could help elders in the tribe to learn new things too.

So, Sr Evelyn helped the Badjao to set up the Nano Nagle * (Nag-lay) Education Centre. There, little children go to nursery and older children can get extra help with their studies.

Manha went to nursery at the Education Centre and now he goes there after school to get help with his homework. The Badjao teacher who helps Manha used to get help there when she was a girl too.

The centre is very important to Manha, because his parents would struggle to help with his homework. Like many Badjao adults, they didn't get the chance to go to school for very long.

Today there are some Badjao adults who have good jobs, because when they were children, they were given support at the Nano Nagle Education Centre.

These adults find dignity in the work they do, because like Manha's teacher at the Education Centre, their jobs allow them to share their talents, support their families, and make a difference in their community.

Raise your hand if it feels good to share your talents and make a difference in school or at church.

If we feel good sharing our talents and making a difference, we should do what we can to help others do the same.

How could you help others to share their talents?

SLIDE TEN

As well as helping the Badjao to set up the Education Centre, Sr Evelyn also helped Badjao teenagers to learn new skills so they can help their community.

On the screen you can see these young leaders as they made school packs for children during lockdown. They were also trained to help the Badjao community to stay safe and well during the pandemic.

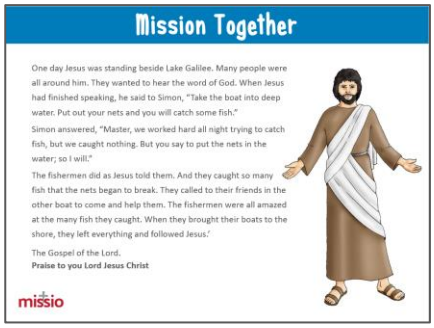
Raise your hand if someone has ever asked you to learn something new so that you could then help others?

Maybe someone showed you how to plant seeds and bulbs so you could help to look after your grandparents' garden.

It feels good to learn new things, but it feels even better when we use what we've learned to help others. Over the years Sr Evelyn used her skills and knowledge to help the Badjao. Her mission wasn't always easy, but there was someone very special who always encouraged her.

Can anyone guess who inspired Sr Evelyn to help the Badjao? There's a clue on the next screen.

SLIDE ELEVEN



Sr Evelyn's faith in God, and love of His son Jesus, encouraged her to stand in solidarity with the Badjao, even during tough times.

Can anyone explain what the word solidarity means?

Solidarity means to stand as one with others, so that together we can build a world that is fairer and more peaceful. When we are in solidarity with others, we face challenges together, we help each other, and we celebrate our successes too.

The Gospel reading, we will hear now teaches us something about solidarity and resilience. Listen carefully to find out how.

Click to reveal the reading from the Gospel of St Luke

The Lord be with you
R/ And with your spirit

A reading from the Gospel of Saint Luke
R/ Glory to you Lord

'One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Galilee. Many people were pressing all around him. They wanted to hear the word of God. When Jesus had finished speaking to them, he said to Simon, "Take the boat into deep water. Put out your nets and you will catch some fish."

Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, but we caught nothing. But you say to put the nets in the water; so I will." The fishermen did as Jesus told them. And they caught so many fish that the nets began to break. They called to their friends in the other boat to come and help them. The fishermen were all amazed at the many fish they caught.

When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
R/ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.
(Scripture based on Luke 5: 1, 4-8, 11, *International Children's Bible*)

In the Bible reading we have just heard, where can we see examples of solidarity?

Seek answers like: Jesus stood with the people to share the Good News. Jesus joined with the Fishermen to help them make a catch. The Fishermen worked together and helped one another

when some of the nets began to tear. After the Fishermen came to shore, they joined Jesus in his mission to share the message of God's love.

In the Bible reading we have just heard, where can we see examples of resilience?

Seek answers like: Simon Peter and the other Fishermen had worked hard all night and caught nothing, but still they tried again when Jesus asked them to put out their nets. Even when their nets began to tear, they didn't give up, but carried on with the help of others. When they came ashore, the Fishermen took on the challenge of following Jesus and sharing his mission.

SLIDE TWELVE

Sr Evelyn was able to achieve so much with the Badjao people, because there were hundreds of others who stood in solidarity with them too. Catholics all over the world prayed and shared money to help Sr Eveleyn and the Badjao build the Education Centre.

This year Sr Evelyn is asking you to stand in solidarity with the Badjao children too.

Even though some young adults now have good jobs, like Manha's teacher at the Education Centre, most Badjao adults did not get the chance to go to school for very long, so they struggle to help their children with homework. That's why the Education Centre is very important to Manha. But there are lots more Badjao children who need support with studies too.

One way to help them is by raising enough money to pay their teacher's wage.

SLIDE THIRTEEN

It costs £335 each month to pay for a teacher at the Badjao Education Centre. That sounds a lot, but don't worry if you only have pennies to share. Because when your pennies are added to those shared by other children in this school, and then added to those shared by children in other schools, you will without doubt help to pay for a teacher to help the Badjao children.

We always need to remember that we can achieve so much when we share and pray together, as God's family.

Click to reveal the word 'PRAY' and accompanying image.

That's why we're also asking pupils to support the Badjao children by praying for them. When we pray for others, we ask God to keep them in his care. When we pray, it's like we are reaching out hands of friendship across the world, just as the children are doing in the Mission Together logo.

Praying and sharing are two important ways through which we show the world God's love, that we are children helping children.

SLIDE FOURTEEN

Let's do that now as we say the Mission Together Prayer for Manha and all the children at the Badjao Education centre, and for the pupils here in our school too.

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

** Nano Nagle (1718 – 1784) was a pioneer of Catholic education in Ireland despite legal prohibitions. She founded the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, now a worldwide Catholic order of women religious. Sr Evelyn is a Presentation Sister. Nano Nagle was declared Venerable in the Roman Catholic Church in 2013 by Pope Francis.*

Photo credit to: *https://www.flickr.com/photos/borneochildaid-org/ & Bro. Jeffrey Pioquinto, SJ (slide 5) https://flic.kr/p/2hRBXHL. Also, MSC Mission Office Philippines (slide 4).*

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, but below are a few ideas to get started. You can find other ways to get involved by visiting our webpage 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.

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!

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: Print off some sheets with things to spot on them. You can tailor 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. Could you get sponsored to walk or cycle a certain distance?