





## REFLECT

This week we celebrate World Mission Sunday (20 October). As a reflection throughout the week, it may be helpful to ponder the message Pope Francis prepared for Mission Sunday 2019 (*see p. 5*).

Many young children have a ‘best-ever’ stage. Everything becomes ‘the best ever’—whether it be an ice cream, a film, a cricket game, a day at school, the latest meal. We may marvel at the optimism of these little spirits and hope that they will last for a while, knowing, of course, that this stage cannot last forever.

As we grow older, we realise that not every day is going to be a great day. There will be days when truly terrible things happen to us or to our family members and friends; days when we know we have not been the best we can be—a sharp word, perhaps, or a meanness of spirit that crept into the way we related to another; days when things seem grey and difficult. And there will also be days of great joy; days when we celebrate the wonder of being alive, when we look to the stars and praise the one who made the world.

And perhaps this is a little of what Jesus is teaching us this week: that no matter what is happening to us on our journey, we are encouraged to invite God into our lives through constant, persistent prayer. Pope Francis notes in *Evangelii Gaudium* that since ‘we do not always see [the good] seeds growing, we need an interior certainty, a conviction that God is able to act in every situation, even amid apparent setbacks’ (§279). So as we focus on our call to mission during this month, we should recall Pope Francis’ observation that ‘When evangelizers rise from prayer, their hearts are more open; freed of self-absorption, they are desirous of doing good and sharing their lives with others’ (§282)

Perhaps the invitation this week is to be constant, courageous and confident in our prayer. Because we know that God is present, active and alive in our world and that God does respond—if we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear.

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## BECOMING A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE ...

### Encounter

‘I invite Christians, everywhere, at this very moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you do to this unfailingly each day.’

—Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, §3

- How can I accept this invitation to encounter Jesus in my daily life of faith?

### Accompany

If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realise that every person is worthy of our giving.

—Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, §274

- How will I accompany others this week?

### Community

The Church which ‘goes forth’ is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice.

—Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, §24

- How will I encourage others in my community to go forth this week in a missionary spirit?

### Go forth

Today, as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal, there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility.

—Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, §127

- How will I accept the challenge of preaching the Good News in word and action this week to people and communities on the margins, locally and globally?

## PRAY

Loving God,  
Encourage me in my living and my loving.  
Gift me with a gracious spirit,  
in order that I may more readily respond  
to your call.  
Amen.

