



## Scripture Reflection

### **Fr. Joseph McCullough, Saint Patrick's Missionary Society**

The mission of the Church is to preach and live the gospel among all peoples. "The universal mission involves all, everything and always. The Gospel is not an exclusive good of the one who has received it, but is a gift to be shared, good news to communicate. And this gift commitment is entrusted not only to a few, but to all the baptised, who are 'a chosen race...a holy nation, Gods own people' (1 Peter 2:9), to proclaim his wonderful works." (Benedict XVI, Message for World Mission Day 2011). This holy communication of which the Pope speaks should lead to a conversion and transformation that inaugurates a personal relationship between the individual and the risen Christ and the establishment of a Christian community where the dignity of the human person is upheld from the womb to the tomb. "In proclaiming the Gospel the church takes seriously human life in the full sense. To be indifferent to the temporal problems of humanity would mean 'to forget the lesson which comes to us from the Gospel concerning love of our neighbour who is suffering and in need' ("Evangelii Nuntiandi," No. 31)." (Benedict XVI, Message for World Mission Day 2011).

Our Church has a rich tradition of social teaching and action that testifies to this relationship, especially in the most poor and deprived parts of the world.

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Mission Sunday 23rd October 2011

**MISSIO Scotland; the Church in Mission**

It is a tradition that goes back to the Old Testament, as we hear in today's First Reading: 'Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt. Do not take advantage of a widow or an orphan. If you do and they cry out to me I will certainly hear their cry.'" (Exodus 22: 21-22).

World Mission Sunday reminds us that we present the person and teaching of Jesus Christ by the authentic preaching of his gospel. Today's readings remind us that mission must not be about power and privilege but a witness that truly liberates and leads others to a Christian commitment to love God and love one's neighbour.

Throughout the New Testament Jesus is a living example of this love. His mission is to bring good news to the poor, to heal the sick, give sight to the blind and to set the captives free. Jesus came to bring about transformation in the lives of individuals. World Mission Sunday is a call to renew our commitment to love God and love our neighbour by opening our hearts to the great anguish and needs in our world today. Such a commitment will empower us to change the situation. All the baptised, who by their faith in Christ are committed to changing the world and helping the Kingdom of God to break through and transform our lives, are an integral part of this missionary task.