**Level:** 3  
**Title:** REACHING OUT  
**Strand:** CHRISTIAN LIFE: The flourishing of human person’s, the common good of societies, shared responsibility in relation to creation

**Suggested Duration:** 2 weeks

**Unit Focus**
In this unit students explore the nature and challenges of Christian mission through their study and reflection of their own lives and Scripture. There is an emphasis on students applying this understanding of mission to the global reality.

**Level Outcome**
By the end of Level Three students should be able to:

*Investigate how Christians make loving choices that are informed by the example of Jesus.*

**Unit Outcomes**
By the end of this unit students should be able to:

1. Identify some of the features and challenges for us as disciples of Jesus
2. Give examples of Christian missionary actions and programs that reach out to others in need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRAND</th>
<th>DOCTRINAL CONCEPTS</th>
<th>CATECHISM REFERENCE</th>
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</table>
| Jesus Christ | 1. After Jesus’ death and resurrection people gathered in communities to remember him and tell the story of his compassion and love.  
3. Jesus is the Son of God and shows us the way God wants us to live. | 767 561             |
| Christian Life | 1. Jesus challenges us to follow his teachings and example.  
4. When we use our gifts we are serving the community and helping to spread the Reign of God. | 519 1942           |

**Key Understandings for Students**
- As Christians we are called to reach out to others as Jesus did.  
- All Christians are called to be missionary(ies), that is, to live like Jesus in response to the poor and marginalised.

**Curriculum Links - VELS**

**Victorian Essential Learning Standards**
The unit *Reaching Out* can be used to assess a range of VELS. The table below gives examples of how Level 3 standards could be assessed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strand, Domain, and Social Learning</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Key elements of Standards Students…</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical, Personal and Social Learning</td>
<td>Interpersonal Development, Building Social Relationships</td>
<td>&quot;demonstrate respect for others and exhibit appropriate behaviour for maintaining friendships with other people. They support each other by sharing ideas and materials, offering assistance, giving appropriate feedback and acknowledging individual differences. They work with others to reduce, avoid and resolve conflict.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum Framework Context</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loving God and Others – Our Call to Mission</td>
<td>Serving Others - Mission</td>
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**Student Context**

Students at this level are becoming more aware of events within and beyond Australia through the media. Students will have a new understanding of rules and developing a moral framework that stresses fairness and equal treatment. This is significant as students study issues of justice in the world.
Building on past units, there is a need to emphasise the connection between the local and global application of this aspect of Christian mission.

- Prior to Vatican II, Mission was understood to refer to the Church’s work for the salvation of souls, which was carried out for the benefit of non-Christians abroad, mainly by priests, religious brothers, nuns, and specially-commissioned lay people, with the financial and spiritual support of the laity back home. The goal of mission was to establish the Church in these mission fields. Mission, at this time, meant foreign mission, that is, mission in all the continents that were not considered already Christianised.

- The understanding of Church and the understanding and practice of mission have changed since Vatican II. The contemporary Church’s identity is rooted in the mission that Jesus received from his Father. Thus, the Church has as its mission the establishment of the reign of God.

- Jesus lived and preached the values of the reign of God. Many of his parables speak of the reign of God, and his miraculous deeds are signs that the reign of God had drawn near in his ministry. This new world order is said to be of God because its arrival signals the gracious, forgiving, and redeeming presence of Yahweh in the world, and is not the fruit of human efforts. This way of being is open to all people, and all are invited to transform their lives according to its values, but it is given especially or preferentially to those who are marginalised, that is, the poor, the afflicted, the oppressed, the captives (Lk 4: 18).

- The present day work of mission is a continuation of the establishment of the reign of God, and all the baptised are called to this task, even though some are more engaged in missionary activities than others.

- This understanding of mission prompts cooperation with all Christians and with the followers of other religions as well, since they too are called to the reign of God, even though not all of them will join the Church.

- Mission is proclaimed through personal witness, dialogue and through projects of evangelisation, healing, teaching, development or liberation. The Holy Spirit through the whole community of believers inspires and directs the mission of the Church. Christian mission is no longer a one-way proclamation of a message of salvation to a world of pagans bereft of God’s self-revelation and grace, but first of all a search for and recognition of the presence and activities of the Holy Spirit among the peoples to be evangelised.

- Mission is directed to the whole world, including the cosmos, with less distinction between believer and non-believers. This takes into account that many people are nominally Christian but have yet to grasp what the gospel means.

- Whilst the content threads of mission education are woven throughout the primary syllabus, these units explicitly focus on Jesus, the reign of God and the call to mission. The aim of these units is to develop a contemporary understanding and appreciation of mission, which is to realise more fully the reign of God. (See Appendix One).


**Scripture**

Teacher Reference (NRSV)

1 Cor 12:4-6

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
Mt 25:34-40
Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was 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.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

### Suggested Assessment Tasks

**Assessment tasks for this unit may include:**

**Outcome 1**  
**Identify some of the features and challenges for us as disciples of Jesus**
- As a class identify the people who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick or prisoners in the community and how do I answer Jesus’ challenges to meet their needs. Eg. How do I visit a prisoner - by visiting the housebound; clothing the naked – donating unneeded clothes to St Vincent De Paul.

**Outcome 2**  
**Give examples of Christian missionary actions and programs that reach out to others in need**
- Discuss the concept, reaching out to others. Students recall and write about incidents in which parents, teachers, friends, book or film characters have demonstrated reaching out to others.
- Make a poster advertising the work of Catholic Mission Australia.
- Write a factual report detailing the work of a particular Christian organisation that is “Reaching out To Others” in the service they provide.

**N.B** Either of the above Outcomes lends themselves to reporting in the dimension of Knowledge and Understanding.

### Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

**Focusing Activity**
Watch one of the stories from the DVD "The Power of One" OR Use a story from the current Catholic Mission DVD resources for this year.

- Discuss what the young person in the DVD did to bring about change in the world.
- Brainstorm and list the basic needs and wants of all people. Discuss the difference between NEEDS and WANTS.
- Explore the site [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) and investigate the Millennium Goals. Students make a poster on each of the goals.
- Read the story “The Rainbow Fish” or “The Selfish Giant.” Discuss and record how the characters respond to the needs of others.
- Watch the video “Ryan’s Well” Complete a “Facts and Feelings” response. See p.135 *Teaching The Bible*, M.Ryan. What are the facts, How does it make you feel and write your own summary about the video/DVD
- Make contact with local welfare organizations and find out what people are doing for others in their local community.
- Visit the local nursing home and engage with the elderly. Students reflect and write about their experience.
- Brainstorm ways we can reach out to others. In groups, illustrate one of these ways.
- Complete: I reach out to others as Jesus did when I…
- Introduce Catholic World Mission materials. Link this material to the unit theme of mission as a way of reaching out to others. [www.catholicmission.org.au](http://www.catholicmission.org.au)
- Plan and organise a fund raising event to support Catholic mission.
Discuss the logo of the Catholic Mission. Design a class logo to describe: ‘You are my hands to reach out to people’.

Brainstorm ways that we can ‘reach out to others’. Students trace their hands on coloured cardboard, cut out, then write the five main ways that they can ‘reach out to others’ on each finger.

Mt 25:34-40 To PREPARE TO HEAR the Word - the parable makes the point that the historical Jesus is encountered in the victims of injustice of every age and place, and, in them, continues to be brutalized, ignored or loved. Jesus challenges us to follow his teaching and example.

Mt 25:34-40 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text, students read the Creative Reflection from Wintour, R. Just Imagine 4 p 126

Mt 25:34-40 To RESPOND to the Word - Listen to The Face of God. Ask students to imagine that Jesus is singing the song to them personally. They are to respond to: What is God asking you? What are your talents and abilities? How can you us them to reach out to others? (with Mission pack)

Mt 25:34-40 To RESPOND to the Word – who are the hungry, thirsty etc. in our community and what can we do to respond to their needs (See outcome 1)

Mt 25:34-40 To RESPOND to the Word – innovate on the text Creative Reflection from Wintour, R. Just Imagine 4 p 126

Resources

For resources to support this unit, refer to the online planning tool. For additional resources, refer to the Resource Centre Catalogue: http://www.ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au and follow links to Resource Centre.
## Appendix One

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is mission for?</th>
<th>Before Vatican II</th>
<th>Since Vatican II</th>
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<td></td>
<td>The Church’s work for the salvation of souls.</td>
<td>For the full realization of the reign of God, which is already-but-not-yet, present-and-future, realised-and-eschatological.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| To whom? | Carried out for the benefit of the pagans abroad. | To the whole world in all its dimensions and arenas, including the cosmos, to all peoples whatever their religious faith. |

| By whom? | Mainly by priests, religious brothers, nuns, and specially-commissioned lay people, mostly from Europe and America. | By God, first of all, because the Church’s mission is nothing but a continuation of God’s mission in Jesus; and secondly, by all, hierarchy and laity, even though some are more engaged in “missionary” activities than others. |

| With whom? | With the financial and spiritual support of the laity back home. | With all Christians, and not only with Catholics, without denominational confrontation and competition; and furthermore, with the followers of other religions as well, since they too are called to the reign of God, even though not all of them will join the Church. |

| How? | By planting the Church in these “mission fields”. | By personal witness and dialogue. |

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