



Today, more than 2.4 million hungry children will eat Mary's Meals at school. Our work is named after Mary, Mother of God, who we honour in a special way during the month of May.

As we celebrate The Year of Prayer, join with us to pray for the children who eat Mary's Meals around the world.

Introduce Mary's Meals

Before praying together, you can take time to introduce the children to the work of Mary's Meals.

- Use our PowerPoint presentation and notes at assembly or in class to hear about the story of Mary's Meals - download them from our [resource page](#).
- Explore our website together to find out about the different countries [where we work](#).
- [Contact Mary's Meals](#) to book a volunteer speaker to visit your school.

Prayers for children



Heavenly Father you gave Jesus to Mary and Joseph, for them to love and look after Him as He grew up. Please look after all the families around the world, especially those who live in poverty. Help their children to grow up happy and healthy. Amen.



Thank you, Jesus, for the 2.4 million children eating Mary's Meals today, and for everyone who gives what they can to help other people. We ask you to bless every little act of love that helps Mary's Meals. Help us to be loving and generous today. Amen.



Blessed Mary, you knew what it was to feel hungry and to worry about having nowhere to call home. We ask you to pray with us for all the children who don't have a home, that God will bless them and keep them safe. Amen.



Thank you, God, for the food that I will eat at school today. I pray for the children who will be hungry at lunchtime because their families don't have enough food. Please help Mary's Meals to reach the next hungry child and help us to share what we have with others. Amen.



Loving Father, touch the hearts of everyone in our world affected by war and natural disasters, including the children in Ethiopia, Lebanon and Yemen receiving Mary's Meals. Help give them hope for a better tomorrow. Amen.



For children preparing for First Holy Communion: As we prepare to receive the Bread of Life in Holy Communion, we pray for all of the children around the world who are hungry today. May God look after them and inspire everyone to share with each other so that no one goes hungry. Amen.

Activities for your class

Choose a country [where we work](#) and talk about the country with your class. Pray with the children a Hail Mary or decade of the Rosary for all of the children in the chosen country.

Invite your class to write out their own prayers for the children who eat Mary's Meals. They could think about their hopes for the children, for example: *"Lord, I love playing outside with my friends. I pray that all of the children eating Mary's Meals today would have a safe space to play together."*

Talk about the month of May being a special time to pray to Our Lady. Encourage everyone to think about the children around the world who eat Mary's Meals when they say a Hail Mary at home, at church or in school. You could place a photo of some children enjoying their Mary's Meals in your classroom prayer corner to help you remember.

Use our [prayer calendar](#) throughout the month to pray for, and learn about, children living all around the world.

To find out more about Mary's Meals, please visit marysmeals.org.uk

Mary's Meals serves school meals to children around the world to help them come to school and have the food they need to learn and play.

This month I pray for:

Amen

