Level: 4
Title: MISSION – LIVING AND SHARING
Strand: CHRISTIAN LIFE:
The flourishing of human persons, the common good of societies, shared responsibility in relation to creation.

Suggested Duration: 3 weeks

Unit Focus
In this unit students will develop an understanding and appreciation of mission and the call to mission through Scripture, story and the study of contemporary lives. They will be introduced to people who, through words and actions, are committed to the mission of Jesus. The students will be invited to develop and implement ways to continue the mission of Jesus in the school and community.

Level Outcome
By the end of Level Four children should be able to:

Interpret ways in which Christians can respond generously to God’s love of us and of all creation.

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

1. Support their understanding of mission by drawing on Scripture passages.
2. Identify ways in which they can continue the mission of Jesus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRAND</th>
<th>DOCTRINAL CONCEPTS</th>
<th>CATECHISM REFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesus Christ</td>
<td>3. Jesus identified with the poor, the lonely, the sick and the outcast.</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Life</td>
<td>1. One way we respond to God’s love is through service to others.</td>
<td>1893</td>
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</tbody>
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Key Understandings for Students
- I am part of the Church.
- Jesus calls the Church to be compassionate.
- We are called to live and share in the mission of Jesus.

Curriculum Links - VELS

Victorian Essential Learning Standards
The unit Mission: Living and Sharing can be used to assess a range of VELS. The table below gives examples of how Level 4 standards could be assessed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strand</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Key elements of Standards Students…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical, Personal and Social Learning</td>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Building Social Relationships</td>
<td>&quot;demonstrate, through their interactions in social situations, respect for a diverse range of people and groups.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Learning</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Presenting</td>
<td>- &quot; summarise ideas and organise ideas and information logically and clearly in a range of presentations&quot; - &quot;identify features of an effective presentation and adapt elements of their own presentation to reflect them.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Listening, Viewing and Responding | "ask clarifying questions about ideas and information they listen to and view."
| Thinking | Reasoning, processing and inquiry | "develop their own questions for investigation. They collect relevant information from a range of sources and make judgements about its worth"
| Creativity | "generate imaginative solutions when solving problems"
| Reflection, evaluation and meta-cognition | "use a broad range of thinking processes and tools and reflect on and evaluate their effectiveness."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Framework Context</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reaching Out; Serving Others</td>
<td>Witnessing and Proclaiming; Living and Sharing</td>
<td>A Just World</td>
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**Student Context**

Level Four students have a strong sense of justice. During this time in their development they need to be encouraged to identify how their actions can contribute towards making a difference to other people’s lives. Their decisions are strongly influenced by their peers and their self-esteem is partly determined by mastery of tasks.

This unit enables students to see how their actions for justice are part of their response to the call to share in the mission of Jesus.

- 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 Christianized.

- The understanding of Church and the understanding and practice of mission has 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 marginalized, that is, the poor, the afflicted, the oppressed, the captives (Luke 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 evangelism, 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, this unit explicitly focuses on Jesus, the reign of God and the call to mission. The aim of the unit is to develop a contemporary understanding and appreciation of mission, which is to realize more fully the reign of God (see Appendix 1).


**Scripture**

**Teacher and Student References (NRSV)**

**Lk 4: 16-21 The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth**
When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

**Mt 25:34-40 Judgement of the Nations**
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 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.’

**Mk 1:14-15 The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry**
Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

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**Suggested Assessment Tasks**

Assessment tasks for this unit may include:

**Outcome 1:** Support their understanding of mission by drawing on Scripture passages.
- Students reflect on Mt 25:34-40 and identify those within the community/world who they feel are the thirsty, hungry, naked or imprisoned and suggest one way of responding to the need.

**Outcome 2:** Identify ways in which they can continue the mission of Jesus.
- Respond to the statement ‘To be a missionary you have to go overseas’.

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

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**Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences**

**Focusing Activity:**

Read the book *Refugees* by David Millar, describe the plight of the ducks using the 5 Ws

- In small groups, research the work of one Social Justice organisation. Evaluate the effectiveness of the organisation. Does it live the teachings of Jesus? Encourage creativity in the presentation of the research – power point, posters, pamphlets, etc.
• Explore the social system in the time of Jesus, identifying the outcasts – poor, sinners, sick, non-Jews, uneducated.

• Look at the Catholic Church’s teaching on Justice. Learning Links to Justice. What is this teaching saying to us? What can I do?

• View the current Catholic Mission materials, www.catholicmission.org.au and discuss the work of Catholic mission.

• Mt 25:34-40 To PREPARE TO HEAR the Word - this gospel tells us that to be a true disciple we need to respond compassionately to people’s needs. This gospel confirms Jesus’ insistence of the non negotiability of justice, mercy and faith as defining factors of how Christians are called to live.

• Mt 25:34-40 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text from the Bible, students use the Creative Reflection from Wintour, R. Sacred Celebrations for ordinary time Year A pg 141 present this in a variety of forms.

• Mt 25:34-40 To RESPOND to the Word – brainstorm the many ways we can respond compassionately to people’s needs through justice, mercy and faith. Write these onto tokens and place in a container, each day choose from this container and act accordingly.

• Mt 25:34-40 To RESPOND to the Word – participate in school’s mission week activities.

• Prepare a prayer place with a large candle as the central focus. Place the Bible beside the candle open at Lk 4:16-21. Read the text and take time to reflect on the message. Have students place smaller candle on the focus as they read an intercession such as Lord Jesus may your Good News reach out to all. Thank you for … (here the students name the organisations they have learned about in the unit). Sing one of the suggested songs.

• Students answer a series of questions about why we, at Catholic schools, focus on raising money for people living in poverty throughout the world. Example questions: Why do we have a focus during October on raising money for people living in poverty? Why do we try to help others who are less fortunate? How do you think the people we help feel, knowing that we are trying to help them?

• Students write a response to the question. What is the Catholic mission? Discuss as a class as responses are shared.

• Our Mission. Link with our own baptismal call. Retell the story of the Commissioning of the Disciples. Do you think the commission was only for the eleven disciples? Why or why not? How could this mission also apply to us?

• Prayer – Christ Has No Body By St Teresa of Avila www.togetheratonealtar.catholic.edu.au/live/dsp-content.cfm?loadref=52 Students participate in a Meditation session, reflecting on the words of the prayer and on what is God’s call for them. Respond to the statement ’To be a missionary you have to go overseas’. USE DEBATE worksheet

• How do we live our lives as Jesus taught? www.togetheratonealtar.catholic.edu.au/live/dsp-content.cfm?loadref=51 Using an octopus template, students show the eight ways that they can live their lives as Jesus taught.

• Using the song ’Who will speak?’ - Marty Haugan/Agape, students identify who in our world are the homeless, voiceless, poor etc. Rewrite the verses localising the words eg who will speak for those without friends.

• Learn Michael Mangan’s ’Justice and Freedom’ - True Colours Shine. Take particular note of the words. Suitable for prayer or at school assembly.

• Introduce and sing song: Be the change - True Colours Shine, Michael Mangan What does this mean? Unpack each part, How? Jesus gave us the dream - what would it look like in our home, school, world? Be the change - Motto Make a display - how does that look?

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 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Before Vatican II</th>
<th>Since Vatican II</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What is mission for?</strong></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, realized-and-eschatological.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To whom?</strong></td>
<td>Carried out for the benefit of the pagans abroad.</td>
<td>To the whole world in all its dimensions and arenas, including the cosmos, to all peoples whatever their religious faith.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>By whom?</strong></td>
<td>Mainly by priests, religious brothers, nuns, and specially-commissioned lay people, mostly from Europe and America.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>With whom?</strong></td>
<td>With the financial and spiritual support of the laity back home.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How?</strong></td>
<td>By planting the Church in these “mission fields”.</td>
<td>By personal witness and dialogue.</td>
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