

# MISSION EFFORT

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St Columba's Primary School, Ballarat North focused on mission during October, which is Mission Month. This year the school had a rice lunch on Wednesday, October 28. The children and teachers were asked to contribute a gold coin donation. The money raised will be going to support the work of Catholic Mission and St. Vincent de Paul Assist a Student Fund. The purpose of this mission effort is to enable our students to gain some understanding of what many children experience daily. Children from third world countries around the world eat a bowl of rice as their main meal so we wanted to give our children a glimpse into the lives of others through the eating of a bowl of rice for their lunch. Children had to each bring a bowl and a spoon. The rice was provided with parents helping out with the cooking of the rice and lending rice cookers. Children were also asked to bring fruit for *Break 2 snack* and not chips, cakes, biscuits and other foods to fully support the effort.

This year Catholic Mission is endeavouring to raise much needed funds to support the people of Madagascar. Many of our children have had the opportunity to learn more about the situation in Madagascar through Religious Education lessons. We also wanted to support the St. Vincent de Paul *Assist a Student* fund where \$70 can provide an education for a student for a year in a third world country. This year we have supported five students through this programme.

Catholic Mission Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, October 21 and the members of the Mini Vinnie's group represented our school at this annual Mass held at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The children gathered with children from other Catholic schools to recognise the significance of the mission efforts of the Catholic Mission organisation. On Friday, October 23 the Mini Vinnie's group then visited the residents of Hailey House. It was wonderful to see the way the children interacted in such a welcoming and positive way. The residents expressed their joy at meeting the children again and were very impressed with the way they could communicate their learning. We look forward to our next visit.

Students at the Ballarat Diocesan Mission Mass



Students visiting residents at Hailey House



*Alison Thorpe – REC  
Photos: Kim Taylor*