

# SUNDAY PLUS

To the ends of the earth

October is the Extraordinary Month of Mission requested by Pope Francis



## Proclaim the message



Photo Missio-England and Wales, www.missio.org.uk

by Stephen Davies

**T**ake a look around your community. If the Son of Man came today, would he find any faith?

Before I start pointing my finger, I need to look at my own faith. Jesus encourages us "to pray always and not to lose heart." I know I don't manage this, and that leaves me disheartened! But as Jesus says in the parable, I must keep on hoping.

As we mark World Mission Sunday this weekend, St Paul's encouragement to Timothy to "proclaim the message" is also a challenge to us. It is how faith is shared, yet we often shy away from doing so, not

wanting to force our opinions on others.

Helpfully, Pope Benedict XVI tells us not to share our faith by "proselytism", by bashing people on the head with a Bible, but "by attraction."

Everyone deserves to hear the good news that God loves them. Countless missionaries around the world, like Fr Brendan, share the faith "by attraction." Originally from Liverpool, this Mill Hill Missionary has spent his priesthood in Pakistan. He lives alongside the Kutchi Kohli people – a poor, marginalised group – tending to their needs, living out God's love. He also celebrates the sacraments, being honest and authentic in his faith, without pushing his beliefs onto others. Increasingly, people are coming to Mass and want to learn more. Faith by attraction.

World Mission Sunday is a reminder to pray for and support missionaries around the world. It's also a chance for us to ask ourselves if we are being authentic Christians, attracting people to find out more about God's unconditional love.

Stephen Davies is the Red Box Director for Missio, the Pope's own charity for overseas mission.

## Nurture faith

by Sr Janet Fearn  
FMDM

Google Maps says that it would take thirty-four hours to walk the one hundred miles from Assisi to St John Lateran in Rome – and that's today, with good roads and strong shoes. Imagine doing that barefoot and then retracing your steps once the Pope had approved your plans to walk throughout Italy,

encouraging people to live joyfully, and, in simplicity, imitating Jesus. Yet St Francis of Assisi didn't stop to count the miles – or the blisters and scratches. He just did it.

The Glastonbury Legend tells us that, after the resurrection, Joseph of Arimathea trekked the 2,898 miles from Jerusalem to Glastonbury, presumably on a boat, horseback and on foot. Today we could do the trip in nine hundred hours – but then?

Don't you think that Joseph and Francis must have been very

convinced of the value of their message? What would it take us to carry the Gospel as far as our local supermarket, workplace, school – or the pub?

Sr Janet Fearn is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

Here I am, Lord.  
Send me  Amen.

the answer we long for is slow in coming. Our vision is limited, of course. What we yearn for may not be God's desire for us. Knowing this, we are called to be persistent in praying for the grace to discern God's will in all things and the courage to act accordingly.

Those who benefit from the charity Survive-MIVA's transport grants are people of persistent prayer, who have dedicated their lives to others. They restore hope by providing healthcare to those living in isolated rural areas, and by making the sacraments and the Church's pastoral care available to people who inhabit places with difficult access. God's work can be achieved speedily too, when it is delivered on wheels!

Theresa Codd is Assistant Director of Survive-MIVA (registered charity no. 268745), the Missionary Vehicle Association ([www.survive-miva.org](http://www.survive-miva.org)).

**"This transmission of the faith, the heart of the Church's mission, comes about by the infectiousness of love, where joy and enthusiasm become the expression of a newfound meaning and fulfilment in life. The spread of the faith 'by attraction' calls for hearts that are open and expanded by love."**

Pope Francis

## Bring hope

by Theresa Codd

Weariness in prayer is something, I'm sure, to which many people can relate. It is hard to persevere when

<b>Today:</b> Exodus 17:8-13 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2 Luke 18:1-8	<b>Monday:</b> Romans 4:20-25 Luke 12:13-21	<b>Tuesday:</b> Romans 5:12, 15, 17-21 Luke 12:35-38	<b>Wednesday:</b> Romans 6:12-18 Luke 12:39-48	<b>Thursday:</b> Romans 6:19-23 Luke 12:49-53	<b>Friday:</b> Romans 7:18-25 Luke 12:54-59	<b>Saturday:</b> Romans 8:1-11 Luke 13:1-9	<b>Saturday (W):</b> Six Welsh Martyrs and their Companions (Feast) Hebrews 11:33-40 John 12:24-26 or 15:18-21 Find us on Facebook	<b>Next Sunday:</b> Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14
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