

Love Reaches Everywhere.

This session has been produced to help Catholic schools and youth organisations explore the role of faith in the work of Mary's Meals, and acts as an alternative session to Faith and values in action. If you prefer, you can use a mixture of the discussion questions and activities from both sessions to help your learners explore Love Reaches Everywhere.

Mary's Meals is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty. Mary's Meals grew out of the Christian Catholic faith of the charity's founder – and its values and ethos reflect this.

Mary's Meals consists of, respects, and reaches out to people of all faiths and none. Prayer has been an important part of Mary's Meals throughout its history. Many people involved, from its founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow to some of its volunteers and programme partners, are motivated and inspired by their Catholic faith.

Learning intention:

I will learn about the connections between the work of Mary's Meals and Catholic teaching – including the dignity of the human person and importance of contributing to the common good – and consider ways to live out my faith in my own life.



Content notes:

Love Reaches Everywhere includes references to war, child hunger and poverty. Some young people in your group may find the film distressing, particularly if they have experience of these issues. We would recommend that teachers/group leaders watch the film before the session.

If your group includes young people who have moved to the UK from one of our programme countries, or have other shared experiences with the children in the film, speaking to them beforehand about the content can empower them to choose whether to share their own experiences with the group or whether they would be more comfortable not taking part in the session.

Starter question:

- The title of the film is **Love Reaches Everywhere** – where can we see the love of God and the love of our neighbour in action?

Watch Love Reaches Everywhere with your class or group.



CLICK TO PLAY

Following the film, choose from the discussion questions and activities below.

Discussion questions:

- The people we meet in the film have a variety of different living situations and challenges, but many of them mention the role of God, faith or prayer in their lives. Talk about the different examples of this and any that stood out to you in particular.
- The families and teachers featured in the film talk about the ‘miracle’ of Mary’s Meals, and how God ‘spoke in the hearts’ of those who made the meals possible. Talk about how God’s love and goodness can affect the actions of people on earth – where can you see this happening in Mary’s Meals and in your own lives?
- The Bible shows the dignity of each human person as all are “made in the image and likeness of God” Gen 1:26-27. Share your thoughts on how this is reinforced by the work of Mary’s Meals, using the Mary’s Meals Statement of Values to help you.
- Working towards the common good unites Christians around the world. Consider these words from Pope Benedict XVI: “To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity.”
- What do justice and charity mean to you?
- How does the work of Mary’s Meals contribute to the common good?
- How could you support the common good through Mary’s Meals, even in a small way? Ideas could include praying for the work of Mary’s Meals and sharing it with other people.

Activities:

- Research other individuals or organisations who have lived out their faith through service to the poor. Examples could include St Teresa of Calcutta and St Vincent de Paul. Write a reflection about how they have responded to the universal call to holiness (Lumen Gentium chapter five), and what steps you can take in your own life to respond to this call.
- In some countries, religious orders are involved in the delivery of Mary’s Meals, such as the Sisters of Mary of the Miraculous Medal in Benin. Choose a religious order who serve the poor, such as the Sisters of Mary of the Miraculous Medal or the Daughters of Charity, and research their work.
- The title of the film is Love Reaches Everywhere, and Mary’s Meals is built on the little acts of love of many people around the world. What quotes can you find from the New Testament about God’s love and loving one another that resonate with the work of Mary’s Meals? You could make a poster featuring these quotes and information about Mary’s Meals.
- Research the Corporal Works of Mercy and reflect on how these relate to the work of Mary’s Meals. Write about how people in the film act on these, and on how you can put them into practice in your own life, by supporting Mary’s Meals or in other ways. This could be as a letter, a journal entry or a blog.
- Pray together for the work of Mary’s Meals. You can use the Mary’s Meals [prayer](#) and your own prayers and reflections inspired by your discussions.