Mission Day is one of the really special days on our school calendar where we all come together as a community to raise awareness and money for those in need. We hope that the students’ understanding of ‘mission’ will be nurtured and that students will be encouraged and supported to live as Christ challenges us:

“for I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” (Matthew 25: 35-36)

Missionary activity is, fundamentally, a going out of oneself in love, a reaching out to bring God’s love to everyone, especially the outcast and unloved.

Catholic Mission around the world has the responsibility of promoting a dignified and fruitful celebration of World Mission Day.

Jesus’ mission of creating a world where all can live a fully dignified life is still far from completion. Therefore, our work for Mission Day is dedicated to reflecting on the central mission of the Church to help all Christians in their commitment to live the life Jesus calls us to.

Rice Day

A few years ago the learning theme of Mission Month was WHEN I GROW UP I WANT TO BE ALIVE. I remember we were devastated to think that children throughout the world, just like the precious little ones here at school, have the sole purpose in their lives of simply staying alive. It is very hard for us to comprehend that they can’t see a future for themselves beyond childhood. No dreams of being a nurse, truck driver or sports star for these children only the nightmare of trying to stay alive through war, famine and disease. As a staff, we wondered how we could share this reality with our students; how we could walk in the shoes of these children for a short time.

We decided that each year on the day before Mission Day we would have Rice Day. This year that day will be Thursday October 6th. This means that the children will have a bowl of rice to eat at 12:30pm for their lunch. We will provide the rice for the children and staff. On this day, the children will not have fruit or play lunch. A big breakfast and a big snack after school will be needed!! We ask that you support us in this very meaningful activity by talking to your child about the day and maybe by taking up the challenge to have rice for lunch too!

We will be looking for rice cookers on that day, so if you have one that you are happy to share with us for the day, please contact us at the start of term 4.

All parents, families, parish and community members are invited to attend our annual Mission Day at St Mary’s!

- Each grade is involved in running stalls and activities which raise money and provide lots of fun for everyone. The money raised is forwarded to Catholic Missions, who work to assist disadvantaged communities throughout the world. This day also helps our school community to become more aware of issues of social injustice in the world and gives us all an opportunity to do something practical in order to help those who are not as fortunate as we are.
- This year we are focusing on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to link with our efforts to raise money for Catholic Mission. The principles we are highlighting this year are:
  - Preferential care for the poor
  - Dignity of the human person
  - The common good
  - Solidarity

“Let us not develop an education that creates in the mind of the student a hope of becoming rich and having the power to dominate [but one that forms] the lofty ideal of loving, of preparing oneself to serve and to give oneself to others.”

Archbishop Oscar Romero
Program of Events

9.00a.m.-11.00a.m.  Class time, including set-up of stalls and activities.
11.30am - 12.15pm  Liturgy - Learning Street.
12.15pm - 1.45pm   Stalls!
1.45pm - 2.20pm     Clean up
2.40pm - 3.15pm     Assembly - in the Learning Street.

Please read the information relevant to your child’s grade and activities. We thank you for your ongoing support of our special day.

Prep - Hoopla
Hoopla proved very popular last year! At this activity the customer buys 3 cane hoops for 50c and attempts to throw them onto the items on the table. If the hoop lands directly on an item, you win!! A note regarding donations for prizes has gone home this week. Thanks, Erin

1/2 F & S - Mystery Bags and Lucky Dips
Our class will be organizing the Mystery Bags and Lucky Dip stalls. Come and try your luck at the Mystery Bags and Lucky Dips on Mission Day!
Many thanks to those who have already returned the zip lock bags we sent home for this stall. We are looking forward to a great day! Many thanks, Tania and Annie

3/4GW & S - BBQ and Flight for Solidarity
Our class will be organizing a BBQ for lunch. Families, grandparents and students can pre order a sausage or hash brown. We will send home a note to our parents asking for donations and helpers.
The children will also be running a stall where students are invited to make their best paper plane and write and draw messages of solidarity on them as decoration for a small fee of 50c. At the conclusion of the stall there will be a competition to determine whose plane flies the furthest. Thanks, Lisa, Sherree and Shelley

5/6 - Fruit Juice and Fresh Fruit Kebabs
Our class will be organising a Fruit Juice and Fresh Fruit Kebabs stall. We invite you to come and enjoy a fruit juice drink or a delicious fruit kebab. We will send home a note to our parents asking for donations. Thanks, Elise and Jamie

5/6 - The Unfair Share
We will also be running a stall to highlight the fact that there is enough in the world for everyone’s needs, but not enough for everyone’s greed. We will have a huge bowl of lollies with enough lollies in it for every child in the school to receive 10 each.....however after spinning our spinner you may OR may not walk away with your fair share. This will highlight the fact that we live in an amazing world with enough resources for everyone. Yet, many miss out.

Students in 5/6 will also be organising competitions/stalls that will run during Mission Day.

Afternoon Tea
...will be organised by a willing group of lovely ladies and gentlemen and served in the Learning Street. All donations will be gratefully received to support this stall. If you are able to assist please complete the slip below and return to school as soon as you can. Make sure you drop in on Mission Day to enjoy a cuppa and a delicious scone, cake or slice and maybe even take home some goodies!
Thanks for your continued support! JoAnne, Terrielynn, Chris, John and Michelle

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Afternoon Tea return slip

Name: ______________________

☐ I am happy to provide scones / cupcakes / slice / other (please circle) for the Mission Day Afternoon Tea.