



MISSION 2023

Growing in Love

Sunday 22nd – Wednesday 25th January



Deoise Chiarraí

Mission Programme



Each day, you are invited to join in

- Daily Prayer in the Mission booklet
- Mass in your parish
- Daily Reflection online
- Prayer Petition online
- Family Time in the Mission booklet
- *Just a Thought* on Radio Kerry
- Mission Talk @ 8.00 p.m. online

Speakers include

Triona Doherty, journalist, author and mother

Fr Hugh Lagan, clinical psychologist and SMA priest

Fr Michael Conway, culture and faith professor, Mayo priest

To register for the Diocesan Mission, go to

www.dioceseofkerry.ie

By registering, you will receive an email each day of the Mission with the links for that day.



Contents



A Message from Bishop Ray	2
At home in the presence of Jesus	3
Sunday Prayer Moment	4
Monday Prayer Moment	6
Tuesday Prayer Moment	8
Wednesday Prayer Moment	10
Family Time	12



A Message from Bishop Ray

*Where true love is dwelling,
God is dwelling there:
Love's own loving presence
love does ever share.*



As parishes of the diocese of Kerry, it is good for us to unite online for our four-day Mission, "*Growing in Love*". More and more, online is enabling us to nourish, share and live our faith. Encourage family and friends to join in the Mission.

The Mission provides an opportunity for people of all ages to take time to reflect on the meaning of life, carrying in our hearts Jesus' words, "Love one another, as I have loved You".

This year, alongside our own serious economic difficulties, we are conscious of awful wars in Ukraine and elsewhere, and of the urgent worldwide challenge of global warming and the threat to the earth's environment. Our Christian love extends beyond home and parish to caring for our planet and all its people.

A sincere thank you to the hardworking team at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre for making this possible.

+ Ray Browne
Diocese of Kerry
January 2023



Sitting awhile with Jesus



When we stop to pray, it can help to take a few moments just to become more conscious of Jesus' presence here, with us, in this place. The psalms invite us to 'Be still and know that I am here'. Jesus promises us, 'I am with you always'. (Mt 28:20)

- As you light a candle, take a few moments to hear Jesus' word to you today, 'I am with you always'.
- Allow yourself to relax as you become more aware of being in the presence of Jesus, who loves you unconditionally. *[If you find this hard to imagine, think of a parent's love for their baby, a friend's love.]*
- Ask Jesus for the gift to be open to love today, as you begin to pray each day.
- Pray the prayer slowly.... pause as you pray.... notice the Good News Jesus has for you today.
- Let your prayer become real as you enact your prayer daily!

Sunday

Be Christ's Love



Jesus said, *"Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another"*. Jn 13:34

Invitation *Cuireadh*

Jesus was a lover of people. See him spending time with sinners, prostitutes and tax-collectors. Notice how he visits people's homes and leaves them with hope. Be with him as he heals the sick and welcomes the excluded. Is there something in this for our lives?

Reflect *Machnamh*

Just about the time I think I have finally become a compassionate presence, along comes a person or situation that throws my loving-kindness out of kilter. As Jack Kornfield notes in *The Wise Heart*, "Compassion is developed one person at a time".

No matter where we dwell on this planet, no matter what our personal faith or political allegiance, we know there is intolerable suffering and enormous inequality due to personal bias and to the disparate use of Earth's resources among human beings. When I remember to do what Rabbi Lawrence Kushner suggests, to imagine I am standing behind the back of another

person whose way of life differs from mine and look out through his or her eyes, I can let go of my unkind mental judgements and armoured heart. I can understand better what might motivate that person to believe and live in a certain way. It is then that I am able to turn toward the foundational entreaty of Jesus in which he urges, "Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (Jn 13:34).

joycerupp.com, Learning to love more fully

Pray *Guígh*

Loving Jesus,
open our eyes to see each other
as you see us.

Thank you for your compassion,
understanding and everlasting acceptance.
Help me to offer a little of that to someone else today.
Amen.

Act *Gníomhaigh*

Today recognise when you see with eyes full of criticism and a heart of judgement. Step back and try to see life through the other's eyes.

Monday

Finding the Treasure



Jesus said, '*Remain in my love.*' Jn 15:9

Invitation *Cuireadh*

Our everyday is alive with love, if we have eyes to see. Our God comes to us in the depths of our hearts and wants our deepest joy and happiness. Jesus invites us to accept his love, to live knowing that we are deeply valued and loved.

Reflect *Machnamh*

If the Lord were to ask, today, for example, any one of us the question he asked the blind man in Jericho: "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mk 10:51) - let us think that the Lord today asks each one of us this: What do you want me to do for you? – how would we answer?

Perhaps we could finally ask him to help us know our deepest desire, that God has placed in our heart: "Lord, may I know my desire, may I be a woman, a man of great desires"; perhaps the Lord will give us the strength to make it come true. It is an immense grace, the basis of all the others: to allow the Lord, as in the Gospel, to work miracles for us: "Give us desire and make

it grow, Lord". Because he too has a great desire for us: to make us share in his fullness of life.

Pope Francis Oct 2022

Pray *Guígh*

Loving God,
awaken me
to the brightness of your Son shining,
to the light of your love,
to the hope of a new day

Centre me in you this day,
root all my thoughts and actions in love,
that I reflect Christ's love in all I am and do.
Amen

Act *Gníomhaigh*

Today I pay attention to the deepest desires of my heart, planted within me by God....I listen to what I most want God to do for me. Can I speak to God about what I most desire, about the treasure I have found?

Tuesday

Being love for others



Jesus said, *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”* Lk 23:24

Invitation *Cuireadh*

Loving others and loving ourselves is not easy. Sometimes we hurt each other. At other times, we get bruised by life. Jesus invites us to draw from the well of God's love, the God who has carved each of us on the palm of his hand and offers us a fresh start in each moment of every day.

Reflect *Machnamh*

The best image Jesus gives of God is that of the prodigal father: he doesn't wait until his son crawls up on his knees, instead he starts running to him, which a Jewish father should never do! He doesn't listen to his son's confession, instead he throws his arms around him – 'what will the servants think?!' – restores him to his status as son with the ring, the robe, the sandals and then called for a great feast.

Dear God, perhaps the worst thing I can do when I spoil our relationship or hurt someone is to try to hide from you, as Adam did. 'I was afraid, so I hid'. Let me instead turn to you and say,

'Now look what I've done!' May I find a compassionate smile which says, 'yes, but now let us move on together'. In response I will say 'Will you help me find ways to repair the damage caused by my failings?'

Brian Grogan SJ, When everything is said and done, p22

Pray *Guígh*

Loving God,
you respond to me as a loving parent,
eager to help me find my way.

Free me to reach out to the one I have hurt,
to right the wrong done - I'm sorry!
Unleash the weight of my mistakes and failings
from my heart and mind and body. Please!
Let me hear your invitation - 'come home'
again, and again. Thanks!
Amen

Act *Gníomhaigh*

Today I reach out to someone I have hurt, and I listen to how that has affected them. Forgiveness is their gift to give.

Is there someone who has asked me for forgiveness, and from whom I have withheld it?

Wednesday

The Call to Love



“We love because he first loved us.” Jn 4:19

Invitation *Cuireadh*

To be a follower of Jesus is to live as he lived. All of life offered him a glimpse of God – the birds of the air and the grasses of the field, no less than the quiet moments of prayer or teaching the crowds. Jesus calls us to notice God’s presence in everything.

Reflect *Machnamh*

Even as people of faith we often unconsciously divide the world into what we think of as holy and what we think of as ordinary. That can mean that we see our working lives, our families, our daily routines as being ordinary and not really having anything much to do with God. On the other hand, we may see our time at Church and the big events of our lives such as baptisms, weddings, funerals as being about God and faith. But it doesn’t really make sense to divide the world up as if some parts belong to God and some don’t.

All of life offers us glimpses of God and all of life offers us the challenge to respond as people of faith. God is not absent from the world. God does not just break into our lives on the big occasions or the weekly visit to Mass. God is as present in our lives as the air we breathe. All of life is a God moment!

Bairbre Cahill [godfaithandfamilylife](#) blog

Pray *Guígh*

Loving God,
soften the boundaries we have erected
between our lives and you,
imprisoning your love in a small part of our lives.

Let us see you at the kitchen table,
meet you along the road,
find you in the middle of our family,
in all the bits and pieces of our days.
Amen

Act *Gníomhaigh*

Today I imagine Jesus walking with me through my day and I open myself to see the presence of God in the people I encounter and the situations that I meet.

Family Time

Making the Mission together



1. Plant bulbs

Nature reflects God's beauty. Plant bulbs in a pot to remind you of God's presence with us, even when we can't see it. Wait and watch them grow and flower!

2. Share with others

Jesus invites us to think of others and to share what we have. Bring toys you no longer play with to your local charity shop so other children can enjoy them.

3. Make a bug hotel

In the garden or in a wooded area near you, gather sticks, branches and pinecones. Make a little pile in which the bugs, God's creatures, can live.

4. Our Family Blessing Jar

Decorate a large jar. Each person writes something they want to thank God for and puts it in the jar. Each evening of the Mission, add another thank you!

5. Light a candle

Visit your local church. Light a candle and pray for all the people who show love to you.

6. Celebrate family time

Jesus enjoyed sharing a meal with friends and strangers. Why not bake a cake or cookies together and invite your children to lead the prayer before enjoying the treat?

Grace before Meals / *Altú roimh bhia*

Bless us, O God, as we sit together.
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that made the food.
Bless us, O God.
Amen.

Beannacht ó Dhia orainne atá ag suí chun boird le chéile
Beannacht ar an mbia a ithimid inniu.
Beannacht ar na lámha a d'ullmhaigh dúinn é.
Beannacht, a Dhia dílis, orainn fein.
Áiméan

Grace after Meals / *Altú taréis bia*

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten.
Thank you, God, for all our friends.
Thank you, God, for everything.
Thank you, God.
Amen

Go raibh maith agat, a Dhia, mar is tú a thug bia dúinn.
Go raibh maith agat, a Dhia, mar is tú a thug cáirde dúinn.
Go raibh maith agat, a Dhia, mar is tú a thug gach rud dúinn.
Go raibh maith agat, a Dhia.
Áiméan



Prayer for the Synodal Pathway

This prayer has been used before Church gatherings and meetings for centuries.

*Let us pray it as a diocese so that the listening and journeying
that Pope Francis has called us to will be fruitful for all.*

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts.

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.
Amen.

