

Pray In May Assembly – 7-9 year olds

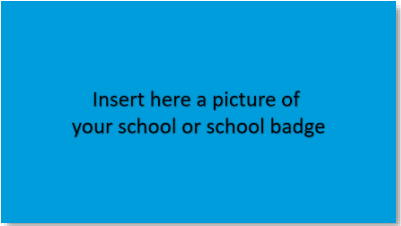
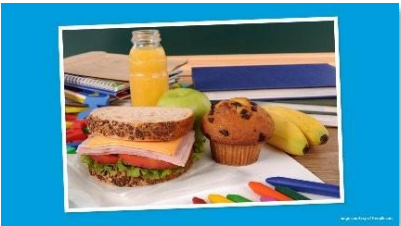
This assembly will allow pupils to explore the importance of Mary as the mother of Jesus and the different ways we can pray.

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 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>

	<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.</p>	
	<p>Pupil 2: This is because Magnus met this lady, Emma, and her children when he was visiting a country in Africa and found out that children there weren't going to school because there were no school meals.</p>	
 <p>Mary's Meals feeds children in 16 countries around the world.</p>	<p>Pupil 3: Magnus and lots of other people have worked hard over the last 20 years.</p> <p>The charity he started - called Mary's Meals - is now helping to feed more than 2.6 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>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>(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>OPTIONAL SLIDE</p> 	<p>Adult: 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>Pupil 3: Magnus loves saying prayers to Mary.</p> <p>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>Adult: In the month of May lots of people try their hardest to say lots of special prayers to Mary.</p>	
<p>10-year-old Ruby, from Yemen</p> 	<p>Pupil 4: These special prayers help children like Ruby who is 10 years old and lives in Yemen.</p> <p>Ruby eats Mary's Meals in school and she says that</p>	

	<p>so many more children come to class now that they can eat lunch and have enough energy for the day.</p>	
	<p>Adult: In this special Jubilee year in the church, Pope Francis has asked us to bring hope to others.</p> <p>Praying for Mary's Meals is a great way we can do this, as the meals they serve to children like Ruby help bring hope to them and their families too!</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>VIDEO CLIP</p> 	<p>Adult: Who can remind me how we said we feel when we are hungry?</p> <p>When children like Ruby have their lunch, this is how much energy it gives to them!</p> <p>This is two little nursery girls at a school in Malawi after they have had their Mary's Meals lunch.</p>	<p>Ask children to share answers.</p>
	<p>Adult: 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 Ruby and</p>	

	<p>those two little girls we saw then dancing?</p>	
<p>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 one to the children if you have one available and ask children do they know what prayers we say when using it.</p>
<p>Let's pray</p>	<p>Adult: We can start by praying together now.</p>	<p>Finish with a prayer that the children know.</p>