

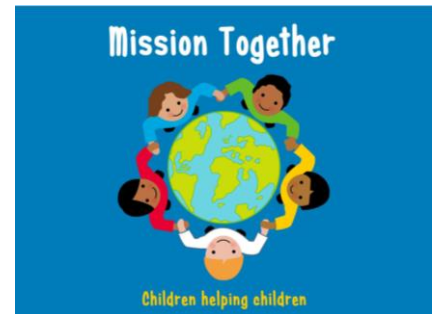
Mission Together assembly

Our Lady of the Rosary



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 of the Rosary, the Rosary as an aid to prayer, and the Rosary and Our Lady's significance for Catholics around the world.

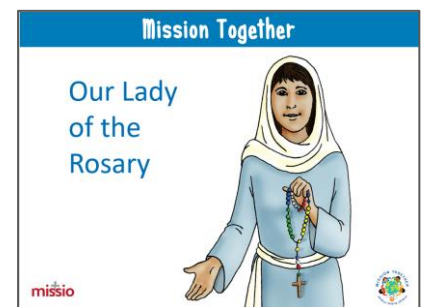
This assembly contains animations, it's advisable to run through the presentation slides before delivering.

SLIDE TWO

Can anybody tell us who this is?

It is Mary, the mother of our Lord, Jesus.

Mary has many titles. She can be called Our Blessed Lady, Our Holy Mother, Queen of Heaven, and Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary is a special set of beads that Catholics use to help them pray. If you look carefully, you can see on the picture that Mary is holding a Rosary.



Can anybody guess when people started using the Rosary to help them pray?

Click to reveal 17th Century painting showing use of the Rosary.

The first Rosaries was created about 800 years ago. That's a very long time and billions of prayers! The word rosary comes from an old Latin word which means 'bouquet of flowers.' What a lovely way to think of the prayers that we offer God through the Rosary!

Let's find out what the beads mean and how we can use them today too.

If you look at the Rosary held by Our Lady, you can you see that just above the cross there are five beads. The five beads are used for the opening prayers of the Rosary. We say an *Our Father* prayer on the first bead, then we say a *Hail Mary* prayer on each of the three next beads. On the fifth bead the *Glory Be* prayer is said. Then we begin the first decade.

How many *Hail Marys* do you think make up a decade?

There are ten *Hail Marys* in a decade.

SLIDE THREE

While we're saying decades of the Rosary, we are also encouraged to reflect upon Mary's life and the life of her son Jesus, so that by thinking about their example we might try to copy their good actions.

Sometimes we reflect on the joyful times, such as when Jesus was born. Other times, we might contemplate the sorrowful events, such as Jesus carrying his cross. And sometimes, we can think about the glorious things that happened, such as when the Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the Apostles, at Pentecost.



SLIDE FOUR – Optional

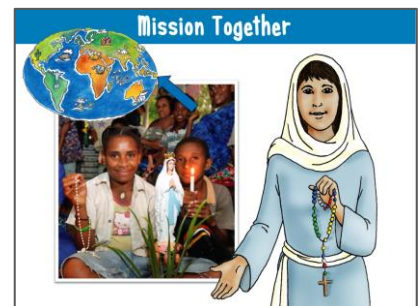
Individual mysteries of the rosary are provided on the slide. Click to reveal each set of mysteries.



SLIDE FIVE

When people pray the Rosary, they are not asking Mary to answer their prayers. Mary can't answer our prayers, only God can do that. But we can ask Mary to pray for us and with us. Just as these children from Papua New Guinea, in Oceania, are doing.

Over hundreds of years children have shared their worries with Mary and asked for her prayers. They do this as Mary isn't only the mother of Jesus, she is our heavenly mother too. We can share our worries with Mary and ask for her help, just as we can with our own mum.



SLIDE SIX

Because Catholics around the world see Mary as their heavenly mother, artists on different continents have painted images of Mary that look like mothers from their home countries. Here are some examples.

Can you guess which continents these paintings come from?

Clockwise from top left: China, Ethiopia, Japan, Israel, Cameroon, India, Venezuela.



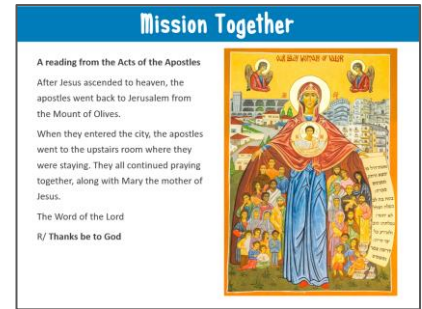
These paintings remind us that we belong to God's global family.

SLIDE SEVEN

Let's take a closer look at one of these paintings. It was created by an artist in the city of Tel Aviv, in Israel. The picture is called *Our Lady of Valour*. Valour means courage.

What can you see in the painting?

*The painting shows Our Lady protecting a group of people under her cloak. The people are from different ages and different parts of the world. Behind Our Lady is the city of Tel Aviv, home to thousands of refugees. These refugees live in a very poor part of the city, where a church named Our Lady of Valour is located **



In the painting, Our Lady is standing with the refugees of Tel Aviv as they face great difficulties. She is praying with them and for them. This comforts the people. The Bible reading, we will hear now reminds us that Mary has comforted people in this way all her life.

The reading tells us of events that happened after Jesus had risen from the dead and ascended into heaven. It was an unsettling time for the apostles because there had been so much sadness and change, but Mary stays with them, as we will hear.

[Click to reveal scripture](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14 (ICB adapted)

After Jesus ascended to heaven, the apostles went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. When they entered the city, the apostles went to the upstairs room where they were staying. They all continued praying together, along with Mary the mother of Jesus.

The Word of the Lord
R/ Thanks be to God

SLIDE EIGHT

Raise your hand if you have ever felt anxious or unsettled, but then someone who loved you, and that you trusted, came near to you and your worries lessened or even disappeared.

Sometimes the person who has sat with us and comforted us can't make the problems we face go away, but just knowing they are there with us, and that they care for us, really helps us to feel less upset.



That's why billions of children and grown up, over hundreds of years, and across the world, have turned to Mary, our heavenly mother, to ask for her prayers. And often, they've used the Rosary to help them.

The charity Mission Together has a special Rosary, called the Mission Rosary, which helps children to pray for other children around the world who live in places of poverty or conflict and who need our support. On the screen we can see Mary holding a Mission Rosary.

The different coloured beads help us to remember the needs of children on different continents. The Yellow beads help us to pray for children in Asia. Green beads, for children in Africa. Red for the Americas. White for Europe. Blue for Oceania.

It's important to remember that Catholic children all around the world use the Mission Rosary. This means that Catholic children in Asia are also praying for us in Europe when they are holding which coloured beads?

White beads.

SLIDE NINE

Today we've learned about Our Lady of the Rosary, and how over hundreds of years children and grown-ups around the world have used the Rosary to ask Mary to pray with them and for them.

It can take a while to pray the Rosary, so maybe we can say a decade together in class time later. Today let's finish by saying the Hail Mary together, asking Our Lady to pray with us for all children in need of help and support.



During October, the month of the Rosary, why not say a decade of the Mission Rosary each day with your class? By the end of the week, your class will have prayed an entire Rosary for children around the world. You can order Mission Rosaries from missiontogether.org.uk/materials-order-form

** Missio supporters in Germany have supported Our Lady of Valour parish for many years. In 2018, Missio supporters in England and Wales joined them by donating money to fund Our Lady of Valour's creche program. This initiative trained immigrant women from within the parish community to become qualified childcare workers, employing them thereafter through the parish crèche scheme.*



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?