

## Mission *im*Possible

### A Monthly Update on the preparations for the Parish Mission:

8<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

As you know we have been praying the Mission Prayer at Mass both in Christ the King and at Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale for a number of weeks now. Behind the scenes, the Mission Working Party has had numerous meetings to make the necessary preparations. The monthly coffee after Mass at 6 pm in Our Lady of the Assumption is one immediate fruit of that planning. Another is that some members of the Mission Working Party have begun discussions with Cardinal Wiseman about extending the Mission to the school.

In this first monthly update, you will find a profile of one of our Working Party Members, Rebecca Vu, and a reflection on Mission by Wendy Gasson. You can pray with Wendy specifically for the Mission outside Mass at the Prayer Meeting she hosts in her home on the First Friday of each month. Wendy sings in the choir at the 11.30 am Mass at OLAM so you can get further details from her then or you can contact Deacon Gary whose email address is in the weekly Newsletter.

#### *Meet a Missionary: Rebecca Vu*

Rebecca is married to Nam and has two young children. On Sunday Mornings, you will invariably find Rebecca and Nam and their family in the Side Chapel at the 10.00 Mass at Christ the King.

- How does a busy working Mother find time to join the Mission Working Party? *There is a lot of juggling going on but I'm very blessed to be able to work flexibly and I have amazing support from my husband with the children.*
- Why is being a member of the Mission Working Party important to you? *It's important to be able to share my personal relationship with God to others and especially represent young families of the parish as I understand the challenges we face getting to and being involved in the Church.*
- What do you most hope will be a fruit of the Mission? *Part of the mission would be to equip others to be more faithful but also look at barriers and how can we remove these. I am hoping we can achieve this for at least one person.*
- What would you say to encourage everyone to take an active part in the Mission? *The mission needs all sorts of people, we all have gifts/skills that can be used to serve God.*
- When you are not helping the Mission Working Party to plan the Mission, what do you do to relax? *I enjoy gardening and growing vegetables. I would eventually like some chickens or ducks and maybe even a wormery for composting!*

## Reflections on Mission: What exactly is it?

The word Mission has several definitions but one in particular stands out: "The vocation or calling of a religious organisation, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith." The Church teaches that this is not an optional extra for us as Catholic Christians. It is meant to be part of the fabric of our lives.

This mission or sending out into the world began with the Old Testament. Noah, Abraham, Moses, were each sent by God for a particular vocation: one to save humanity from a flood, one to become the Father of many nations, and one to bring the Children of Israel out of their 450 years of bondage in Egypt. Jesus, sent his disciples out in pairs, firstly, as an introduction to Jesus as he would himself be visiting these towns, but also as part of their ongoing instruction for the time when they would be sent not only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel but out into the then known world. Just like the apostles and other disciples to whom Jesus instructed to go and preach the Good News to all, He gives us the same command, "Go and make disciples of all the nations...".

Everything that Jesus taught his disciples and which in turn has been passed down to us, includes two very important commands, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" and the one that encapsulates it all "Love one another as I have loved you". The problem is, how do we show that love to everyone, we cannot emotionally love everyone we meet, but this is not about emotions, this is about wanting for others the same things that we want for ourselves, food, clean water, a roof overhead, a bed to sleep in and opportunities for education and employment, everything that the Church calls social justice.

But there is another love, one that goes even deeper. It is the thirst that Jesus had, and still has. It is the thirst for the salvation of souls. At our baptism not only did we die and rise with Christ, but we were given a great privilege. We were given the right to call God "Abba", as we became his adopted sons and daughters. As brothers and sisters of Jesus, we must also share in his longing to bring his love and salvation to those who not only have not yet heard the Good News, or who for whatever reason have turned away from God.

Mission is not just about knocking on doors, giving out leaflets etc. Some will be given that task, but there are other tasks that we might not think about. Perhaps we could offer to meet and greet people as they come for Mass, we might think about becoming a Minister of the Word or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, why not join the choir or be involved in arranging or volunteering to help out with refreshments after Mass. You may like to join in the monthly Mission Prayer group, for everything we do needs prayer. The most important thing is that each one of us has a part to play. It's not enough to sit back and let others get on with it, we each have a responsibility to be involved. God has given each of us so much. It's time for us to share his abundant gifts with others.

Wendy Gasson