

Letter to Catholic Schools and Parishes for Mission Sunday 100th Anniversary

3 September 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year, Mission Sunday is celebrated on the penultimate Sunday in October. This year, it falls on **18 October**, and we mark the 100th anniversary of Mission Sunday being established as a celebration for the whole Church. For this important occasion, Pope Leo XIV chose the theme, **“One in Christ, United in Mission.”**

For the past century, Catholics across the world have come together each Mission Sunday to pray for the Church’s mission and to support, through their generosity, those who carry the Gospel to places where hope is fragile, where faith is young and where believers often face hardship or persecution. As we mark this 100th anniversary, we, the bishops of New Zealand, invite all those in leadership positions in our Catholic schools and parishes to renew your commitment to the Church’s mission.



We in New Zealand have been blessed with a rich missionary heritage. Our priests, religious and lay people have served in many corners of the world, often quietly and sacrificially. Their witness continues today through missionaries who bring education, healthcare, dignity and the love of Christ to communities in great need.

Until recent times, “mission boxes” were a permanent fixture in classrooms for Kiwi children attending Catholic schools, supporting the Pope’s missionary endeavours. In parishes, a Special Collection is made each year for Mission Sunday. This missionary spirit is something we need to strengthen or, if it has been lost, to recover or rediscover.

Your prayer, your generosity and your solidarity make a real difference. Every contribution — large or small — helps build churches, train catechists, support the formation of indigenous priests, support children’s education and their healthcare, and strengthen communities of faith around the world that rely on us. Even if someone is unable to support the Pope’s missionary efforts financially, they can still pray and motivate others to do the same, helping all people to embrace a missionary spirit just like St Thérèse of Lisieux, the patroness saint of the Mission, did within the confines of her monastery.

We encourage you to support the initiatives and promotions in the coming weeks organised by Fr Michael Pui, the national director of The Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS). That will help to embed a missionary outlook in every Catholic this Mission Sunday and beyond.

Let us be One in Christ, United in Mission. May God bless you for your support and leadership.

In Christ,

+ **Stephen Lowe**, Bishop of Auckland
+ **Paul Martin SM**, Archbishop of Wellington
+ **John Adams**, Bishop of Palmerston North

+ **Michael Dooley**, Bishop of Dunedin
+ **Michael Gielen**, Bishop of Christchurch
+ **Richard Laurenson**, Bishop of Hamilton

Find out more about Mission Sunday and The Pontifical Mission Societies at: <https://missio.nz/>



NORTHERN APPROACHES

Sunday 27th September 2026
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastoral area for the communities of

Holy Name

Sacred Heart North East Valley

St Anne's Waikouaiti

St Mary Star of the Sea Port Chalmers

Our Lady Star of the Sea Hampden

Father Mark Chamberlain

Pastoral Area Office:

Office Hours Mon - Thurs 9am - 12.30pm.

Phone 027 2207685

Father Aidan Cunningham IC

Sacred Heart

North East Valley Office:

473 8470, Fax 473 8487

Email: holynameparish@hotmail.com

Face Book: Dunedin North Pastoral Area

Pastoral Area School

Sacred Heart School, North East Valley

473 8362

Mass Times:

Holy Name

Sunday 7.30am, 10am, 7pm

Monday – Saturday 8.30am

Port Chalmers

Saturday Vigil 5pm

Waikouaiti

Sunday 12pm

Hampden

Sunday 1.30pm. 2nd and 4th of the month

Sacred Heart North East Valley

Sunday 9.30am

Monday – Saturday 9.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11am – 11.30am. Holy Name

Online Mass 10am Sunday, Holy Name

View via you tube or Web page

dunedinnorthpastoralarea.com



The World Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants 27th September 2026

This year, Pope Leo XIV has focused on the place of children and young people in migration, reminding us that we are to welcome each child as the Gospel teaches us: “Even just one of these children”.

In his message for this year's World Day of Prayer, Pope Leo, quoting Pope Francis, has reminded us of the threefold vulnerability of migrant children: “they are children, they are foreigners, and they have no means to protect themselves.” Quoting Jesus, “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me” (Mt 18:5), Pope Leo says the Gospel invites us not to calculate: even one. “Every child, every human being, possesses an infinite dignity. Each is created in the image and likeness of God; each is a presence of the Lord.” To recognise the dignity of each child means to safeguard their fundamental rights: “the right to life, education and a standard of living that enables full physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.”

Pope Leo says it is necessary both to intervene in countries of origin to remove causes that compel people to flee, and to offer protection and welcome in countries of transit and destination. This is what Caritas and other Catholic agencies do around the world on a daily basis. While the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand is called to provide a warm welcome for migrants and refugees who make their home here, to ensure they know they have a place to belong.

More than 117 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide according to the United Nations, and almost 40 per cent of refugees are children. In the Pacific, climate change impacts such as sea level rise and more extreme weather events are putting more children and their families at risk of displacement.

It is our responsibility to pray for all refugees and migrants, to welcome those who are in our midst - in our parishes and neighbourhoods, and to take active steps to both work against those things that cause people to flee, and to ensure migrants' basic human rights and human dignity are protected and maintained at every stage of their journey.

Lord Jesus,
You told us in the gospels that whoever welcomes even
one child in Your name welcomes You.

Today, we open our hearts to the vulnerable young
migrants and refugees whose cries rise up to heaven.

We pray for those navigating the loneliness of transit,
those separated from their families,
and those seeking refuge in unfamiliar lands.

Inspire our communities to become places of welcome,
encounter, belonging, solidarity, and mutual respect.

Help us move beyond mere assistance to true
integration, valuing young migrants as members
of our communities.

May Your Holy Spirit guide us to weave a network of
protection around these little ones,
ensuring that no child walks alone.

Amen.



HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR PRAYER

www.sacredspace.ie
www.pray.as.you.go.org/home
www.authorjoycerupp.com

With the hope of the Resurrection,
we ask that you remember in your prayer all those
who have died recently, including:

Brendon Orr

And for those we remember,

*May they and all the departed
share in the Peace of
Eternal Life*



SUNDAY MASS READINGS YEAR A

27th September – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Psalm: 25

4th October – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

Psalm: 80

DUNEDIN NORTH PASTORAL AREA NOTICES

THANK YOU

I am grateful for all of your generous donations to our Roof Appeal. The work is nearing completion and the cost has meant that our long-standing savings are needing to be used. Your donations are helpful. Thank you, Fr Mark. Financial contributions to the cost of this work can still be made into the Parish account.

Dunedin North Parish

ANZ 06 0901 0054874 07

In the reference identify your donation as Roof Repair. Thank you.

If you require a tax receipt, and are not on our planned giving register please email the office with your Name and Address.

CHURCH/PRESBYTERY HEATING

Thank you to everyone that has donated via the tap and go machine at the rear of our Church. Your donations are helping considerably with our Church and Presbytery heating costs and are very much appreciated. I have always intended ensuring that our Church is a warm environment for us to gather in for prayer.

Simply chose either \$10 or \$20 and tap your pay-wave/contactless card to make a donation towards our heating costs. (Please note no receipts can be issued.)

Thanks always for your faithful support.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

We are very grateful for the food donations each week for the Society and also blessed to receive the financial donations given to the SVDP box in the Church Foyer. The SVDP shop always needs more donations of clean clothes, Manchester, china and cutlery etc (no furniture). With Thanks and blessings for your donations. St Dominic's Conference members of Sacred Heart and Holy Name Parishes.

NORTHERN APPROACHES NOTICES

Notices to be emailed or dropped into the pastoral office before Thursday 11.30am.

MONTHLY PUBLICATION IN CHURCH FOYER FOR PURCHASE

Tui Motu - \$7.00

Please place payment in box provided on wall in the church foyer. Thank you.

MISSION SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER

A letter to Catholic Schools and Parishes for Mission Sunday 100th Anniversary, are available in the Church foyer and can be viewed on our web page www.dunedinnorthpastoralarea.com to find out more about Mission Sunday and the Pontifical Mission Societies at <https://missio.nz/>

TITIPOUNAMU STUDY & JOY

Interreligious Dialogue & Meditation –

Fr Cyprian Consiglio OSB Cam (Rome) who works with music, dialogue and meditation.

More info:

www.studyjoy.nz/2026/09/19/interreligious-dialogue-meditation-fr-cyprian-consiglio-osb-cam/

Interreligious Dialogue & Pictorial Art. with Dr Christopher E. Longhurst (NZ) on *Structured Art-based Interreligious Dialogue*.

More info: www.studyjoy.nz/2026/09/18/saird-muffin-talk-with-dr-christopher-longhurst/

Content & Characters in the Gospel of Luke with Fr Kevin Waldie SM.

Monday, 16 November 2026, 7-8.30pm (Zoom).
Koha.

For more resources and information:

www.studyjoy.nz

ENROLMENTS FOR 2027

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is now accepting enrolments for Semester One 2027. If you are a Catholic school teacher, preparing for ministry, seeking academic formation, or wanting to grow in understanding of the Catholic faith, CTC offers opportunities to learn and engage with Theology in a supportive environment. Go to www.ctc.ac.nz for more information."

SCAN – SENIORS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

"Hear The Cry of the Earth and the Poor" –

Araiteuru Marae – Our place, future and people. Manager Tania Williams will speak about the Marae as a place of connection, belonging and manaakitanga (hospitality), the importance of whenua, community, sharing, learning and support, continuing response to change, while protecting and strengthening our taonga and aspirations for future generations. DCC Library – 4th floor, Monday 28 September – Noon. (Koha) Nau mai ki te katoa!

www.seniorsclimateactionnetwork.org

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Diocesan Laudato Si' group - Season of Creation 2026 - Living Water

"The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God." [Laudato Si', 84]

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the Nano Nagle Trust fundraising event by attending the Chris Skinner concert, purchasing raffle tickets, or making a donation.

Thanks to your generosity and encouragement, the event was a tremendous success.

Your support will help the Trust continue its mission of assisting children who might otherwise be unable to access a Catholic education.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the Super Jammers for their wonderful half-time entertainment. Their lively performance had everyone tapping their toes, singing along, and enjoying a delightful trip down memory lane.

Congratulations to the raffle winners:

Firewood: Chris Bruce

1/2 Side of Sheep professionally butchered: Brian Lamb

1/2 Side of Sheep professionally butchered: Deb

One Night B&B 'The Church' - Millers Flat J Parker

Grocery Hamper: Rosemary Cookson

150 YEARS OF CATHOLIC SECONDARY EDUCATION

We are looking forward to welcoming back to Rattray Street all alumni from St Dominic's, St Philomena's, Moreau, St Paul's, and Kavanagh, as we celebrate 150 years of boys' and girls' Catholic secondary school education in Dunedin. Make sure you register as soon as possible. Follow our facebook page '150th Anniversary Reunion at Trinity Catholic College' for photos and memories, and see our website <https://www.trinity.school.nz/> for more information and to register.

BLOCK ROSARY DUNEDIN

Please join us in celebrating the 3rd year Anniversary of the Block Rosary Dunedin. Saturday 17th October at 5:30pm.

Location: Sacred Heart Hall, 89 North Road, North East Valley. Light snacks provided after praying the rosary. Please message Charm for more info (021 08086679).

PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving is a way of supporting our, Pastoral Area and can be done in one of the following ways: Planned giving envelope, Cash in offertory procession or Automatic payments, which can be set up weekly, fortnightly, monthly, whatever suits best, and deposited into one of the Pastoral Areas Bank Accounts below.

Please include your name in Particulars and PG as reference.

Any support whether consistent or not, is appreciated and if you choose the automatic payments or planned giving envelopes these are eligible for **tax rebates**, please contact Lisa at the pastoral office holynameparish@hotmail.com with your contact details and a tax certificate will be issued at the end of every financial year.

For donations made to Sacred Heart Church please forward your contact details to North East Valley Office 473 8470.

Dunedin North Parish

ANZ Bank 06 0901 0054874 07

North East Valley Parish

ANZ Bank 06 0901 0054874 12

SUNDAY MASS COLLECTION

TOTALS FOR THE DUNEDIN NORTH PASTORAL AREA WITH THANKS

Pastoral Area 20th September: \$1780.20

The collections are divided with 2/3rds going to the Dunedin North Parish Account and 1/3rd transferred to Diocesan Clergy Central Trust Fund. Please note the total is inclusive of 2/3rds of the previous week's automatic payments from the 13th September – 19th September. Sacred Heart Church totals are not included.

We kindly ask that if you have planned giving envelopes associated with another parish e.g. Mercy Parish/St Joseph Cathedral Parish (printed on the front of the envelope) please hold onto them and return them to that parish (please do not put them in the collection basket). Alternatively, if you wish to donate on the days attending Mass in our area and require a tax receipt, please place your donation in an envelope with your contact details and a receipt will be issued at the end of the financial year. Thank you.