

Mission Rosary Assembly Notes



LEADER'S NOTES

This presentation lasts up to 20 minutes. We recommend you deliver the whole assembly **but please feel free to use the material as time and circumstances allow.**

This PowerPoint uses animations. It is advisable to run through the assembly before you present to your pupils.

This assembly has been prepared by **Mission Together**, the Pope's official children's charity for overseas mission. 98% of money donated to **Mission Together** by children goes directly towards children's projects overseas.

Through lived examples, in this assembly pupils can see how children are helping to witness to God's great love for us all, especially the poorest, the marginalised, and the most vulnerable children in the world. Although all projects are Church-backed, **Mission Together** follows Christ's example – helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief.

SLIDE ONE

Welcome to your Mission Together assembly!

Explain to the children that the slide shows the Mission Together logo. Draw their attention to the images and words on the logo before asking them the following questions.

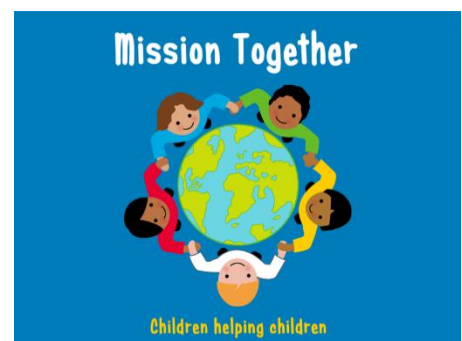
Ask: Does anyone know what a mission is?

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

Do you know what special mission God has given us?

Answer: To share God's love with everyone, those close to home who we see everyday and those far away who we might never even meet.

We share God's love by being what? *Answers to include: kind, loving, charitable, hopeful, prayerful.*



SLIDE TWO

Although God sets all of us this mission, the mission God gives some individuals can be very special indeed.

Can anybody tell me who this lady is?

Answer: Mary.

And what was her special mission? What did God ask Mary to do?

Answer: To be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

How do you think Mary felt when God asked her to be the mother of Jesus?

Although Mary was nervous about the special mission God had set her, she was also very happy to be chosen for such an important task.

In the Bible we hear Mary's happiness when she visits her cousin Elizabeth. Let's hear the words Mary spoke to Elizabeth now.

Click to reveal text.

*'Mary said, "Oh, how I praise the Lord. How I rejoice in God my Saviour!
For he took notice of his poor, servant girl.
From now on people will call me blessed, because God has done great things for me.
God's mercy goes on down the ages, to all who praise him.'*

Luke 1:46-50

In the reading we have just heard, Mary calls herself a poor, servant girl. And that is what she was. She had little money, she wasn't well-known, and she lived in a small town. Most people would not have taken any notice of her yet God chose her to be Jesus' mother.

Why do you think God chose Mary? What do you think she must have been like?

Answers to include: Kind, gentle, humble, forgiving, loving, grateful for what she had, faith-filled.

There are many reasons God chose Mary, but one of the most important is that she was full of love for God and prayed often. Because of this, Mary can help us to love and pray to God too.

There is a special prayer we say with Mary that has been used by Catholics for hundreds of years.

Can anybody tell me what the prayer we say to Mary is called?

It is the Hail Mary



SLIDE THREE

Does anyone know what these are? *Point out the Rosary beads on screen.*

Answer: A rosary beads.

Can anybody explain how we pray the Rosary?

The rosary is a special set of beads made up of 5 big sections called decades. A decade of the Rosary is said with 1 prayer of the Our Father, 10 prayers of the Hail Mary and 1 prayer of the Glory Be.

If you look closely, you will notice that just above the crucifix there are five beads. The crucifix and the five beads are sometimes used for the opening prayers of the Rosary. We say an Our Father on the first bead, then we say a Hail Mary on each of the three next beads. On the fifth bead the Glory Be prayer is said.

After the Glory Be, said on the fifth bead above the crucifix, we begin the first decade. Each of these decades is also known as a mystery because things happened in Jesus' life that are incredible.

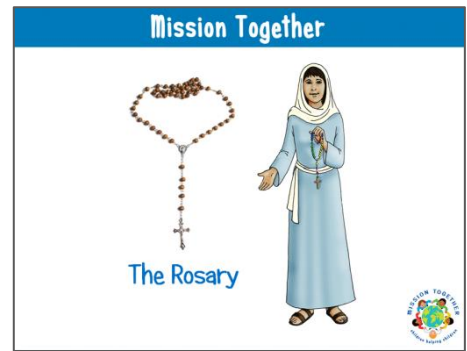
Ask: A moment ago we mentioned it. Can you remember how many Hail Marys are in a decade?

Answer: Ten.

To say a decade of the Rosary we start with the Our Father followed by the Hail Mary prayer on each of the 10 beads and end with the Glory Be. There are five decades altogether, which means that by the time we have finished we will have prayed 53 Hail Marys!

Whilst we say these prayers 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.

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



SLIDE FOUR

There are lots of religions that also use beads to help them pray and think about how they can come closer to God and help deliver God's love to others.

Here are some prayer beads used by other religions. Do you recognise any?



From right to left: Christian rosary, Islamic misbaha, Hindu Japa mala.

SLIDE FIVE

Mission Together has a special rosary. It looks like this:

Why do you think the beads are different colours? Do you think the colours represent something?

Here is a clue: use the map to help you. Can you see that the map is divided into five large areas of land, all of which have been given a different colour?

What do we call the large areas of land that make up the world?

Answer: Continents.

Can anybody name these coloured continents?

Answer: The Americas. Europe. Africa. Asia. Oceania.

So what do you think the coloured beads on the mission rosary represent?

Answer: The continents



SLIDE SIX

Praying the Mission Rosary is very similar to praying the usual Rosary. But rather than thinking of the events in Jesus' and Mary's lives, in the Mission Rosary, we use the coloured beads to help us to pray for children from each continent who are poor, sick, or sad.



SLIDE EIGHT

For example, the yellow beads represent which continent?

Answer: Asia.

So if we're saying Hail Marys on my yellow beads who are we praying for?

Answer: The children of Asia.

And if we're saying Hail Marys on the green beads who are we praying for?



Answer: The children of Africa

What is important to remember is that children all around the world use the Mission Rosary. Which means that the children of Asia and Africa are also praying for us in Europe when they are holding which coloured beads?

Answer: White.

At the end of each decade we can also say a special prayer for each continent.

You can download 'Prayers for Our Continents' at missiontogether.org.uk/mission-rosary/

SLIDE SIX

As well as asking for our prayers, Mission Together also asks children to share what they can so that children in poor countries are able to go to school, do not go hungry, and can receive medicine if they are sick.

Through your prayers and sharing children like Eunice and her nephew Isaac (top right image), Ajay and his classmate Danushka (left image), and Jayathi* and her brother Win* (bottom right image) know that they are loved by God and loved by us too.

**Names changed for confidentiality*



SLIDE NINE

Perhaps we could try praying with the Mission Rosary in another assembly or in class time?

Today, let's finish by saying together a Hail Mary (and/or the Mission Together Prayer) asking God to help us to be children helping children at home and across the world.

Hail Mary, full of grace

The Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,

And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

[Click to reveal Mission Together Prayer](#)

