

# National Day of Prayer for Children

## 13th October 2017

### Resource Book



**children helping children**

# "Let's Be Family" Prayer Service

**Preparation:** We are all called by God to make a difference, no matter how small. This is what being a missionary is about. This year's National Day of Prayer for Children is about families and being part of God's larger family too. Ask each child to prepare a drawing of their family, those who love and care for them at home, and include the drawings in the focal point for the prayer service.

**Focal Point:** Globe or Map of the World, display of the children's drawings, five coloured candles - one red, one green, one yellow, one white and one blue (if you cannot find coloured candles use white ones and put coloured ribbons around them), Mission Rosary Beads, and a Bible open at Mark 1:29-31

**Entrance Hymn:** *They Care for Me (Grow in Love)*

## Gathering Together

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** *Amen*

**Leader:** Today is the Society of Missionary Children's National Day of Prayer. It is a special day when children will offer prayer for the needs of each other and for children living throughout the world. God loves every child and wants to make sure that we are safe and happy. For this, God has given each child a family. Families come in all shapes and sizes. One of the things families have in common is that they are all loved by God. God knows each family and cares for them.

The Bible is full of stories about children and their families and tells us how Jesus was born into one. When God chose to come into the world, this happened within a family. Jesus said that every child is part of God's family; that we are, in fact, his brothers and sisters. We are gathered now to celebrate in a special way that we are also part of one big family of God; that we are linked together and are called to love one another and to care for each other. We are called to care especially for those who live in poverty or fear. In our prayer today we remember:

- Child 1:** The children of Africa (place green candle beside globe)
- Child 2:** The children of Asia (place yellow candle beside globe)
- Child 3:** The children of Europe (place white candle beside globe)
- Child 4:** The children of Oceania (place blue candle beside globe)
- Child 5:** The children of the Americas (place red candle beside globe)

**Hymn:** **Connected** (*Grow in Love & Alive O 6*)

**Reading:** In today's reading we are going to hear about Simon Peter's family and how Jesus helped one member of Simon Peter's family in particular. The first apostles that Jesus met when he was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee were members of the same family; this man Simon, whom Jesus later called Peter, and his brother Andrew. Just like us, Jesus' twelve apostles were members of different families, but they all became part of one larger family by following Jesus.

**The Healing of Simon Peter's Mother-in-Law** (Mark 1:29-31 taken from *Grow in Love, Second Class/P4, p.63*)

Jesus and his apostles spent a lot of time in the area around the Sea of Galilee. They went from town to town. In each place, Jesus taught people about God and God's great love for the world. Sometimes, he healed people who were sick. He showed people how to love one another, as God wanted them to. One day, Jesus and his friends came to a town called Capernaum, and Jesus began to teach the people there. Now Simon Peter and Andrew lived in the town of Capernaum, so Jesus and some of his other apostles, including James and John, went to their house. But as soon as he arrived, Jesus heard that Simon Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed. She was sick with a very high temperature, and her family were worried that she was going to die. Right away, Jesus went to her, took her by the hand, and helped her up. Immediately, the woman's temperature returned to normal, and she was well again. She got up and began to serve those who were in the house.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**Child 6:** We are going to listen to a poem called "The Home I Love" that was written by Kay Hoffman. In this poem we learn that it does not matter whether our house is large or small, or whether it is full of expensive things or not. Listen carefully and you will see what is important.

**Child 7:** "The Home I Love" by Kay Hoffman

Some homes are quiet, polished, neat  
but the one I know is far more sweet.

Where tiny smudges on the wall  
tell of fingers dear and small.

Where toys are sometimes strewn about  
and doors are banging in and out.

Where little children play and sing  
and laughter's often heard to ring.

The home I love is filled with noise  
of happy little girls and boys!

**Invite three more children to read something they have prepared called "What I Like Best About My Family"**

**Child 8:** You can see that the things we like best about our families can be different. Sometimes we have very happy times but there can be times when we are also sad. We can fall out with our brother or sister and sometimes the grown ups can shout at us for not doing what we are told. This happens to all of us but soon those times are forgotten and we are happy again.

**Leader:** We often take our families for granted. Unfortunately there are many children in this world who do not have happy homes or families. They live in slums without running water, heating, proper cooking facilities, or they may even live in the streets with only cardboard boxes for shelter. Sometimes this is because of war where their houses, and those of their neighbours and friends, have been destroyed. Sometimes it is because of a natural disaster like a tsunami, an earthquake or flood. Sometimes they become orphans because their parents have died as a result of these things or disease, and they are left to look after themselves and their brothers and sisters. Let us remember all those children, and their families, in our prayer.

# Our Prayers

- Child 9:** That our parents and those who care for us and love us are newly blessed.  
O Lord, hear our prayer                      **All: O Lord, help us to be family**
- Child 10:** Lord, we pray for all the families of the world. Fill them with you love and happiness.  
O Lord, hear our prayer                      **All: O Lord, help us to be family**
- Child 11:** That we will share the love of God, which comes to us through families with our brothers and sisters around the world.  
O Lord, hear our prayer                      **All: O Lord, help us to be family**
- Child 12:** That, when there is war, dangerous weather, famine, or poverty, children and their families find safety and peace.  
O Lord, hear our prayer                      **All: O Lord, help us to be family**
- Child 13:** That those who leave their families behind here in Ireland to help children in the world are supported and kept safe. We pray for those missionaries who bring medicine, healing, education, love and care to others.  
O Lord, hear our prayer                      **All: O Lord, help us to be family**
- Child 14:** That children and their families who come to Ireland for new beginnings have a warm and loving welcome here. May we reach out in friendship and love and invite them to be part of our larger human family as they must be lonely and miss their own homes.  
O Lord, hear our prayer                      **All: O Lord, help us to be family**
- Child 15:** That members of our families who have died and all the dead be at peace with God in heaven  
O Lord, hear our prayer                      **All: O Lord, help us to be family**
- Leader:** Let us share a sign of peace with each other as a sign that we are all part of God's Family!

# Closing Prayer

**Leader:** As we finish our prayer service today, let us say together our Mission Prayer for all children everywhere:  
May all children  
In the world  
Share love  
Share friendship and live  
In the peace  
Of God's love  
Now and forever, Amen

**Closing Hymn:** This Little Light of Mine (*Grow in Love*)

## World Meeting of Families!

Next August the World Meeting of Families takes place in Dublin. With this in mind, the Society of Missionary Children (the Pope's official children's charity for overseas mission) with the support of the World Meeting of Families is creating a family album to bring to the World Meeting of Families! This will be a digital collection of children's drawings, or other artwork, about their families. We invite you to encourage children and adolescents to participate as creatively as possible in the Society's "Family Album," providing them with the opportunity to illustrate what family means to them. Pope Francis says that through beauty, artists make the world better! He also says that living together is an art, a patient, beautiful, fascinating journey so, what better way for children and adolescents to express the art of living together as family than through art! All you have to do is scan or photograph the children's artwork after today's Day of Prayer and email it to the Society ([missionarychildren@wmi.ie](mailto:missionarychildren@wmi.ie)) for display during the World Meeting of Families (21st and 26th August 2018) as a digital art gallery! We will be seeking submissions to the "Family Album" from 1st October 2017 until 31st July 2018. Further information is available from [www.wmi.ie](http://www.wmi.ie) and [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)



# Mass to Celebrate National Day of Prayer for Children "Let's Be Family"

**Opening Procession of Priest Celebrant and Children** (Invite a child to read what is being brought to the sanctuary and why.)

We bring a globe (or map of the world) to remember all the children of the world. We bring our candles in the mission colours: Green for the children in Africa, yellow for the children of Asia, white for the children of Europe, blue for the children of Oceania, and red for the children of the Americas. We also bring our mission box (or some coins in a jar). We do without things we like, so that we can give to others. We bring some drawings of our families. These represent all the different families we come from and remind us that we are all one big family of God too. We bring the book of the Gospels (Lectionary) and today we will be hearing about Simon Peter's family and how Jesus helped one of them in particular.

## **Priest Celebrant**

We are all called by God to make a difference, no matter how small. This is what being a missionary is about. Today is the Society of Missionary Children's Day of Prayer. It is a special day when children offer prayer for the needs of each other and for children living throughout the world. This year's theme is "Let's Be Family." God loves every child and wants to make sure that all are safe and happy. For this, God has given each child a family. Families come in all shapes and sizes. One of the things families have in common is that all of them are loved by God. God knows each family and cares for them. The Bible is full of stories about families and tells us how Jesus was born into one. When God chose to come into the world, this happened within a family. Jesus said that every child is part of God's family; that we are, in fact, his brothers and sisters. We are gathered now to celebrate that we are part of one big family of God; that we are linked together and are called to love one another and to care for each other; that we are called to care especially for those who live in poverty or fear. In our prayer today we remember:

The children of Africa (light green candle)

The children of Asia (light yellow candle)

The children of Europe (light white candle)

The children of Oceania (light blue candle)

The children of the Americas (light red candle)

### **Collect Prayer**

God our Father, we thank you for our families. Thank you for fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, all over the world. Make us glad to be together and help us to love you more. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

**First Reading (Ezekiel 36:24-28)** *Ezekiel reminds us that we are all God's children and that we all belong to his family.*

I will take you from every national and country and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you and make you clean from all your idols and everything else that has defiled you. I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart. I will put my spirit in you and will see to it that you follow my laws and keep all the commands I have given you. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors. You will be my people and I will be your God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 100:1-5)** *This psalm says "thank you" to God, our Father, because we know he loves us, his children.*

**Response: We thank you and we praise you for you are good and loving.**

Sing to the Lord, all the world!  
Worship the Lord with joy;  
come before him with happy songs!

Acknowledge that the Lord is God  
He made us, and we belong to him;  
we are his people, we are his flock.

Enter the Temple gates with thanksgiving;  
Go into its courts with praise.  
give thanks to him and praise him.

The Lord is good;  
His love is eternal  
and his faithfulness lasts forever.

**Second Reading (Romans 12:8-13)** *In this reading St Paul tells us that God, our Father, wants us to love like Jesus*

Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully. Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good. Love one another warmly as Christians, and be eager to show respect for one another. Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times. Share your belongings with your needy fellow Christians, and open your homes to strangers.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, Alleluia,

"Go help everyone, everywhere, to follow me," says the Lord "and you will be my brothers and sisters too."

Alleluia.

**Gospel Reading - The Healing of Simon Peter's Mother-in-Law** (Mark 1:29-31 taken from *Grow in Love, Second Class/P4*)

*In today's reading we are going to hear about Simon Peter's family and how Jesus helped one member of Simon Peter's family in particular. The first apostles that Jesus met when he was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee were members of the same family; this man Simon, whom Jesus later called Peter, and his brother Andrew. Just like us, Jesus' twelve apostles were members of different families but they all became one larger family by following Jesus.*

Jesus and his apostles spent a lot of time in the area around the Sea of Galilee. They went from town to town. In each place, Jesus taught people about God and God's great love for the world. Sometimes, he healed people who were sick. He showed people how to love one another, as God wanted them to. One day, Jesus and his friends came to a town called Capernaum, and Jesus began to teach the people there. Now Simon Peter and Andrew lived in the town of Capernaum, so Jesus and some of his other apostles, including James and John, went to their house. But as soon as he arrived, Jesus heard that Simon Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed. She was sick with a very high temperature, and her family were worried that she was going to die. Right away, Jesus went to her, took her by the hand, and helped her up. Immediately, the woman's temperature returned to normal, and she was well again. She got up and began to serve those who were in the house.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Prayer of the Faithful

1. That our parents and those who care for us and love us are newly blessed.  
O Lord, hear our prayer  
**O Lord, help us to be family**
  
2. That we will share the love of *God*, which comes to us through families with our brothers and sisters around the world.  
O Lord, hear our prayer  
**O Lord, help us to be family**
  
3. That all families of the world receive love and happiness.  
O Lord, hear our prayer  
**O Lord, help us to be family**
  
4. That, when there is war, dangerous weather, famine, or poverty, children and their families find safety and peace.  
O Lord, hear our prayer  
**O Lord, help us to be family**
  
5. That those who leave their families behind here in Ireland to help children in the world are supported and kept safe. We pray for those missionaries who bring medicine, healing, education, love and care to others.  
O Lord, hear our prayer  
**O Lord, help us to be family**
  
6. That children and their families who come to Ireland for new beginnings have a warm and loving welcome here. May we reach out in friendship and love and invite them to be part of our larger human family as they must be lonely and miss their own homes.  
O Lord, hear our prayer  
**O Lord, help us to be family**
  
7. That members of our families who have died and all the dead be at peace with *God* in heaven.  
O Lord, hear our prayer  
**O Lord, help us to be family**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

God our Father, we bring you our gifts of bread and wine.  
With them, we bring the love and goodness of our families.  
Help us to grow in our love for you and for each other.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Prayer after Communion**

O God, we have come close to you through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament.  
Help us to be close to each other always as family.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Before our final blessing, let us pray Missionary Children's mission prayer together.

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

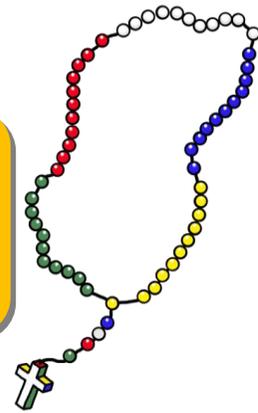
Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Suggested Hymns for Mass:**

They Care for Me, Connected, We Come to You Lord Jesus, This Little Light of Mine, and Go Tell Everyone

# The Mission Rosary



Follow the beads to say the mission rosary. We start with the first bead and say the **Our Father**.  
On the next three beads we say a **Hail Mary** on each bead. On the fourth bead we say the **Glory Be**.  
**We then follow this pattern: Our Father, ten Hail Marys, and a Glory Be, all the way round until we get back to the yellow bead.**  
At the beginning of each decade say the corresponding prayer below.

Our first colour is **GREEN** which represents the children in **AFRICA**:

*Let us pray for all the children of Africa and all the missionaries working there. Let their work be helpful to all. Let us pray for an end to all fighting and for the Church to grow.*

Our second colour is **RED** for the children in **THE AMERICAS**:

*Let us pray for the children of the Americas and all the missionaries working there. Let us try each day to find a new way to help others and show that we love all people.*

Our third colour is **WHITE** for the children in **EUROPE**:

*Let us pray for the children of Europe and all the missionaries working there. We pray that Christians in Europe remain true to Jesus and continue to spread His word.*

Our fourth colour is **BLUE** for the children in **OCEANIA**:

*Let us pray for the children of Oceania and all the missionaries working there. Let us also remember all the Christians in the world, especially those that live in remote areas.*

Our fifth colour is **YELLOW** for the children in **ASIA**:

*Let us pray for the children of Asia and all the missionaries working there. Let us also pray for peace and that we may never forget the poor.*



SOCIETY OF  
MISSIONARY  
CHILDREN

Our Mission Prayer

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

Amen

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The work of the Pontifical Mission Societies