A large group of young people, mostly teenagers and young adults, are posing for a group photo in a church hall. They are arranged in several rows, some sitting on the floor, others standing. Many are making peace signs or other hand gestures. In the background, a large wooden cross is mounted on the wall, and a whiteboard is visible. To the left, there is a drum set. The overall atmosphere is lively and communal.

# *YOUNG PEOPLE: YOU ARE THE CHURCH OF TODAY*

Resource 1 – What is mission?



“We all have the duty to do good.”

- Pope Francis

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## ***Scripture Passage – James 2:14-18***

*“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.”*



## SONG

### God of This City

*Chris Tomlin*

You're the God of this city  
You're the King of these people  
You're the Lord of this nation  
You are

You're the light in this darkness  
You're the Hope to the hopeless  
You're the Peace to the restless  
You are

There is no one like our God  
There is no one like our God

For greater things have yet to come  
And greater things are still to be done in  
this city  
Greater things have yet to come  
And greater things are still to be done in  
this city

## PRAYERS:

**You are calling me** (*from YOUCAT Youth Prayer Book*)

I believe you are calling me to happiness, Lord,  
to the new life, to the heaven that begins on earth,  
to a state of life, to a mission in the world,  
to people and to a community that reaches up to heaven.

I believe, Lord, that you are calling me,  
yet often I do not hear your call.  
Let me hear you and understand you in your Word.  
Entice me, so that I may seek and find you.  
Awaken my longing, so that I may receive you  
wherever two or three are gathered in your name.  
Send me people who tell me the truth about you,  
so that I may hear from you the truth about myself,  
about happiness, new life and the heaven  
that begins on earth.  
Amen.

O gracious and loving God, You work  
everywhere reconciling, loving, and  
healing Your people and Your creation.  
In your Son and through the power of  
Your Holy Spirit, You invite each of us to  
join You in Your work. We ask You to  
form us more and more in Your image  
and likeness, that our eyes will be fully  
opened to the needy, the afflicted, the  
oppressed and the mission in the world.  
Then, God, into our communities, our  
nation, and the world, send us to serve  
with Christ, taking risks to give life and  
hope to all people and all of your  
creation. We ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

*(from The Sunday Mass for World Mission Sunday)*





# Faith and Works

## CREATIVE PRAYER

**Materials:** a piece of tin foil per person

### Opening Prayer:

Loving Father,  
We know you have called us to go out. To be missionaries. To serve our world by serving our country and our communities. We pray that we may be open to your call, today and every day, and that we may have the courage to go out, to reach out to the people and the needs around us.

### Scripture – *James 2:14-26*:

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works.

Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

### Reflection:

In our reading today James’ main message tells us “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.” The works James speaks of are not done apart from faith but done in faith; not done instead of faith but because of faith. This is the essence of mission, to live out our faith by tending to the various needs of the world. Using a piece of tin foil, create a symbol of what mission is to you. Share between groups of 3-4 then with the bigger group if time allows.

**Closing prayer:** Song – ‘Here I am Lord’ or Prayer – Send me, Lord (*from YOUCAT Prayer Book*):

Send me, Lord, wherever you please,  
For when I am sent by you, then I am quite sure  
That you will help me – in whatever situation I find myself –  
To fulfil what you ask. Amen.



# Got em'!

## SESSION 1 - ICE-BREAKER

**Materials:** A long rope, a few soft balls/kush balls

**Safety reminders:**

- Check if anyone who is participating in this activity has any injuries that can be aggravated further. If yes, they can choose to sit out of the activity or they can be given a role that will allow them to still participate in the activity (eg. Linesperson, etc.)
- Make sure that the game is played in an open area, ideally outdoors on the grass.

**Dynamics:**

1. Using the rope, make a circle at least 4m in diameter.
2. Select between 2-4 people to start outside the circle and instruct the rest to go inside the circle.
3. Starting off give 1 ball to anyone on the outside of the circle. (Circle size, starting group size and ball number shall be increased/decreased discretionary to group size.)
4. The point of the game is for the group on the outside to tag everyone in the inside of the circle. The catch is those on the outside are only allowed to stay on the outside and only the person/s holding the ball are able to tag someone.

5. Those on the inside should try to avoid being tagged and must stay within the boundaries of the circle. Once tagged, they then join those on the outside.
6. To make the game harder in later rounds add more balls to start off.

**Debrief:**

- Was it easier/harder or slower/faster with more people on the outside? Why do you think this is?
- How was it different when more balls were added?
- As Bishop Pat has said, this is “The Mission of sharing our faith.” In this game the ball represents our faith, and we can only share it (by tagging people) if we have it.
- Notice that when there are more people tagging people, it becomes easier and faster to tag everyone. In the same way if there are many of us working together to share our faith we can share it to more people.



# What is mission?

## SESSION 1 – ACTIVITY 1

**Materials:** A3 paper, whiteboard, whiteboard pens, felts, props box, bible verse cut outs (see appendix)

### Dynamics:

1. Split the group into smaller groups of 5 (can vary). Ask them in their groups to brainstorm what they think mission is and to write down as many ideas as they can. Each group will then present to the bigger group. The activity-leader will record on a large piece of paper or whiteboard what the groups have come up with.
2. Give the groups another piece of paper along with a bible passage. Each group should get a different verse. The groups will then have 3 minutes to brainstorm the verse that they've gotten and how this relates to mission in the light of Jesus.
3. After this give the groups 5-10 mins to prepare a little skit that relates to the verse they got and what they brainstormed about mission in light of Jesus. The groups will then present their skit and also a short explanation about their skit.

### Debrief:

- How did your answers/brainstorm ideas differ before and after we gave you the bible verses?
- We can't go out to do Jesus' work if we don't know what He calls us to do.
- "We are His followers, His disciples. We all share co-responsibility for that mission. This mission to transform the world with Christian values is already seen when we share faith at work, befriend co-workers, offer to pray for those in trouble, stand up and speak out against injustices, and volunteer for all kinds of good works. I commend these activities as an on-going, important part of the Mission." (Fit for Mission, pg. 2)



# Mission Possible

## SESSION 1 – ACTIVITY 2

**Materials:** Spoons, bowls, balls (ping pong), simple puzzles, ropes to use to tie, plastic cups, cross.

### Dynamics:

1. Individuals will be given a set of challenges which they have to complete within the allocated time (e.g. 60 sec).
2. **Challenge 1:** There will be 2 bowls (possibly 2-5metres apart), one with balls in it and the other empty. The task is to move all balls from one bowl to the other using only one spoon.
3. **Challenge 2:** Participants must complete a puzzle.
4. **Challenge 3:** Participants will be partnered with one another and will have to run from one place to another three-legged race style.
5. **Challenge 4:** Participants will grouped equally and will be given plastic cups (already stacked) per group. The task is for the team to create a “well” using the cups.
6. **Challenge 5:** The groups will gather on one side of the room. On the other side of the venue will be a symbol of Jesus (eg. Cross). Using only their clothes and/or their personal items each group must create a line/bridge which connects from the starting side of the venue to the opposite side where the symbol of Jesus is.

### Debrief:

- How do you think each challenge relates to mission?
- The Church of Jesus has a mission. This mission can be in the form of different things spanning different needs but regardless of what it is, the mission is to tend to these needs or complete the tasks to the best of our abilities. Examples in light of Jesus:
  - Challenge 1: Feeding the hungry (e.g. Peter as fisherman).
  - Challenge 2: Healing the sick; physically, spiritually, etc. (e.g. Luke as physician).
  - Challenge 3: In our mission we are not alone. We may see being with people as a nuisance or hindrance but it can also be a blessing knowing that we are not alone in our mission. (e.g. Bartholomew and Peter always mentioned together).
  - Challenge 4: Give drink to the thirsty, physically or spiritually. One person with one cup may be able to help one person, but if we work together on a common goal we can help more people (e.g. building a well).
  - Challenge 5: The end goal of our mission is for us, and those we hope to lead, be closer to Jesus. This may mean going to unfamiliar places or being in unfamiliar circumstances but it is important for us to use whatever we have, either belongings or more often our gifts and talents, to be disciples of Christ, working for and alongside others for His mission.



# *Extend Yourself*

## SESSION 2 - ICE-BREAKER

### Dynamics:

1. Each person will be given a lolly that has a wrapper. Tell them that they can eat the lolly but don't do anything to the wrapper (i.e. throw away, rip or crumple up). Alternatively, can use memo block paper or post-it notes
2. Ask the participant to rip their wrapper to make it one very long continuous piece. The person with the longest piece wins.

### Debrief:

- How can you relate this activity to mission?
- We are all called to be missionaries. We do not have to become a different person; we are called to be missionaries with our own gifts, talents, personalities, uniqueness. To go on mission, however, does require us to extend ourselves. To use what we have to reach out to others and do what we have to/are called to do.







# Mission Kit Infomercial

## SESSION 2 – ACTIVITY 1

**Materials:** Pens or felts, paper

**Dynamics:**

1. The participants will each be given a piece of A4 paper. Ask the participants to fold their piece of paper 4 times and unfold it so that they have 16 small sections. Then ask everyone to write one gift/talent that they have in each of the sections. If they find it hard, encourage them by asking them what they think their parents, siblings, friends would say their gifts are. They can also help each other.
2. Then ask the participants to rip their paper into the 16 individual sections. Instruct them to look at all the gifts they've written and put aside 4 of them that they think are the least important or not their strongest gifts. Once they've done this ask them to put aside another 4. Finally ask them put aside another 2.
3. The 6 gifts that they are left with will be their "mission kit"; the gifts and talents that they have to offer and can use to do their mission.
4. Finally, participants will take turns on "selling" their mission kits in the form of an 30-second infomercial. They will explain what each item is and why they believe each is essential in their mission.

**Debrief:**

- Was it hard to think of 16 gifts that you have?
- Were the gifts you were left with for you mission kits the first ones you wrote down?
- What kind of mission are you preparing for with your kits?
- A big part of Bishop Pat's Fit for Mission pastoral plan is for you to "Go Out". In knowing now what the mission means it is important for us to know what we have to offer – our gifts and talents – to this mission. Some of your gifts may be used in your faith community. Others may be used when you go out.
- Our gifts are the things that we are equipped with to "go out" and sometimes other people can recognise gifts that we didn't realise we have.
- These gifts are what we offer and they are also ways in which God can work through us to touch other people. We must trust in God and believe that the Holy Spirit can use us and our gifts to do our mission, to reach out and touch others.



# Capture the Flag

## SESSION 2 – ACTIVITY 2

**Materials:** Flags with words on them (e.g. Evangelise, Love, Peace, etc. – see appendix) – laminated A4 papers

### Safety reminders:

- Check if anyone who is participating in this activity has any injuries that can be aggravated further. If yes, they can choose to sit out of the activity or they can be given a role that will allow them to still participate (eg. Linesperson, etc.)
- Make sure that the game is played in an open area, ideally outdoors on the grass.

### Dynamics:

#### Part 1 -

1. Group will be split into two even teams. Each team will stand on opposite sides of the room/court/large space. Each team member will be numbered, so each person should have a person on the other team of the same number.
2. In between the teams there will be flags with words on them that are important components of our mission (e.g. Evangelise, Love, Peace etc.)
3. Numbers and words will be called out (for example, leader will call out “3 – evangelise, 6 – courage, 8 – build trust”). The people on both teams that are those numbers will run to try and capture the flag that has been called out (3s will try and get flag that has ‘evangelise’ on it) before the opposing person and bring it back to their team’s side. If one person gets the flag first, the opposing person can try to tag the person with the flag wherein then they must drop the flag. They can pick it up again but the opposing member can also pick up the flag. Each flag brought back to the team base counts as 1 point. The team with the most after 10 rounds (variable) wins.

#### Part 2 -

1. Give each team a set of all the flags. In their teams, ask them to sort the words into order of priority – from which one they think is the most important in our mission to the least important. Both teams will then explain why they have ordered the words the way that they did.

### Debrief:

#### Part 1 -

- How did it feel when your number was called out? Were you hesitant or did you just go for it? Why?
- What did you do when you were tagged?
- We are all called to go on mission and most times this requires us to go out of our comfort zone.
- Some things may stop or hinder us from trying to accomplish our mission but we must remain vigilant and persevere.

#### Part 2 –

- Was it easy/hard to order the words? Why?
- Why did you choose this order/structure? (Rather than in order some might put it in a circle)
- Do you think the way you’ve ordered it is the right/only way to do it?
- These words are all part of mission. The teams will most likely order them differently. The idea is that there is really no right or wrong way to order these words but that they are all important components of our mission.

# There's something about Mary

## Ka Waiata

Ka waiata ki a Maria  
Hine I whakaae  
Whakameatia mai  
Te whare tangata.

Hine pūrotu a  
Hine ngākau  
Hine rangimārie

Ko te Whaea  
Ko te whaea  
O te ao

Let us sing to Mary,  
The girl who said "Yes  
let it be as you say, that  
I become  
the house of mankind."

A simple girl  
A strong-hearted girl  
A quiet girl.

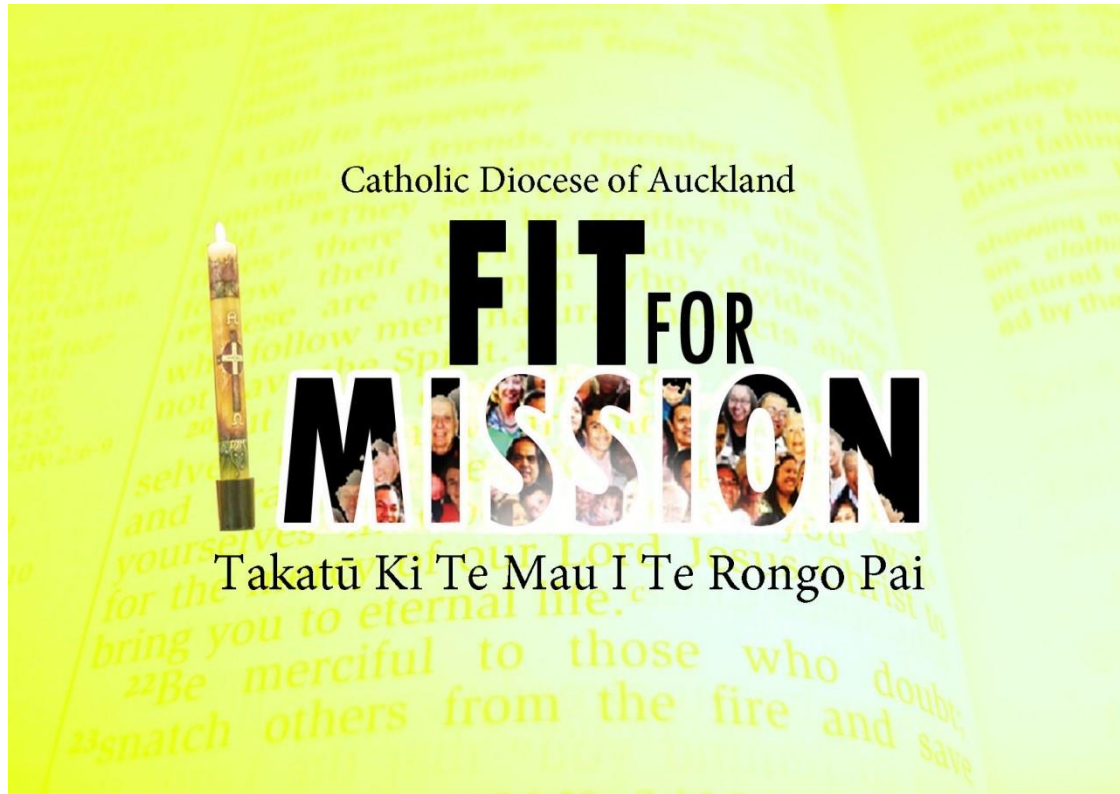
The Mother of Jesus,  
and the mother  
of the whole world



Mary's faith and example is a model for Missionaries throughout the world. She not only shows the need for prayer, as she consistently "*ponders*" what she is seeing and experiencing throughout the life of Jesus, but also reaches outside herself and serves. Even more, in her simplicity in her service and character, she is still able to be a missionary which can inspire us all to be like her. It doesn't take big actions to be a great missionary, but a big heart for the mission.

# Fit For Mission prayer cards

## TOOL



(Physical postcards available at the ACYM office)



# Reflecting on mission | what can I do?

Going to the next level



## Learn more:

Why do we pass on faith to others?

11. We hand on the faith because Jesus commands us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.: (Mt 28:19). [91]

Why is the Church called apostolic?

137. The Church is called apostolic because she was founded by the apostles, holds fast to their Tradition and is governed by their successors. [857-860, 869, 877]

## Going deeper:

Read *Decree Ad Gentes on the mission activity of the Church*:

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_decree\\_19651207\\_ad-gentes\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651207_ad-gentes_en.html)

[bracket numbers refer to Catechism of the Catholic Church]



## Do more:

How can you (or your faith group):

- Foster habits and forms of prayer to sustain mission?
- Relate to people different from ourselves?
- Collaborate with others in such a way that shared mission becomes the norm?
- Use new technologies to communicate?

[Source: *Fit for Mission* Pastoral Plan]



## Live more:

**As a group can you plan and implement one mission activity that speaks to ONE of the following:**

- Mission in pairs or small groups or use new technologies to communicate? The goal is to assist with:
  - Feeding the hungry
  - Comforting or supporting the sick (or those in need)
  - Giving drink to the thirsty, physically or spiritually
- How can you share about this experience with your wider faith community (eg parish, school or ethnic community)?

# APPENDIX

## Session 1 Activity 1

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But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (Jeremiah 29:7)

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I have received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God’s grace. (*St Paul speaking to Ephesian leaders*; Acts 20:24)

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ. (*St Paul speaking to Gentiles*; Ephesians 3:8)

# APPENDIX

## Session 2 Activity 2

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### **Words to put on flags (actual flags to follow):**

- Evangelise
- Love
- Discipleship
- Courage
- Build trust
- Reach out
- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Empower
- Communication

# Evangelise



Love

# Discipleship

# Courage

**Build trust**



# Reach out

# Collaboration



# Leadership

# Empower

# Communication