

# Mission

## Notes for Primary Teachers

'Mission' is an important theme for Birmingham Archdiocese in 2019. Pope Francis has declared October as the Extraordinary Missionary Month, offering the theme 'Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World'. 2019 is also the year in which the Columban Missionaries have been given Birmingham for their mission appeals, meaning Columban Missionary priests are visiting parishes across the archdiocese.

The Columbans and the archdiocese share the desire that this year leaves a legacy of formation – broadening understandings of 'mission', and challenging and encouraging all in their baptismal call to "missionary discipleship" (Pope Francis in in *Evangelii Gaudium*). A number of initiatives are being planned in order to achieve this. These include:

- 12<sup>th</sup> October; A day of learning, reflection and action, organised jointly by the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and the Columbans
- 19<sup>th</sup> October; A day of missionary experiences for young people followed by a vigil and mass for World Mission Sunday
- An assembly on 'Mission' for primary schools
- Columban materials in diocesan media (including social media)

## Notes for Mission assembly

### Slide 1: Mission

What is Mission?

Ask the children to talk to each other about they think 'mission' means.

Have they or anyone they know ever been on a mission?

Take answers – 'Yes, and ...?'

Dictionary definition – **a specific task or duty given to a person or a group of people.**

Discuss this – particularly 'given to'.

### Slide 2: School Mission Statement

We at (name of school) have a mission.

Ask the children to work with their partners to see how much they remember of their school mission statement. Consider having an additional slide of your school Mission Statement.

**Slide 3:** Jesus' Mission Statement

Did you know Jesus had a Mission Statement too? In St Luke's Gospel, this is the first public thing he says after he was tempted in the desert. Jesus is quoting the prophet Isaiah, who wrote it hundreds of years before Jesus was born. (Read it to the children, then ask them to think about it for a couple of minutes).

**Slide 4:** Our mission as Christians

What do they think a Christian's mission is?

**Slide 5:** This was Jesus' mission while he lived on earth, and as His followers it's our mission to continue it  
As followers of Jesus, we should try to continue His Mission, and therefore we should ... (as ppt)

**Slides 6 - 13:**

Look at each slide separately and discuss what is happening in each of them & whether or not this is mission. Most are examples of Columban Missionaries (priests, sisters and lay people) around the world.

Slide 6 Sister Gloria talking with grandmother, Pakistan.

Slide 7 Protestors at the US/Mexico border wall, USA.

Slide 8 Fatima House residents going into the house (home for destitute asylum seekers), Birmingham, UK.

Slide 9 Taemoon Kwon visiting a sick friend, China.

Slide 10 Lay Missionary Angela Keane spends time with a young person, Peru.

Slide 11 Water pump in housing project, Pakistan.

Slide 12 Volunteering at food bank.

Slide 13 Big sister helping little brother.

**Slide 14:** Which could you see yourself doing?

Ask the children to talk to their partners about which of the activities they think they could do. Take answers.

**Slide 15:** Missionary

Ask the children to discuss if they know anyone who lives a missionary life. Take answers.

**Slide 16:** Information about Extraordinary Month of Mission

**Slide 17:** Pope Francis says...

**Slide 18:** Prayer

**Final Slide!**

