



**Our Catholic Schools' Week  
7 – 13 October 2019**

**“You are my Witnesses”**



**Daily Reflections for Staff & Governors**

## Introduction

**Pope Francis has declared October 2019 to be an Extraordinary Month of Mission. This special month of prayer and action calls us to renew our missionary commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all peoples.** (c.f. [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk))

Jesus gave this Great Commission to His followers just before he ascended back to his Father in Heaven:

*"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*  
(Matthew 28:19-20)

During Our Catholic Schools' Week we will use aspects of this short scripture passage as a basis for our daily reflections with simple responses and prayers for the five school days of our Catholic Schools' Week.

**Monday**

**'Go...'**

**Reflection:**

Often it can be easier and more comfortable to 'stay' rather than to 'go'.

Do I recognise God's call to mission? Do I recognise the fact that God addresses this word 'go!' to me personally and to the communities I belong to?

In what ways do I, or have I in the past, responded to this call to 'go'?

**Response:**

In my prayer am I aware of any new sense of mission?  
Is God calling me to share His Word and His love with anyone in particular at this point in my life?

**Prayer:**

Father God,  
Help me to be aware of your call to mission.  
Help me to hear your call to 'go'.  
Please give me the grace to faithfully go out to share your love in word and action. Amen

## Tuesday

*'...make disciples'*

### **Reflection:**

There are many people who admire Jesus but not as many who choose to follow him. Jesus said that his disciples are the ones who live according to his word, who take up their cross and live for him rather than themselves. We are born to new life through baptism but need to be made, or formed, into disciples. Many of us have been formed by significant people in our lives who have shown us what it means to follow Jesus Christ.

### **Response:**

Do I consider myself and admirer of follower (disciple) of Jesus?

Who am I helping to form as a disciple?

How am I witnessing to Jesus and inspiring others to follow him?

### **Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, help me to follow you. Help me to take up my cross and live by your word. Help me to play my part in forming others as disciples. Amen.

# Wednesday

## '...all nations'

### Reflection:

*The Colours of the Logo of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 are explained below...*



The primary colours of the Cross refer to the five continents: **red for America, green for Africa, white for Europe, yellow for Asia and blue for Oceania.**

The red recalls the blood of the

American martyrs, seeds for a new life in the Christian faith. Green is the colour of life and symbolises growth, fruitfulness, youth and vitality. It is also the colour of hope, one of the three theological virtues (faith, hope and love). White is the symbol of joy, the beginning of a new life in Christ: this is the challenge that the old Europe is facing, so that it may be able to regain the evangelising strength from which it was generated thanks to so many churches and saints. Yellow is the colour of light, which nourishes itself with light by invoking the true Light. Blue is the colour symbolising the water of life that quenches our thirst and restores us along the path to God. It is the colour of heaven, a sign of God's dwelling with us.

### Response:

As Catholic Christians living in Europe we can reflect on our evangelising strength, our joy and vigour in sharing the faith. How strong, joyful and vigorous is my/ our faith?

### Prayer:

Loving God,  
renew our joy by the power of the Spirit so that we can share the freshness of the gospel in our world of today.  
Amen.

## Thursday

### *'baptising them... and teaching them'*

#### **Reflection:**

As Catholic Christians we are blessed in so many ways. We can encounter Christ in his living Word and through the Sacraments of the Church. In our Catholic Schools we are privileged to be able to celebrate Mass and Reconciliation at different times and in so many ways to reflect the teaching ministry of Christ through the curriculum we offer and especially through RE, Chaplaincy and our Collective Acts of Worship.

#### **Response:**

As people belonging to the Catholic School community we are part of this great enterprise of Catholic education. Our involvement in and contribution to teaching is a sacred work entrusted to us by God.

#### **Prayer:**

Loving God,  
We thank you for the gift of Catholic Education, especially in our own Diocese of Northampton. During Our Catholic Schools' Week help us to celebrate our call and commit ourselves anew to serving and teaching others in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Friday

*'I am with you always.'*

### **Reflection:**

Jesus promised that wherever two or three gathered in his Name he would be there in their midst. As Catholic communities serving in the field of Catholic education we know that Christ is with us and journeys with us always. Let us be conscious during this academic year that we are not alone but that through the ups and downs Christ's faithful and gracious presence is with us.

### **Response:**

During the hectic pace of our school year it is sometimes easy to become distracted, burdened and anxious. As we respond to Christ's commission to service let us, throughout this year, maintain our awareness of the nearness of Christ.

### **Prayer:**

Lord Jesus,  
we thank you for your faithful presence, we thank you that you are faithful to your promise to be with us always. As we journey through this academic year help us always to be aware of your presence, your grace and your strength and turn to you often in prayer. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY MONTH OF MISSION

*Official EMM prayer, adapted for use in the UK © Missio 2019*

God our Father,  
when your Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead,  
he commissioned his followers  
to 'go and make disciples of all nations'.

Through our Baptism you send us out  
to continue this mission among all peoples.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be  
courageous and enthusiastic in bearing witness  
to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to  
us, which is still far from completion, may bring  
life and light to the world.

May all peoples experience the saving love and  
generous mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and  
reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**



For further information please see:

[www.october2019.va/en.html](http://www.october2019.va/en.html)

[www.missio.org.uk/emm](http://www.missio.org.uk/emm)