

Pray In May Assembly – 7-11 year olds

This assembly will allow pupils to explore the importance of Mary as the mother of Jesus and the different ways we can pray.

It will also introduce the work of Mary's Meals and how pupils can support this through prayer.

You will need copies of the script for each reader (one adult and up to eight pupils) if you wish to have pupils involved. Otherwise, the whole assembly can be delivered by a member of school staff or a volunteer from Mary's Meals.

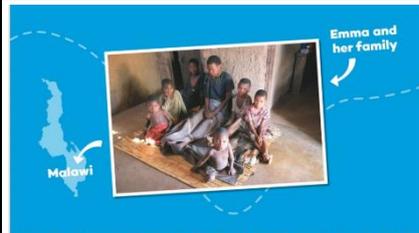
You will also need to be able to display the PowerPoint presentation.

This assembly can take 10 to 15 minutes.

Slide	Wording	Discussion points
	<p>Adult: Welcome to our assembly today where I am going to ask you to help me with something please.</p> <p>To start with though, can anyone tell me what their favourite thing about our school is?</p>	<p>Ask children to share their answers.</p>
	<p>Adult: One of my favourite things about our school is the school lunches!</p> <p>Hands up if you have school meals?</p> <p>Does anyone have a packed lunch?</p> <p>What would happen if we forgot our school lunch?</p> <p>How do we feel if we haven't had anything to eat?</p>	<p>Ask children to share their answers.</p>



Pupil 1:
This man is called Magnus and he thinks it is very important that all children get a nutritious meal when they are at school.



Adult:
This is because of an experience Magnus had when he was visiting a country called Malawi.

Does anyone know what continent Malawi is part of?

Ask children to share answers.

Magnus was there helping people because the country was experiencing a terrible famine.

Can anyone tell me what the word "famine" means?

Magnus met this lady, Emma, and he asked Edward, the eldest child who was just 14 years old, what he wanted to do when he was older, what his ambitions were.

I want to ask you the same question! What do you want to be when you leave school?

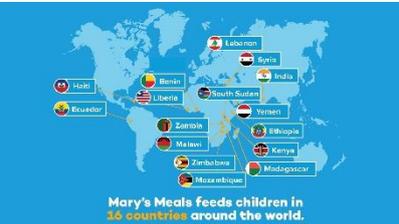


Adult:
The reply Edward gave was very different to the ones you have given me. This is what he said (read the words on the slide).

Ask children to share their answers.

That is a very strange thing to say isn't it?

Sadly though, that is because there are some schools in the world where children don't always get something to eat when they are there.

	<p>So, some children don't go to school because they are too hungry to be able to concentrate and learn.</p>	
	<p>Pupil 1: In 2002, Magnus founded a charity called Mary's Meals to provide school meals to hungry children. Mary's Meals started to feed just 200 children in a school in Malawi.</p> <p>Do you know how many children there are at our school?</p>	<p>Ask children to share their answers.</p>
	<p>Pupil 2: 24 years later, more than three million children are now eating Mary's Meals every school day.</p>	
	<p>Pupil 4: Magnus and lots of other people have worked hard over the last 24 years so that Mary's Meals can help feed hungry children in 16 countries across the world!</p> <p>But why is the charity called Mary's Meals?</p>	<p>Ask children to share answers.</p>
	<p>Adult: Who do we think this lady is?</p> <p>Why is she important?</p> <p>Mary said yes to God – the angel came to ask the question.</p> <p>Can you remember the name of the angel?</p>	<p>Ask children to share their answers – and try to tease out that she was Jesus' mother.</p>

	<p>Mary had baby Jesus – when do we celebrate this?</p> <p>She was very brave in saying yes and did this because she loved and trusted what God had planned for her.</p>	
	<p>Pupil 5: Magnus loves saying prayers to Mary. He visited a very special place a long time ago where Mary is prayed to a lot.</p> <p>To show how important he thinks Mary is he named his work after her and that is why it is called Mary's Meals.</p>	
	<p>Pupil 6: During the month of May, the month of Mary, we are asked to think about Mary and her love for all of us and her love for God.</p> <p>We can also learn from her example in how much trust she put into God by saying yes.</p>	
	<p>Pupil 7: As part of that special time of prayer in May, Mary's Meals ask people to say yes to something.</p> <p>They have a campaign called "Pray In May", which asks people to take some time to pray for the work of the charity and for the</p>	

	<p>children who eat their meals.</p>	
	<p>Pupil 8: These special prayers help children like seven-year-old Georgina, who lives in Liberia.</p> <p>In her community, many children do not always have enough food at home. When Georgina eats a meal at school each day, it helps her feel happy and ready to learn. It also helps her stay in school and enjoy learning with her friends.</p> <p>Mary's Meals gives Georgina hope for more chances to build a better future for herself and her family. She says: <i>"It gives me hope by learning and doing good things for my parents."</i></p>	
	<p>Adult: Throughout this month we'll work on some activities to help us think about Pray In May and the children who eat Mary's Meals.</p>	<p>Show children the different resources if you have them to hand.</p>
	<p>Adult: At the beginning I said I wanted to ask you to help with something.</p> <p>Would you please help by saying prayers in May to Mary to ask her to help children like Georgina?</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">What are the different ways you can pray?</p>	<p>Adult: There are lots of different ways we can pray to Mary and ask her to tell God what we need help with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is the special prayer to Mary that we know and that is a lovely way to pray to Mary. • We can use something called a rosary. • We can draw special pictures of Mary and think about what we want to pray for whilst we are drawing it. • We can write our own special prayer to Mary which we can then use each day at home or at school. • And of course, we can sing special hymns which is a beautiful way of praying. 	<p>Show a rosary to the children if you have one available and ask children do they know what prayers we say when using it.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Let's pray</p>	<p>Adult: We can start by praying together now.</p>	<p>Finish with a prayer that the children know.</p>