



# Homily Notes and Prayers for Mass



## Homily Notes

Today we hear one of the most well known exchanges in the Gospel, Jesus being confronted by the Pharisees who attempt to trap him with a political question: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" Jesus, perceiving their intent, gives a response that has echoed through Christian history:

"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God".

At first hearing, it sounds like a clever way to avoid trouble. But Jesus is not avoiding the question – he is transforming it. He invites his listeners, and us today, to look deeper – what truly belongs to God?

When Jesus asks for the coin, he draws attention to its image – Caesar's image stamped upon it. The coin belongs to Caesar because it bears his likeness. But what bears God's likeness?

We do.

Every human person, made in the image and likeness of God, belongs to God.

So, when Jesus says, "Give to God what is God's," he is inviting us to give our very selves – our hearts, our actions, our mission – back to the One whose image we bear.

This year, as we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday, the Church across the world reflects on the theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV,

***"One in Christ, United in Mission."***

This is not only a theme – it is a spiritual truth.

To be one in Christ means recognising that our unity does not come from nationality, culture, politics, or preference. It comes from the One in whose image we are made, and into whose Body we were baptised.

The Pharisees in today's Gospel approached Jesus divided – some were supporters of Rome, others completely opposed to it. Yet Jesus reminds them, and us, that unity begins not with power or politics, but with God's claim upon our lives.

And because we belong to God, we belong to one another.

Being one in Christ is not a passive idea. It leads to being united in mission.

Mission is never an optional 'extra' for Christians – it is at the heart of who we are.

For 100 years now, World Mission Sunday has reminded us that the Church does not exist for itself. The Church exists to proclaim the Good News, to lift the poor, to heal, to teach, and to carry Christ's love to the very edges of the world.

We give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's – our responsibilities, our civic duties, our engagement with the world. But we give to God the things that are God's – our availability, our compassion, our willingness to be sent.

Every Christian is called to mission.

And mission today looks like:

- A parish community welcoming those on the margins.
- A family teaching children to pray and to serve.
- A workplace where faith is lived through integrity and kindness.
- A believer using their gifts for peace, justice, and compassion.

When our lives reflect God's image, we become God's message to the world.

On this 100th World Mission Sunday, we remember the countless missionaries – past and present – who gave and still give their lives to the Gospel. Many left homeland and comfort to serve remote communities. Others remained in their home countries but lived with missionary intentionality, supporting the Church's global mission through prayer and sacrifice.

But today, mission is not only 'over there'.

It is also here, in our parishes, neighbourhoods, our workplaces, and families.

The world is hungry for meaning.

People are searching for hope.

Many long to know that they belong, that they are loved, that their lives matter.

And so, the Church must be present – joyful, compassionate, courageous – showing the face of Christ to all.

We do not do this alone.

We do it together, as one missionary family in Christ.

# Prayers

## Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen

## Prayers of the Faithful

*Please stand.*

Leader: Sisters and brothers, created in the image of God and called to mission, let us bring our prayers before the One to whom we belong.

Reader: That all communities of faith may reflect God's image through unity, compassion, and courage, and continue to proclaim the Gospel with joy.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all who serve in mission territories – priests, religious, lay leaders, and volunteers – may God strengthen them in hope and protect them in challenging circumstances.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: As we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday, may we be renewed in our commitment to support the Church's mission through prayer, solidarity, and generous action.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That leaders may work for the common good, respecting the dignity of every person, and promoting peace, justice, and the flourishing of all peoples.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That we may give to God what belongs to God by offering our gifts, time, and lives in service to others – especially the vulnerable, the isolated, and those seeking meaning.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For communities without access to basic needs – education, healthcare, safety, or spiritual care – may global solidarity bring hope and transformation.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: To those who have come before us, especially missionaries, who gave their lives in service of the Gospel, may share in the fullness of God's eternal peace.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of all peoples, you call us to be one in Christ and united in mission. Hear our prayers and strengthen us to bear your image in all we do. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, the suffering and death of Christ your Son won your salvation for all the world. May the prayers and gifts of your Church come before you and be pleasing in your sight.

## Prayer after Communion

Lord, make us holy by the Eucharist we share at your table. Through the sacrament of Your Church may all peoples receive the salvation Your Son brought us through His suffering and death on the cross, for He is Lord forever and ever.

## Final Blessing

Let us go forth boldly, spreading God's love wherever we go in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*Note: Homily Notes and Prayers of the Faithful written in collaboration with Reverend Deacon Martin Lewis of Catholic Mission - Provincial Director QLD and based in the Brisbane Archdiocese.*

## World Mission Sunday 18th October 2026

### Mass Readings

First Reading	Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
Psalms	96: 1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Alleluia	Philippians 2: 15d, 16a
Gospel	Matthew 22:15-21