



*For immediate release*  
**Monday, 9 November 2020**

**MEDIA RELEASE: The gift of education, a “golden opportunity” to help break the cycle of poverty.**

Catholic Mission has launched its annual Christmas Appeal, focusing on the work of the Catholic Church in Ethiopia and supporting the education of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Partnering with The Lideta Catholic Cathedral School, in the country’s capital, Addis Ababa, a scholarship program has been created to ensure that children who are orphaned or whose parents cannot afford to send them to school, are able to access quality education.

“For the students, this is a golden opportunity to access a scholarship to one of the best schools in the country,” says Sr Carmen Sammut SJA, who manages the scholarship program at The Lideta Catholic Cathedral School.

“The ethical formation of the school impacts students positively and helps them to become good citizens, educated and give back to the community.”

Many families are struggling in Ethiopia's capital city, due to a high cost of living and limited job opportunities, and many parents are unable to cover basic costs such as school fees for their children.

The Catholic Mission Christmas Appeal will help disadvantaged children access education this coming school year.

“By supporting the Catholic Mission Christmas Appeal, we can reach out to those families in need and provide children with scholarships, so they do not miss out on vital education,” says Catholic Mission National Director Fr Brian Lucas.

Currently studying in Grade 6, 11-year-old Kaleb has seen how the Lideta Catholic Cathedral School scholarships have helped his family, his older sister continuing her studies though to university. Kaleb hopes to follow her footsteps to success. Kaleb's mother struggles to cover the school fees for her children, but the scholarships have helped to ease the burden.

“Education is vital for children from disadvantaged backgrounds to help them create bright futures and break out of the cycle of poverty,” says Fr Brian.

“Kaleb is just one of many children at the Lideta Catholic Cathedral School who can access education through the support of the schools' scholarship program.”

“The generous spirit of Catholic Mission donors towards sustaining this program, and many other similar programs, reach out to children in need around the world. The gift of education is a gift for life.”

Principal of Lideta Catholic Cathedral School, Father Tekle Mekonnen is passionate about the work of the school supporting the education of children in need in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

“We promote integral human promotion and at the same time we strive for educational excellence, he says.

“We want to be a school with quality education and at the same time, integrate Christian values and principles. That is our main objective.”

**Learn more about how you can partner with the Lideta Catholic Cathedral School in Ethiopia this Christmas and give the gift of education to those in need at [catholicmission.org.au](http://catholicmission.org.au).**

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**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. Founded in Sydney in 1847, 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 take action for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.