

MissioAotearoa Prayer and Witness Challenge - Catholic Secondary Schools - Term 4, 2026

Kia ora koutou.

October is traditionally observed by Catholics around the globe as MISSION MONTH. Within the month, WORLD MISSION SUNDAY (WMS) is celebrated on the second to last Sunday, which means this year it will be on the 18th of October 2026.

Pope Leo XIV's message for World Mission Sunday 2026 begins:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For World Mission Day 20

26, which marks the centenary of a celebration established by Pius XI that is very dear to the Church, I have chosen the theme "One in Christ, united in mission." Following the Jubilee Year, I wish to encourage the whole Church to continue its missionary journey with joy and zeal in the Holy Spirit. This requires hearts united in Christ, reconciled communities and, in everyone, a willingness to cooperate with generosity and trust. As we reflect on being one in Christ and united in mission, let us allow ourselves to be guided and inspired by divine grace, "to renew in ourselves the fire of our missionary vocation" and advance together in the commitment to evangelization, in this "new missionary age" in the history of the Church (Homily, Jubilee of the Missionary World and of Migrants, 5 October 2025).

Fr Michael Pui, the National Director for the Pontifical Mission Societies in Aotearoa New Zealand has, as part of his role, the responsibility for animating missionary awareness among priests, religious, adults, and children in New Zealand.

Fr Michael, acknowledges that some schools have been enthusiastically supporting the mission with various activities, and he thanks those schools for doing so. To complement the schools' efforts, and to further enhance the awareness of Mission Month in all schools, Fr Michael has provided a MISSION MONTH Box for use in our Catholic Schools, highlighting the Pope's theme with the words:

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On the Centenary Year of World Mission Sunday

- **PRAY** that everyone will hear the call
- **DO** what one can to help everyone hear the call and
- **DONATE** to the Pope's missionary endeavours to join Pope Leo XIV to be One in Christ, United in Mission.

He has also set every school a challenge. [Find out about the challenge here.](#)

This resource, **Secondary Colleges MissioAotearoa Prayer and Witness Challenge** is one way that you can raise awareness with ākonga in your schools.

If during the week of 12th - 16th October, or in fact at any time leading up to or after WORLD MISSION SUNDAY, 2026, you selected one **PRAY**, one **DO** and one **DONATE** activity to complete during your RE classes it would be helping to grow awareness that ***we are all called to be ONE IN CHRIST, UNITED IN MISSION.***

We have left the resource from last year in this document as you may wish to use some of these.

[Also here is the link to a letter dated 27 August, 2025](#) you may wish to use to communicate the Mission message to all parents/guardians.

All links are view only. You need to open the document you wish to use, go to file (top left), make a copy and rename it as your own to edit each document.

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Day Years 9-13	PRAY that all will hear the call	DO What can you do to help all hear the call? <i>You can work individually or collaboratively on these activities.</i>	DONATE (if possible) to Pope Leo's Missionary endeavours
Monday 12th- Friday 16th - or at any time that works for your class.	 <i>Create a suitable prayer space for the week that includes the Mission Box and Poster as a particular focus.</i> The Rosary Prayer a decade of the rosary every day during the week as a school community. This is a good site from which to download resources. At this link you can find out more about the Missio Rosary.	100 years of Pontifical Missions Activities Do what you can to help others hear the call! Use this article to explain to the class the words, Mission and Missionary Here are some activities you might like to use to help children understand what it means to be a missionary disciple. Here are some suggested activities based on Pope Leo XIV's 2026 message. Venerable Fulton Sheen From Farming Life in El Paso to Sainthood - The life and faith journey of Fulton Sheen Using the information at this site (great resources here for all akonga) create one of the following: A ten question multi choice quiz. Here is a template you might like to use.	The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference's 2026 letter in support of Mission Month PARTICIPATE IN THIS CHALLENGE New Zealand Catholic Schools Mission Month Challenge  <i>120+ poorer countries are supported through the Pope's missionary endeavours.</i> 

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Ask your student Special Character leaders to lead the rosary each day.



The Angelus

Learn and pray the Angelus for a more peaceful and hopefilled world

[Google slide presentation of the Angelus](#)

Pope Leo XIV's November 2026 Prayer Intention links well with mission, thinking of others. -

- [Create illustrations that outline the life of Blessed Fulton Sheen](#) (who will have been beatified by the time you use this resource)

Missio Aotearoa Special Project

[Read this article ; Reaching Out](#) - Fr Michael Pui, National Director for NZ, and Msgr Estaban Lo have been working together on a project to help students at the **St Therese Learning School-Old Sagay in the Philippines**. Father Michael chose this particular project to support, because Aotearoa New Zealand has a growing Filipino migrant community.

As a class....

[Watch this video](#) - **you may need to stop it as you go and highlight different points.**

- **Discuss** similarities to and differences from your school environment and theirs.
- **Pray** - Write a prayer of the faithful for this school community that could be included in a school mass.
- **Do** what you can to help others know about this wonderful project - perhaps students could write a

With everyone's help, over the past year we've been able to support...

2685 projects in mission territories for the education and protection of children.

6575 novices in their training paths

76284 Minor and Major seminarians

Visit this site, [Pontifical Mission Societies](#) for the latest statistics and projects

PARTICIPATE IN THIS CHALLENGE

[New Zealand Catholic Schools Mission Month Challenge](#)



you could include this in class prayer

November: For the proper use of wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.



notice to be included in a parish newsletter, or a short piece to inform their whanau.

- **Invite** Father Michael Pui to your school assembly to talk about this school.



- **Create** a short video message to be sent to the school telling them a little about your school and how you are supporting them. Send it to Father Michael.

- **Donate** - One of the 4 Societies under the umbrella of the Pontifical Mission Societies is [Holy Childhood - Children Helping Children](#). **Create a fundraising activity to support this special project at St Therese Learning School-Old Sagay in the Philippines**

create a caption

Fr Michael Pui was this year and presented Pope with an All Blacks



in Rome

Leo XIV cap

[At this link](#) create a funny caption for the image. Father Michael will select a winner.

Plan a different fundraising activity for:

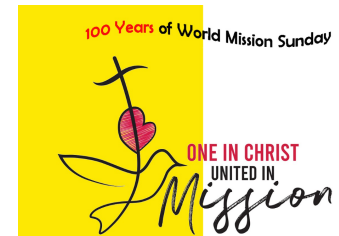
- the whole school or
- house groups or
- year levels

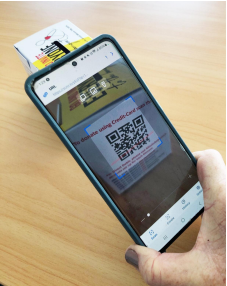
Remember that fundraising can happen any time during the year.

The MISSION BOX

[Congratulations to the winners of the Mission Box contest 2026](#)

Use the Mission Box delivered to your classroom and encourage ākonga to bring along a coin for those less fortunate.



			Use the QR CODE Get an adult to donate by scanning the QR code below which will take one to the MissioAotearoa website.  
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			For Direct Debit, please use MissioAotearoa's accounts set up for each Diocese BNZ 02-0506-0022477-066 (Auckland) BNZ 02-0506-0022477-065 (Christchurch) BNZ 02-0506-0022477-082 (Dunedin) BNZ 02-0506-0022477-068 (Hamilton) BNZ 02-0506-0022477-069 (Palmerston North) BNZ 02-0506-0022477-070 (Wellington)
 BREAKING NEWS	<u>Check out the latest news from MissioAotearoa.</u>		
Website you may find resources at this site useful Mission Together UK			
PREVIOUS RESOURCES - YOU MAY WISH TO ADAPT SOME OF THESE.			
Day Years 9-13	PRAY that all will hear the call	DO What can you do to help all hear the call? <i>You can work individually or collaboratively on these activities.</i>	GIVE (if possible) to Pope Leo's Missionary endeavours
	A selection of prayers and songs you may wish to use in the lead up to Mission Sunday 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B.	1. Listen to the late Pope Francis speaking about the importance of the Pontifical Mission Societies	

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2. **Explore** the MissioAotearoa website by googling <https://missio.nz/>
3. There is One Mission, expressed in four different ways.
 - a. **Identify** the four expressions of mission.
 - b. **Imagine** you have been given the job of redesigning the front page of the website. [Use this template to create your design.](#)
 - c. **OR** select one of the four expressions of mission and **create and share** a poster that could be placed in the foyer of your local Catholic Church or around the school to raise awareness of that aspect of mission.
 - d.

Mission Quotes Activity

To build a deeper understand of mission:

- **Print off and laminate** the quotes.
- **Distribute** them to the class
- Allow time for them to **discuss the quote** and answer the question(s).
- **Share back** their discussion findings to the class

St Augustine, the great fifth-century bishop of North Africa, is attributed with saying, "Those who sing pray twice. "

Here are links to a recently released hymn called "Invitation to the banquet"

Sheet Music

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18TmM2WQ5CTE-Ny89jQAKd9GEzW1Rph-u/view?usp=sharing>,

Audio Clip

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K0SI08tmuAbp7DxivqJk2BnTzkFkkZWiview?usp=sharing>

[Google Slides - Lyrics for 'Invitation to the Banquet'](#)

The Great Commandment

Use the resources from Year 9 and 10 RE to explore the understanding of service, with an emphasis of *being on mission*.

[What does putting my love at the service of others look like?](#)
[4.4a.6](#)

[A whole life](#) slide presentation

[What is mission](#)

Watch - [What is the Greatest Commandment?](#)

Create a TikTok or Instagram post that explains to others the Greatest Commandment given to us by Jesus.

Saints on a Mission

Watch one or both of these video clips with your class.

- [St Therese of Lisieux](#)
- [St Francis Xavier](#)



Or watch

- [Blessed Pauline Jaricot](#)

[Saints for the Mission Collaborative Google slides activity.](#)

How to be a Missionary at Home.

Watch [this video](#) from Teen Missions International.

		<u>Complete this activity.</u>	
		Plan a “Random Act of Kindness” with your friends. Reflect on the outcome of it.	
		Prayer Writing Write an <u>Acrostic Prayer using the word Mission</u>	
		The National Director for the Pontifical Mission Societies in Aotearoa New Zealand. Fr Michael Pui is the National Director for the Pontifical Mission Societies in Aotearoa New Zealand.  <u>Find out more about him and complete the activities at this link</u>	

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Here is a list (not exclusive) of Achievement Objectives from TTWOF that may relate to the vision of MISSION

Year Level	Theme/CrosstHEME/ Touchstone	Achievement Objectives
Year 9-10	Kia Noho Hāhi Being Church General to Content Area	A01 Grow in understanding that the most important purpose of our lives is to love, as expressed by Jesus in the Great Commandment, and this forms the ground of discipleship and mission.
Year 9-10	Kia Noho Hāhi Being Church Tika Justice	A07 Explore justice as a way of developing our sense of mission and action in our lives
Year 9-10	School Level AO Te Kōhatu: Tūhono – Connected	A09 Develop understanding of our inter-connectedness with one another and with God as we share our spiritual journey; AND develop connections with parish and diocese to increase our sense of being part of the Catholic Church
Year 12	Kia Noho Hāhi Being Church	A05 Identify ways in which people can, and do, build justice and peace by living out the Catholic Social Teaching principles.
Year 12	Kia Noho Hāhi Being Church Tika Justice	A07 Develop an understanding of the Christian vision of justice and explore contemporary issues of justice and peace and the Church's response to them.
Year 12	School Level AO Te Kōhatu: He Wero – Challenged	A09 Understand that we are challenged to live lives of courage, integrity and justice even when this might cause personal inconvenience and sacrifice
Year 13	Ā Tātou Whakapapa Tika Justice	A07 Reflect on the Catholic understanding that we are called to make our own unique contribution to a just society and better world. (Mana Motuhake.)
Year 13	School Level AO Te Kōhatu: Tono – Sent	A09 Understand that we are sent to make a positive difference in our world; that our Catholic worldview supports us to build a culture of aroha, respect and service, based on the teachings of Jesus

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Reference List

Website

MissioAotearoa: to give a future with hope (2015) <https://missio.nz/>

Missio: today, tomorrow, together. <https://missio.org.uk/primary-school-resources/>

Mission Together. <https://missiontogether.org.uk/resources>

NCRS. (2021, Dec 14). *Tō Tātou Whakapono Our Faith*. <https://www.totatouwhakapono.nz/>

Videos

Catholic Online. (2019, Dec 17). *St Francis Xavier HD* [Video]. YouTube. <https://youtu.be/rRvI9iYVcRU>

Catholic Television. (2020, Sept 23). *St. Therese of Lisieux Biography | The Little Flower of Jesus* [Video]. YouTube. <https://youtu.be/U2gbX7Ln8xQ>

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McDuffee, G. (2024, Jan 7). *Count my Blessings by Seph Schlueter*. [Video]. YouTube. <https://youtu.be/a44cpBpt-nU>

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