



Why does Missio coordinate World Mission Sunday?

Missio is the new name for the Pontifical Mission Societies – we have adopted the name used throughout Europe as a way of better building our profile and support within the wider Church.

Through the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) Missio coordinates World Mission Sunday. Missio is the Pope's official support organisation for the overseas mission of the Catholic Church and the **ONLY** organisation which supports **EVERY** mission diocese in the world on their journey to becoming self-sufficient.

Missio/APF works through local bishops, churches and missionary congregations to ensure that resources are distributed fairly – on the basis of need rather than particular links. 'Twinning', although worthy, can sometimes cause an unfair disparity in the distribution of resources.

Why celebrate World Mission Sunday?

Mission Sunday unites Catholics all over the world in prayer, mutual friendship and support.

Celebrated all over the world, Mission Sunday is a powerful symbol of a mission and a Church at the service of the whole world. Every parish and every diocese contributes what they can on the understanding that the resources will then be shared out according to the greatest need. The monies from England and Wales go directly to the bishops in the mission territories – **local church directly helping local church!**



Mission Focus

World Mission Sunday encourages prayer and financial support for the mission outreach of the Catholic Church in a world where millions are thirsting to hear of God's love for them and longing for the light of Christ in their lives.

With **1.1 billion members**, Catholics form **17%** of the world's population; distributed as follows: **17%** of the population of Africa, **63%** of America, **3%** of Asia, **40%** of Europe, and **26%** of Oceania.

Money collected on World Mission Sunday goes towards helping: **83,000** priests, **455,000** religious and **1,700,000** catechists. Through them APF supports **194,855** schools, **5,246** hospitals, **17,530** dispensaries, **577** leprosy centres, and **80,560** social and charitable institutions.

Your prayers and contributions

The prayers and contributions of our ordinary parishioners are vital. They provide:

- places of prayer and worship
- health and education
- support for 'front-line' missionaries
- training and support for the thousands of catechists who teach the faith and provide spiritual support in their own communities

As well as monies raised by World Mission Sunday, APF's only other sources of income are the 'Red Boxes' and legacies; we receive no grants or subsidies from any other source.

Missio 23 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1NU Tel: 020 7821 9755
 Email: missionsunday@missio.org.uk Web: www.missio.org.uk
 Reg Charity No. 1056651



World Mission Sunday 2009

This folder brings you a letter from the National Director and background information as well as details of how your contributions were spent. Inside this folder please find:

Liturgy preparation notes

Catechist notes for children's liturgy

Holy Father's message and Mission Intentions

Counting the collection

Practical information and newsletter inserts

Poster

reach out with love

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Thank you for taking the time to read these notes as part of your preparations for World Mission Sunday on 18 October. This day is celebrated all over the world; it is our principal opportunity to raise the mission awareness of our parishes. We are all called to **reach out with love**, passing on the light and joy of our faith, and we realise that each local Church is both 'receiver' and 'sender' – each is a gift to the Universal Church.

Jesus unites us in his mission, proclaiming the love and compassion of the Father. All over the world our Church is growing, and the collection on Mission Sunday provides our brothers and sisters in poor countries with the essential support they need to become self-sufficient and flourish. This enables them to be faithful to that same mission – **reaching out with love**.

Our parishioners and communities have long been loyal to the work of mission. Please give them the opportunity to pray for that work and to support it in every way they can – **reaching out with love** to their brothers and sisters all over the world.

Please thank the parish and your community for their generosity and their prayers – the mission of the Church is impossible without their kindness.

Yours in missionary unity

Mgr John Dale

Missio National Director England and Wales



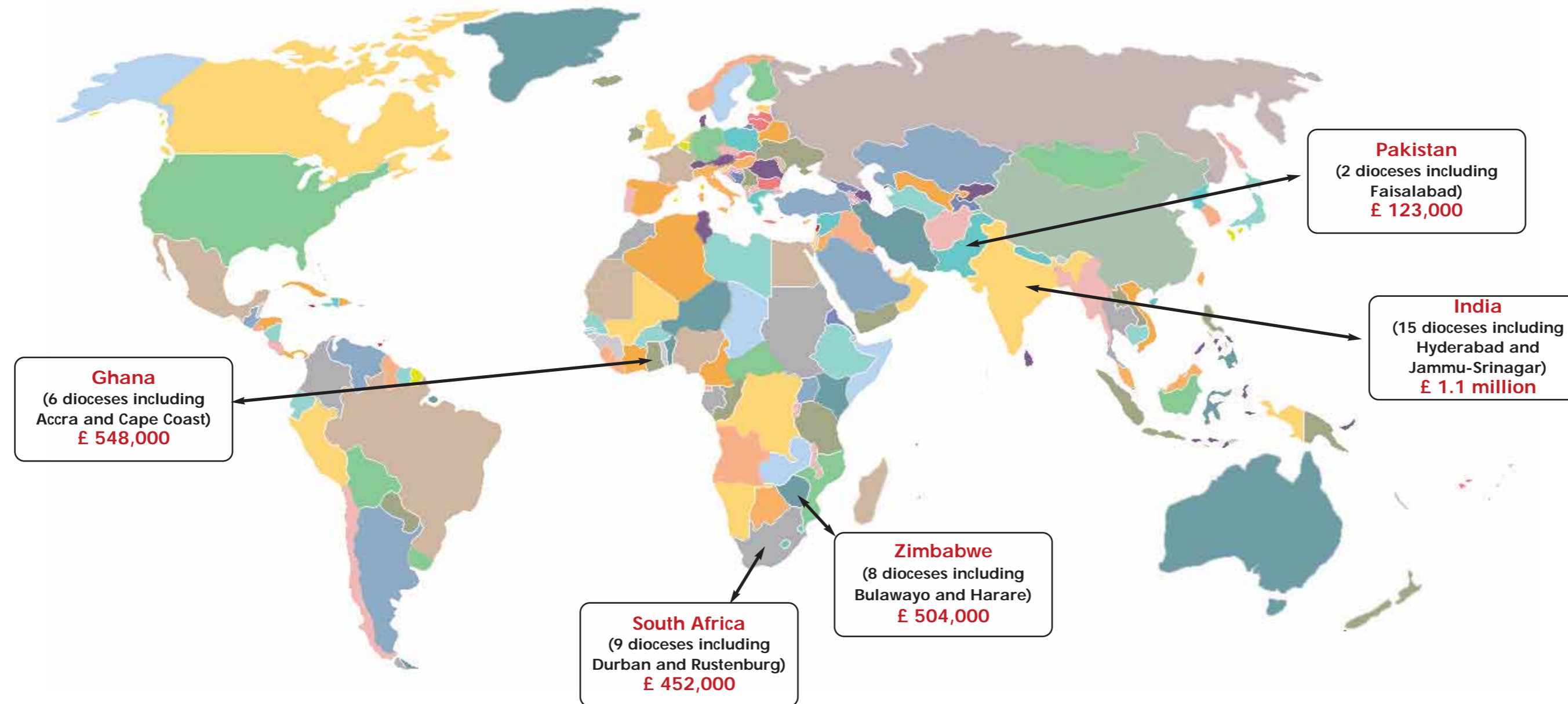
You might like to use the map on the inside of this folder for a Mission Display or for your parish noticeboard

This folder and its contents have been printed on materials from responsibly managed, renewable sources

World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday, established in 1926, is celebrated in 159 countries around the world

Support from APF England and Wales



Every parish in the world is called to share in World Mission. World Mission Sunday helps each local Church to care for the other Churches and support its poorest members



REACH OUT WITH LOVE

To read these stories in full please visit our website www.missio.org.uk where you will also be able to read about Sr Queen's life-saving work in Nigeria

Reg Charity No. 1056651

Reaching out to the outcast in India

Sr Leena is a Franciscan Missionary of Mary who has spent the last 18 years working amongst the prisoners of Hyderabad.

'I had to beg the authorities to let me visit the dalit prisoners whom no one else visits. This year for the first time, on Maundy Thursday we had the ceremony of washing of the feet. We sang of the love Jesus has for each one of us. Some shed tears after hearing the meaning of the ceremony. Our volunteers handed out special bread and clean towels to each of them which had been given by the local parish.'

In 2008, Catholics in England and Wales gave almost £66,000 for projects like this in Hyderabad through the APF.

Helping Zimbabwe's families through their suffering

One of the biggest casualties in the upheaval in Zimbabwe is family life. There are many orphans. Yet there are also signs of hope in the midst of this darkness. The Church is at the forefront of caring for the poorest and most abandoned. The people of Zimbabwe give us hope by the wonderful witness of their courage, faith, and dedication to helping the most distressed people in their society.

Missio helps people to rebuild their lives through prayer and financial assistance. We help the Church to persevere and bring the light of Christ to an oppressed people.