

For immediate release

Thursday, 27 August 2026

A Century of Mission: Building a Future for Children in Malawi

As the Church approaches the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday, Catholic Mission reflects on what one hundred years of shared mission has meant for communities around the world. This centenary year, Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme *"One in Christ, united in mission"*, a call to recognise that mission is not the work of individuals alone, but of an entire Church moving together in faith. The theme speaks to a unity that goes beyond agreement or belonging; it is an active, lived commitment to bringing God's love into the world alongside one another. As Pope Leo XIV describes it, mission is *"born of love, lived in love and leading to love."*

In 2022, floods and cyclones tore through rural Malawi, destroying homes, washing away farmland, and forcing entire communities to relocate. Families were resettled far from the land and livelihoods they once knew, and in the aftermath, access to education became increasingly difficult for many.

In remote communities across Malawi, distance, cost and limited resources are significant barriers to education. Children like Yamikani*, who lives with a physical disability, walk several kilometres each day to reach their current school. For families still rebuilding after the 2022 disasters, these barriers are compounded further.

Fr Matthew Semba, Director of Social Services for the Chikwawa Diocese, has been working alongside these communities for a number of years. Together with the Church in Malawi, he is overseeing the construction of St Peter's Nyamikuta Primary School in Kampira, bringing education closer to the children and families in the area. Alongside classrooms, the school will provide nutritious meals, basic educational supplies, and shade trees to help protect the community against extreme weather.

"This project encourages them to seek something bigger, to look forward to something greater," shared Fr Matthew Semba, Project Coordinator.

By investing in local education infrastructure, the Church is working to ensure that children like Yamikani, who hopes to one day become a driver and earn an income to support himself, have access to the foundations they need to build a future.

As we mark 100 years of World Mission Sunday, Catholic Mission invites parishes, families and communities across Australia to journey with us this World Mission Month. To learn more about our work in Malawi and how you can get involved, visit

catholicmission.org.au/malawi

*Name changed to protect identity

ENDS

For further information:

Astrid Delayre
Senior Communications Officer

Tel: 0458 489 877

Email:
media@catholicmission.org.au

Website:
catholicmission.org.au

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. 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 act for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.