



# Speakers' Notes and Tips



Below you will find an example of a Parish Appeal Talk. You are welcome to use these notes as is, or as guidance for giving your presentation.

## Begin with Mission

Today, I want to take you into the heart of missionary work in Malawi, where the Church is carrying Christ's love to children in need.

At the centre of this work is diocesan priest Fr Matthew Semba, who believes deeply that, as he says, *"any human being is body and soul, every one of us is an image of God, and even Jesus himself said, let the children, let everyone come to God"*.

Through the Church, lives are changing. Hope is growing. And by partnering today with Catholic Mission, you can be part of this incredible transformation.

## Storytelling

### Yamikani's Story

For many of our children, access to education is something we rarely question.

It might be a short ride on the bus, a quick drop off before work, arriving at school with a full stomach and ready to learn.

But for many children around the world, even getting to school can be a daily challenge.

In rural Malawi, some children walk up to 10 kilometres just to reach a classroom.

For a young boy named Yamikani\*, who lives with a physical disability, that journey is even harder.

Each day he walks along a long unpaved road with heavy traffic, his legs aching before lessons even begin.

Sometimes the pain becomes too much that his mother, Rute, follows behind him, so she can carry him on her back.

Many children simply stay home because hunger has left them too weak to make the journey.

This is where the Church is stepping in.

With your support through Catholic Mission, a new primary school is being built closer to where these families now live.

It will mean children like Yamikani can travel safely to school, receive ongoing education, and begin to dream again.

Fr Matthew says education is not just about learning, it is about giving children hope for a future beyond survival.

*\*Name changed for privacy*

## Call to Action

This World Mission Month, Pope Leo XIV calls us to be **'One in Christ, United in Mission'**, inviting us to stand with communities around the world simply because every person is precious in God's sight.

Today, your gift can help build classrooms, provide nutritious meals, and ensure children have the books and supplies they need to learn.

In front of you, you'll find an appeal envelope.

- Please take a moment to pick it up.
- Scan the QR code, fill in your details, or visit [catholicmission.org.au/united](https://catholicmission.org.au/united) to give today.

Your generosity is more than a donation.

It is a sign to children like Yamikani that they are not alone, that the Church stands with them, and that God comes to them through others.

**Thank you, and God bless you.**

## Tips for Speakers

- **Display the appeal poster in the church and on the pulpit during the appeal weekend.**
- Place one envelope per person on every pew at all Masses, along with a pencil for parishioners to fill out the envelope.
- **Use the suggested notes above to support the appeal video during each Mass on the appeal weekend.**
- Ensure a clear flow: Begin with mission, introduce real people, and end with a strong call to action.
- **Request parishioners to pick up the appeal envelope, fill out their details, and return the envelope to a collection point to make a donation today. Alternatively, they can donate online at [catholicmission.org.au/united](https://catholicmission.org.au/united) or use the QR code on the envelope.**
- Encourage parishioners to fill out their details so we can receipt their donations and keep them informed on how they have made a difference.
- **Thank parishioners for their time, their prayers, and their generous gifts.**