

CATHOLIC MISSION ANNUAL CHILDREN'S MASS

The Catholic Mission Annual Children's Mass was held recently at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Church, Wendouree with student representatives from host schools OLHC Wendouree and St Augustine's School, Creswick taking a leadership role.

A very special thank you to both host schools for their commitment in the preparation and facilitation of the various ministries for a very prayerful and participatory liturgy. Thank you to Principals, Paddy Ryan, Leigh Bradshaw and Terry Brennan and all staff for their support.



The liturgy focussed in prayer on the children in Cambodia living with a disability. The students carried out their respective ministries with reverence, respect and demonstrated great humility and dignity. Symbols were brought forward in the introduction and placed on display representing some causes of disability, e.g. landmines, to Catholic Mission programs that focus on ability providing educational opportunities and skill development.



Thank you to Fr Peter Sherman who celebrated the Catholic Mission Mass and Fr Frank Smith for concelebrating. The children heard the message of the Kingdom of God here on earth where God's reign is at work in their lives through their helping their friend and their neighbours. It is also through their support of the work of the Church through their fundraising for Catholic Mission to assist those in need in other places in the world. We are all missionaries for the Reign of God.

Following the Prayers of the Faithful, the students lit a candle in remembrance of those missionaries who died violently in their missionary work during the past twelve months and one for those whose names we do not know. A Remembrance candle was lit for Ballarat Diocesan Catholic Mission supporters who have died during the past 12 months (24 candles in all).

The outstanding music leadership led to a resounding joy filled sound of song throughout the Mass where everyone present joined in. Students who attended the Mass were a credit to their schools and parents, their behaviour exemplary and most respectful. The feedback I received from adult members of the OLHC parish community who attended the Mass was highly complementary of the wonderful participation of the students. A great celebration for all!



Thank you to those schools who were able to attend and to those schools who held their own liturgies within their own school community praying for children throughout the world.

The Catholic Mission Children's Mass is a time of the year when children throughout the world all pray for each other. A very special thank you to all Ballarat Diocesan schools for your ongoing generous support of the work of Catholic Mission through your prayers and fundraising in support of other children in most need.

If you wish to learn more about the work of Catholic Mission, please do not hesitate to contact me at sue.searls@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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