



## Notes for Children's Liturgy

### World Mission Sunday 2014



'Be missionaries of God's love'  
Pope Francis

#### Introduction

We are going to think about what it means to **belong to God**.

- Ask the children if they go to school. Have they ever visited a hospital?
- Do they know who pays for schools and hospitals? Explain that the government collects tax from everyone in the country and uses it to pay for services like these.
- In today's Gospel we hear Jesus being questioned about the need for people to pay tax. It was a trick the Pharisees were playing on him. It was a very serious trick, a trap in fact, that could land Jesus in a lot of big trouble. In Jesus' time when people paid tax it did not go towards paying for hospitals and schools and things that helped people in their towns and cities. Instead, when people paid taxes, it went straight to the Emperor, Caesar, in Rome. He kept the money to himself and he used it to pay for armies to rule over people
- If Jesus said, 'Pay tax,', then he would upset the crowd who lived under the unfair Roman rule. If he said, 'Don't pay tax,', then he would be arrested for stirring up trouble.

#### What is World Mission Sunday?

World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every parish in the world. It is a special day in the year when we remember our own call to be missionaries. Our prayers and our donations to Missio on World Mission Sunday help the Church in poor countries to reach out to the vulnerable and those living in poverty so that they too can know the love and joy that comes from Jesus. Let's remember that Jesus wants us all to be missionaries so that his love can reach everyone.

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-21

**The Pharisees set a trap for Jesus. 'Teacher,' they said, 'we know that you are an honest man. You aren't swayed by what people think. Tell us then, is it right to pay tax to Caesar or not?'**

**But Jesus, knowing what they were doing, said, 'Show me the coin used for paying tax.' They brought him a coin, and he asked them, 'Whose image is on it?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. Then he said to them, 'So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed. They left him and went away.**

- *Jesus was very clever. He was able to turn the question back on the Pharisees. He reminded them that God is greater than Caesar. The whole world and everything in it belong to God. What belongs to God? Examples are trees, air, the seas, the land, animals, people – yes, even Caesar!*
- *We are made in the image and likeness of God; we are his children and we all belong to God. He is our Father and we are precious to him.*
- *What does it mean to be made in the image and likeness of God? We know something of what God is like because of Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God. He showed us how to be prayerful, patient, kind, giving and loving. Encourage the children to provide examples of how we can be like Jesus. When we act in the way Jesus did and when we follow his words to love our neighbours and even people who are mean to us we are reminding others of what God is like, of God's great love.*

## Reflection

Sadly, there are children around the world who do not know that they are made in the image and likeness of God. No one has told them that they are precious and that God is their loving Father. There are even some places where there are no hospitals or schools.

**Today is World Mission Sunday. It is the day when Catholics around the world celebrate the fact that everyone belongs to God. We pray for each other and we pray for those children around the world who do not have things like schools or hospitals and children who have little or no food and go hungry. We pray for those missionaries all over the world who are sharing God's love with those children, bringing the good news of Jesus to them to try and help them out of their troubles. By being like Jesus these missionaries show what God's love is like. And we are all Missionaries of God's Love. By sharing and praying for children less fortunate than us we can show them what God is like.**

**We are all Missionaries of God's love and we belong to him!**

## Activity

Please see the back page. The sheet can be photocopied and scaled up to A4 paper so that the coins can be cut out and glued together. On the side of the coin which says, 'I AM A MISSIONARY OF GOD'S LOVE', ask the children to draw a picture of themselves doing something loving to show how they can be an image and likeness of God. On the reverse they may like to colour in the Mission Together logo.

## Closing Prayer

### The Mission Together Prayer

**M**ay all Children  
**I**n the World  
**S**hare love  
**S**hare friendship and live  
**I**n the peace  
**O**f God's love  
**N**ow and forever

Amen

## Note For Catechists

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's official charity for overseas mission. For more information and **free resources** please go to [www.missiontogether.org.uk](http://www.missiontogether.org.uk)

**You can download materials, order them online or contact the Missio Office:**

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