

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Small Thursday Island school kicks some big goals for Socktober

The latest edition of Catholic Mission's flagship magazine, *Mission Today*, has hit shelves this week, with the organisation's Socktober community engagement initiative taking the spotlight.

Gracing the cover of the popular publication are two girls from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School on Thursday Island, which raised a total of over \$1,500 for Catholic Mission's projects in Ghana through the Socktober initiative.

It was one of over 45 schools across eastern Australia that participated in the new Socktober format, which involves a penalty shootout between participants to raise funds for projects around the world.

'*Mission Today* is our flagship publication and it showcases a wide array of our work for mission around the world and here in Australia,' said Sonja Krivacic, Catholic Mission's Community Engagement Innovator. 'Socktober is a big part of this latest issue, as it continues to grow as a very effective schools engagement initiative.'

'We saw that in November on Thursday Island. Though it is not a big school with a lot of resources, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart put in a mighty effort to raise funds for those less fortunate.'

The *Mission Today* magazine shares that story, linking readers to a short film about the school community's journey through Socktober, from finding out about that they would be taking part, to registering online and gaining sponsors for the goals each student would kick.

[WATCH: Spirituality in sport on Thursday Island](#)

The film chronicles the school's Socktober Event Day, with a liturgy in the parish church, student workshops on mission and life in Africa, traditional song and dance and, of course, the penalty shootout activity.

Donovan is one of the year two students at Sacred Heart. He was the school's top fundraiser and he says he was proud to kick goals for kids just like him in Ghana. 'It makes me feel good. I like to help the kids in Ghana.'

For the 120 students at this small Thursday Island school, there were more important things than dollar amounts. 'The fact that our children here have embraced Socktober so beautifully shows that this is what we are called to do as a Catholic school,' said Majella Lynch-Harlow, Principal at Sacred Heart.

'We're all the same, right across the world, and I think it says a lot about our own school and Catholic education that we are encouraged to reach out to people most in need.'

The *Mission Today* magazine covers the story in a double-page spread, as well as including updates from Catholic Mission's work in the field, stories of community engagement from back home, and a pull-out poster.

To order your copy, or to read the online edition, head to catholicmission.org.au/missiontoday or phone 1800 257 296.

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