



CATHOLIC MISSION CHILDREN'S MASS

The annual Catholic Mission Children's Mass was held at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on Wednesday, October 21 celebrated by Fr Anthony Nagothu. The host schools for 2015 were St Patrick's Primary School Ballarat and St Thomas More Primary School Alfredton and they provided great leadership in the preparation of a beautiful liturgy. Thank you to Fr Anthony and the host schools for their dedication and commitment to this liturgy. The year 2015 marks the 175th anniversary of Catholic Mission in Australia.

In his homily, Fr Anthony spoke to the children and parishioners about the work of Mission and the theme country for 2015, Madagascar. He expressed how "the work of mission gives us a vision, a vision of hope, assurance, and support towards a better future. How the work of Catholic Mission very much links with the first reading that the host schools chose, Isaiah 44:3, *our God is a God of Hope, a God of Assurance, a God of blessing...*". Fr Anthony told the students that they are the source of hope, assurance and blessing for the world today.

Fr Anthony quoted Mother Teresa saying "we ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop", likewise, every little help that we are able to provide goes a long way in supporting the work of Catholic Mission.

The leadership of the students from the host schools was outstanding - the leading in song, the readers and all areas of ministry throughout the liturgy, including the chosen scripture. The participation and support of those schools in attendance and all schools throughout the diocese both primary and secondary, enables Catholic Mission to respond to the needs of many children throughout the world. Our prayerful and financial support enables visions and dreams for a brighter future to come to fruition.



Students from St Patrick's School Ballarat

Each year, students from the host schools place a candle for Catholic missionaries and pastoral workers who lose their lives throughout the year. This year some 24 workers were remembered, priests, religious and lay people. In addition, Sr Kathleen Mercovich, sister of Fr Paul who died earlier this year, was also remembered for her dedication and work in mission during her lifetime in Bougainville and the troubled Western Province of Papua New Guinea. Sr Kathleen was Catholic Mission Diocesan Director in the Ballarat Diocese from 1995 to 2001.