

Pray In May Assembly – 9-11 year olds

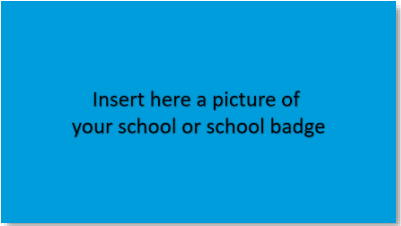
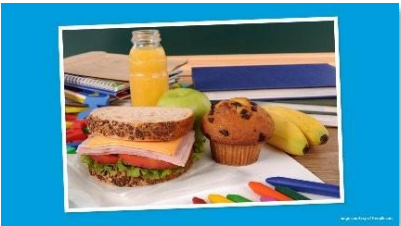
This assembly will allow pupils to explore the importance of Mary as the mother of Jesus and the different ways we can pray.

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 seven 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.

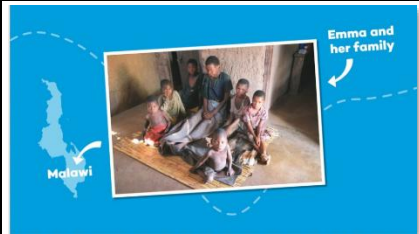
You will also need to be able to display the PowerPoint presentation.

This assembly can take 10 to 20 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 out 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).

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: 23 years later, more than 2.6 million children are now eating Mary's Meals every school day.</p>	
	<p>Pupil 3: Here's some of the children that Mary's Meals feeds around the world!</p>	
	<p>Pupil 4: Magnus and lots of other people have worked hard over the last 23 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>



Adult:
Who do we think this lady is?
Why is she important?
Mary said yes to God – the angel came to ask the question.
Can you remember the name of the angel?
Mary had baby Jesus – when do we celebrate this?
She was very brave in saying yes and did this because she loved and trusted what God had planned for her.

Ask children to share their answers – and try to tease out that she was Jesus' mother.





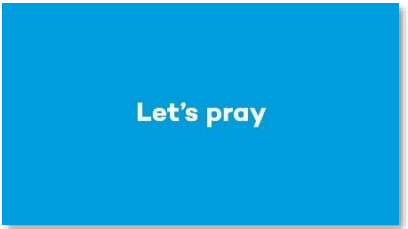
Pupil 5:
Magnus thought that how Mary lived her life and looked after her son Jesus was a very good example to us all and so he named his work after her and that is why the charity is called Mary's Meals



Pupil 6:
In May, Mary's Meals asks people to take some time to pray for the work they do and for the children who eat their meals.



Pupil 7:
These special prayers help children like Ruby who is 10 years old and lives in Yemen.
Ruby eats Mary's Meals in school and she says that

	<p>so many more children come to class now that they can eat lunch and have enough energy for the day. The meal motivates her to come to class.</p> <p>She says: "I hope to be a famous journalist in the future."</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. Would you please help me by saying prayers in May, asking Jesus to help children like Ruby and those two little girls we saw dancing?</p>	
	<p>Adult: We can start by praying together now.</p>	<p>Finish with a prayer that the children know.</p>