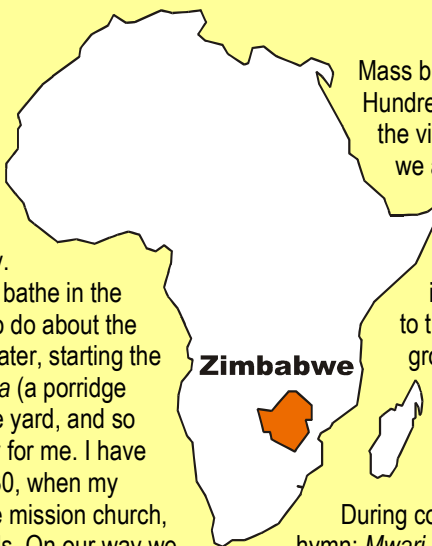


The Church Overseas

Farai's story

Hello - or in my language *Kwaziwai*. My name is Farai. I am a sixteen years old. I want to tell you about the Church in my home country of Zimbabwe. I live in a small village in the north of the country. Every day I rise before 5 a.m. to bathe in the river nearby. I have many jobs to do about the house, for example, collecting water, starting the fire to boil water, preparing *sadza* (a porridge made from maize), sweeping the yard, and so on. Sunday is a very special day for me. I have to finish all my chores before 7.30, when my mother and I leave to walk to the mission church, about 8 km away through the hills. On our way we meet others travelling from their village, all of us gathering together to worship God.

We arrive at the beautiful mission church an hour later. Already many of the women are there and we begin the singing. I am allowed to beat the big drum to keep the singing in time. There are many different beats and I have to make sure I know them.



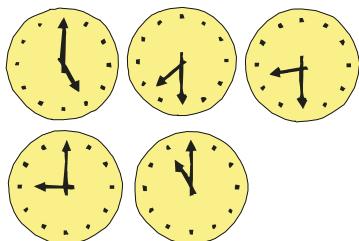
Mass begins at 9 a.m. It is a joyful occasion. Hundreds of people - young and old from all the villages around - are present. When we all sing together it seems like the roof is going to lift off the church. At the offertory there is a procession of gifts; the people dance and sing in time to my drumming and bring up to the altar some of the things they grow: bananas, mangoes, okra, pumpkins, sweet potatoes. With these offerings the Church is able to help the poorer people with food.

During communion we all sing my favourite hymn: *Mwari ngarumbidzwe kudenga* – Let God in heaven be praised.

After Mass we continue singing and celebrating until about 11 am. Outside the church the people talk and laugh; the priests and deacons join them. The village children run around and play. Everybody is like one big family of God. This is what Church means to me.

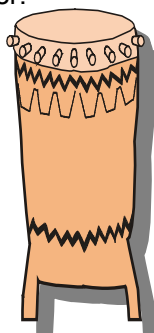
To do

- 1 Read *Farai's story* above.
 - a) What is happening in Farai's Sunday morning at each time shown below.



- b) How important is Sunday worship for Farai? Explain your answer.
- c) Farai adds to the life of the Church by her gift for drumming.

What gifts could a young Catholic in Britain offer to the Church in their area?



- 2 The Greek and Latin word for Church is *Ecclesia*. It means 'assembly' or 'gathering'.

- a) Write **one** sentence from the story above that gets across the idea of gathering together.
- b) Copy and complete the table about the Church in different places.

Church in Zimbabwe	Church everywhere	Church in Britain
Drums used with singing	The main day of worship is Sunday	Organ often used with singing

3 Extension

Write a letter to Farai to explain something about the life and work of the Church in your area.