

SUNDAY *Plus*

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I** Year A

World Mission Sunday

A young catalyst

World Mission Sunday is coordinated by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, founded by Pauline Jaricot in 1819, before she was twenty-one. It is one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies.

Pauline [Jaricot's] really distinctive contribution, which gives her claim to the title of foundress of the Society [for the Propagation of the Faith] was the practical, businesslike step of organisation taken in 1819... Each member was to find nine others who would combine with the first into a group of ten. One of the ten would be responsible

for collecting a sou [€0.05] from each member. Over every hundred groups was a chief collector, whose responsibility it was to bring or send the thousand sous [€50-€60] to headquarters each week...

Within a few months, however, Pauline Jaricot ran into a storm of abuse and opposition in clerical circles, the first of many such storms she was to encounter in her career. Her pastor ordered her to stop the work because, he said, it was controlled by a laywoman and therefore it was illicit. Pauline appealed to the vicar general of the diocese –

there was no bishop in residence at that time – and offered to stop the work if the vicar general thought her pastor right. He answered by telling her not to stop the work but rather to extend it...

The very success of the work caused the opposition to grow more intense and bitter, most of it coming from the pulpit with priests saying that young women should say their prayers and leave other ecclesiastical matters in clerical hands.

Thomas P. Neill, *They Lived the Faith: great lay leaders of modern times*



Ven. Pauline Jaricot © Wikipedia

Here I am, Lord. Send me to my family, community and world as a messenger of your love.  Amen.

They don't forget!

Bishop Joseph Dupont (1897-1911), nicknamed Moto Moto ("fire fire"), was the first Missionary of Africa to arrive in the village of Mashitolo in northern Zambia. He and his companions left Chilubi Island, paddled across the magnificent but hippo- and crocodile-infested waters of Lake Chifunabuli, pulled their canoe onto the shore and set up camp under a large, shady tree. The first white people whom the villagers had ever seen, they attracted considerable attention from the local Chiefs Chitembo,

Mwansakombe, Mulongwe and Mwewa and their subjects. Before long, Christianity was established in the region – and thrives today. Two hundred years later, however, those first missionaries are still remembered and celebrated in Lubwe's annual Kwanga ceremony.

I spent six years in Lubwe and the (relatively) nearby Kasaba, on the shores of Lake Chifunabuli and the Kasaba Lagoon – and will never forget being shown the very tree under which those first missionaries camped. People still talk of Moto Moto. They don't forget!

Sr Janet Fearn FMDM

While the whole Church is missionary, today we pray especially for those men and women who have left everything to bring the Gospel to those who do not know it. They are missionaries of hope among all peoples. May the Lord bless them!

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week Sunday 18 October

St Luke the Evangelist

St Luke was the beloved physician and evangelist whose Gospel reveals the compassionate heart of Christ. Luke's writing is rich with mercy: he alone gives us the parables of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan, stories that echo God's boundless love and call us to imitate it.

As a companion of St Paul and a careful historian, Luke bridges faith and reason, showing that the Gospel is not myth but lived truth. His attention to detail and inclusion of women, those who are poor and the marginalised reminds us that the kingdom of God is for all.

Luke's feast invites us to be healers in our own way, through kindness, listening and presence. May we, like him, proclaim Christ not only with words but with lives marked by mercy, inclusion and hope. Let us be Gospel people, writing love into the world one act at a time.

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5
Matthew 22:15-21

Monday:
Ephesians 3:2-10
Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday:
Ephesians 2:12-22
Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday:
Ephesians 3:2-12
Luke 12:39-48

Thursday:
Ephesians 3:14-21
Luke 12:49-53

Friday:
Ephesians 4:1-6
Luke 12:54-59

Saturday:
Ephesians 4:7-16
Luke 13:1-9

Next Sunday:
Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14