

For immediate release

Thursday, 15 October 2026

Join the Universal Church for the World Mission Sunday Celebrations

As World Mission Sunday approaches on 18 October 2026, Catholics across Australia are invited to begin their celebrations by joining the universal Church in praying the mission rosary.

On Saturday 17 October, the global Mission Rosary will be broadcast, bringing Catholics together across continents for a special moment of prayer and unity, marking 100 years of World Mission Sunday.

Centred on Pope Leo XIV's theme, *'One in Christ, united in mission'*, the livestream is a reminder that mission begins in prayer and that, wherever we are, we belong to one universal Church.

"The Missionary Rosary offers an extraordinary opportunity to begin the centenary celebrations together, united in prayer across countries, cultures and time zones. Joining this broadcast from the Vatican is a visible expression of our belonging to one universal Church, bringing the theme 'One in Christ, united in mission' to life," said Peter Gates, Catholic Mission Director.

Led by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelisation, the Rosary will be broadcast live from Rome at 3 pm local time. Although the broadcast falls late in the evening for Australians (12 am AEDT), it offers a meaningful opportunity to unite with Catholics around the world as World Mission Sunday begins.

This shared moment of prayer will lead into mass celebrations in parishes and communities worldwide, bringing the centenary to life through faith, solidarity and generosity.

In Australia, parishes are invited to stand alongside communities in Malawi, the focus of Catholic Mission's 2026 World Mission Month appeal. Through prayer and generous donations, Australians can support families as they rebuild their lives and create opportunities for their children.

"For a century, World Mission Sunday has invited Catholics across Australia to put their faith into action through prayer and generosity. This year, we invite Australians to stand alongside communities in Malawi, supporting their efforts to build a stronger future. It is a tangible expression of God's love, the love that calls us to care for one another," said Peter.

As we mark a century of World Mission Sunday, Catholic Mission invites parishes, families, communities and schools across Australia to join in prayer and put their faith into action this World Mission Month.

For the latest livestream details, link and information about World Mission Sunday, visit www.catholicmission.org.au/worldmissionmonth

ENDS

For further information:

Astrid Delayre
Senior Communications Officer

Tel: 0458 489 877

Email:

media@catholicmission.org.au

Website:

catholicmission.org.au

About Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies – the Catholic Church’s global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ’s mission in the world: that all may have life to the full. Catholic Mission contributes funding and project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. These include spiritual formation, pastoral care, education, health, sanitation, and agricultural programs. Here in Australia, we form people to go out and be missionary in their professional and personal lives; to pray, advocate and act for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.