

CATHOLIC MISSION CHILDREN'S MASS

The Catholic Mission Annual Children's Mass was held recently at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat with student representatives from host schools Emmaus Primary School, Mt. Clear and St James Primary School, Sebastopol taking a leadership role. Thank you to the students and teachers of these schools. The students carried out their various ministries in a respectful manner and the choir led those present with much enthusiasm.

Thank you to the teachers and students from each school that was able to be present, to pray for the children of the world and for each other. Prayer was also offered for the

missionaries who died during the past twelve months in service of others. In their memory, candles were lit for the twenty-three known missionaries and for those who are not known. Fr Justin Driscoll celebrated Mass, sharing his wisdom with those present on the Beatitudes and the scriptures relevance to life today and how it relates to the work of Catholic Mission.



The focus of this year's Mission is *"Healing a Nation through Education"*. Catholic Mission, in partnership with the Catholic Church in Myanmar, is supporting the construction and renovation of schools to ensure access to a quality education, even to the remotest part of Myanmar.

In October Fr Lucas Tha Ling Sum from Hakha, Myanmar visited Ballarat and spoke with children and teachers in schools. Fr Lucas and the children of St John's School Hakha can be seen on YouTube on Catholic Mission's website in this year's annual appeal promotional video www.catholicmission.org.au.

Catholic Education in the Diocese of Ballarat is actively supporting teachers in Myanmar, in a partnership with the Episcopal Commission for Education and Catholic Mission. During January 2019, six primary school teachers from the Ballarat Diocese will travel to Myanmar in their own time as part of this partnership to continue supporting the training of teachers with their training modules and design new activity tasks to enhance child-centred learning and problem solving skills. This is the third year that Ballarat teachers have given freely of their time in support of this project.

Thank you for your support of the work of Catholic Mission. It is through your prayers and financial support that Catholic Mission can assist these and many other children to receive a basic education, providing hope for a brighter future.

Sue Searls
Ballarat Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission