

PRESS RELEASE
Immediate release

World Mission Sunday 2022: Share God's hope

On 23 October, World Mission Sunday will be celebrated in every Catholic community throughout the world. Coordinated by Missio, it is a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Especially those who are living in situations of poverty, violence, and oppression.

With the encouragement of the Holy Father, every parish, school and community throughout the world are invited to join this special celebration. And every penny, pound, and prayer you give to Missio helps missionaries continue their work in every part of the world.

<Watch the official international World Mission Sunday 2022 film:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pt_lZVX6dpc

This year, Missio in England and Wales is focusing on the work of lay missionary – Maria – at the Kidist Mariam Centre (or 'Blessed Mary Centre') in Meki, Ethiopia. This holistic Centre is supported by the international Missio network and offers a safe, supportive environment for vulnerable people to receive skills training.

Ethiopia is perhaps a country most well-known for the suffering it has experienced through intense famine and desperate poverty. Amongst these ongoing challenges, missionaries like Maria, are bringing communities together to build hope for a better future.

Beth* has seen her life dramatically change through her involvement with the Centre.

<Watch this short film and hear from Beth in Ethiopia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7tkThdsY> **>**

Unable to find employment locally, she had travelled overseas and became a domestic worker to help support her family living in Meki. Sadly, her employees abused and exploited her. Beth shares that she became 'mentally unwell' and so, returned to her homeland.

At the time, she was being supported by a friend who introduced her to a local Catholic priest. He encouraged Beth to seek assistance through the Kidist Mariam Centre. Beth was originally employed to work as a cleaner, to help support her family, but developed an interest in the food preparation course.

Beth shares: 'I think that without this Centre, we would be out on the street. Because there was no alternative... It is a Centre where you can have confidence, eat, and rest... It allows you to have confidence in yourself. And if people come to this Centre, there will be a change'.

Throughout her darkest moments, Beth's faith has been a beacon. And in sharing her faith, witnessing to her experiences of Christ's mercy and healing, Beth is helping others at the Centre. She says:

'I believe that God is always before you and behind you in all your troubles... He is prominent for a person like me, who has fallen in life. He is my life. God is my life and my everything'.

The care and support Beth is receiving at the Centre would not be possible without the faithful support of people like you, through the international Missio network. She wanted to share:

'Every human being faces trials. In our time of trouble, particularly in relation to my problems, you have reached out to me. This approach is good, particularly towards developing countries, particularly for us, as only those who have been through such a trauma can understand. May God make you prosper, may you be measured by the measure you have given... Thank you. God bless you'.

The Centre has seen nearly 3,000 people complete their training and build brighter futures for themselves. This, in turn, benefits their families and their local community because men and women do not have to risk going overseas to seek work. With your help, the Centre can continue to provide people with the vital training they need to sustain an income through their skill.

This World Mission Sunday you have the chance to support missionaries who work alongside some of the most vulnerable communities in our society. Your generosity and prayers on World Mission Sunday mean that together with them, we can keep loving, serving and sharing God's hope with others.

Missio empowers the Catholic Church globally, showing the love of Christ to everyone, and especially to those in greatest need. Your donations keep health clinics and schools open, train tomorrow's generation of Priests and Sisters, and create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.

missio.org.uk/wms

**Beth's name has been changed to protect her identity.*

You can find short films through the below links:

- (4:32) **Maria at the Kidist Mariam Centre:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAgrOtaZoiQ>
- (6:00) **Beth's hope-filled journey:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7tkThdsY>
- (2:34) **Official international World Mission Sunday 2022 film:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pt_IZVX6dpc

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Notes to editors:

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Please get in touch with Michelle for more information and hi-res images.

- Short films have been produced for use online:

Maria: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAgrOtaZoiQ>

Beth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7tkThdsY>

World Mission Sunday: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pt_IZVX6dpc

- World Mission Sunday is coordinated by Missio, the Pope's official charity for world mission.
- The World Mission Sunday collection is one of just three personally requested by the Pope each year.
- World Mission Sunday takes place annually on the penultimate Sunday in October.
- Missio worldwide supports every mission diocese overseas (1,070) until they are self-sufficient.

- Missio ignites God's love by helping missionaries to work alongside communities globally that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief.

Sometimes this need might be very specific: a motorbike for a priest to celebrate Mass in remote villages; a simple community hall so people can gather together; vaccinations to protect vulnerable children. Whatever our missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it.

We are proud to be the Pope's charity for world mission.

By supporting Missio, you play a valuable part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.

By volunteering, raising or donating funds, and by praying with children, grandchildren or students, YOU make our mission possible.

Together we are enriching **today's** global Catholic community.

Together we are training **tomorrow's** generation of priests and sisters.

Together we are giving hope to the world's poorest children.

Together we are Missio.

- Offerings from Catholics in England and Wales on World Mission Sunday are combined with donations to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) in all countries where the Church is present and distributed to 1,070 mission dioceses worldwide.
- In 2021, the World Mission Sunday collection in parishes across England and Wales raised £483,798 for Missio's work.