

Last Monday 7 October marked the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and October is observed in the Church as a Marian month with a special focus on the Rosary. Many of you pray the Rosary regularly as personal prayer, certainly a decade or two. The Hail Mary is one of the best known prayers amongst Catholics. Many of you also are members of Rosary prayer groups in your parishes. Can I ask all of you in this month that, amongst all the important things for which you seek Mary's assistance, you hold up to her your parish, this Diocese and the Catholic Church in Australia, especially as it advances in preparation for the Plenary Council.

As explained in the previous Bulletin, October is mission month and this October has been declared by Pope Francis as an Extraordinary Month of Mission. The link between Mary and Mission is no accident. Mary, under the title of Help of Christians, is patroness of the Diocese. She has a 'track record' for helping Christians live out their faith in everyday circumstances, especially difficult ones. If we let her, she can help us be true to our Christian mission - what Jesus calls us to do in our lives.

Next weekend our Parishes will be holding the annual Catholic Mission Church Appeal. This year we are invited to partner with the Church in Ghana, as they provide ongoing protection and development of children who are vulnerable.

In line with traditional beliefs, in parts of Ghana, children born with a disability, or whose mother passes during childbirth, are considered to be 'spiritchildren', and thus at risk of being harmed or killed. The Church in Ghana is dedicated to protecting these children and educating families to ensure every child has a chance to live a full life. Next week you will learn more about Sister Stan and the Nazareth Home for God's Children, which is leading these efforts in the diocese of Yendi.

You will be offered the opportunity to personally partner with the Church in Ghana as a monthly giving partner, with all gifts specifically directed to life-saving projects for children in need. I would encourage you to please support this appeal.

FREECALL: 1800 257 296 or www.catholicmission.org.au/ghana