

# Pray In May Assembly – 4-7 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.

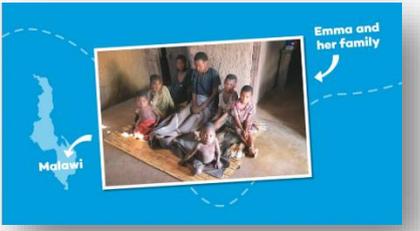
It will also introduce the work of Mary's Meals and how pupils can support this through prayer.

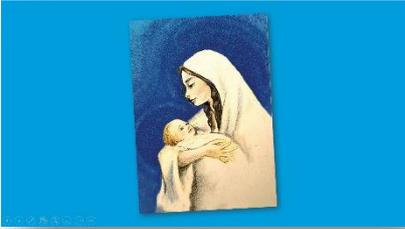
You will need copies of the script for each reader (one adult and up to four pupils, if it is suitable for pupils to read). Otherwise, older pupils could take part to read for the younger ones.

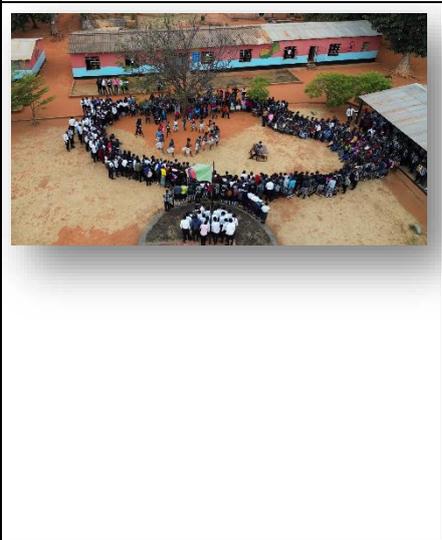
Or you could contact Mary's Meals to ask if there is a volunteer available to lead the assemblies for you. You will also need to be able to display the PowerPoint presentation.

This assembly can take 10 to 15 minutes.

Slide	Wording	Discussion points
	<p><b>Adult:</b> 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><b>Adult:</b> 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>

	<p><b>Pupil 1:</b> This man is called Magnus, and he thinks it is very important that all children get a nutritious meal when they are at school.</p>	
	<p><b>Pupil 2:</b> This is because Magnus met this lady, Emma, and her children when he was visiting a country called Malawi, in Africa and found out that children there weren't going to school because there were no school meals.</p>	
	<p><b>Pupil 3:</b> Magnus and lots of other people have worked hard over the last 24 years and the charity he started called Mary's Meals is now helping to feed more than three million children in 16 countries across the world!</p> <p>But why is it called Mary's Meals?</p>	<p>Ask children to share their answers.</p>
	<p><b>Adult:</b> 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>(If pupils know about the Angel Gabriel it would be good to revisit this knowledge here by asking if they know this story and what the angel was called).</p>	<p>Ask children to share their answers – and try to tease out that she was Jesus' mother.</p>

<p><b>OPTIONAL SLIDE</b></p> 	<p><b>Adult:</b> Mary had baby Jesus – when do we celebrate this?</p> <p>(Again, this is an opportunity to revisit pupils’ prior knowledge).</p>	<p>Ask children to share their answers.</p>
	<p><b>Pupil 3:</b> 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 the charity is called Mary’s Meals.</p>	
	<p><b>Adult:</b> Does anyone know what month we are in (or what month comes next if you use this assembly in April!)</p>	<p>Ask children to share their answers.</p>
	<p><b>Adult:</b> In the month of May lots of people try their hardest to say lots of special prayers to Mary.</p>	
<p>Seven-year-old Georgina, from Liberia</p> 	<p><b>Pupil 4:</b> 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</p>	

	<p>and enjoy learning with her friends.</p>	
	<p><b>Adult:</b> 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><b>Adult:</b> Who can remind me how we said we feel when we are hungry?</p> <p>When children like Georgina have their lunch, they get so much energy, and that helps make them smile. Mary's Meals is now reaching more than three million children – that's a lot of smiles! We can see some of the children in this video.</p>	
	<p><b>Adult:</b> At the beginning I said I wanted to ask you to help me with something...</p> <p>Would you please help me by saying prayers in May to Mary to ask her to help children like Georgina and all of the hungry children around the world?</p>	<p><b>Finish with a prayer that the children know.</b></p>