

Winners of the 2026 ‘Design the Mission Box Contest’

2026 marks the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday being made a global event by Pope Pius XI. It marks a century of Catholic prayer, global solidarity, and financial support for the Pope’s missionary endeavours around the globe, and especially in nurturing and sustaining "young churches" and local communities in developing territories where the Catholic faith is new, impoverished, or experiencing persecution, until they can become self-sufficient. Around the world, funds are collected to support the Pope’s missionary endeavours. In New Zealand, that is done under the two charities acting for TPMS, namely **MissioNZ** and **Missio-Aotearoa**.



In 2024, the present National Director of The Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS), Fr Michael Pui, re-introduced “Mission-Box” in Schools and some parishes as a means to raise awareness among young Catholics. The box acts as a double focal point, that of ‘faith raising’ and ‘fund raising’.

2026 also marks the *second* year of the running of the Contest for students to design the “Mission-Box”. The contest requires the students to design 3 sides of the box and to incorporate the theme (and logo) chosen by Pope Leo XIV for 2026;

“One in Christ, United in Mission”

The contest was open to both Primary and Secondary Catholic Schools, but it was also extended to home-schooled children this year. Fr Michael was very pleased to receive nearly triple the number of entries from the year before, including two from home-schoolers. The winning entries were judged by an independent panel of educators who had great fun and joy appreciating the creativity of the entrants. They judged the winners for 2026 to be;

- **Primary School:** Vivian Nguyen (Year 7/8), St Joseph’s School, Papanui, Christchurch
- **Secondary School:** Angel Siju (Year 9), Sacred Heart College, Napier

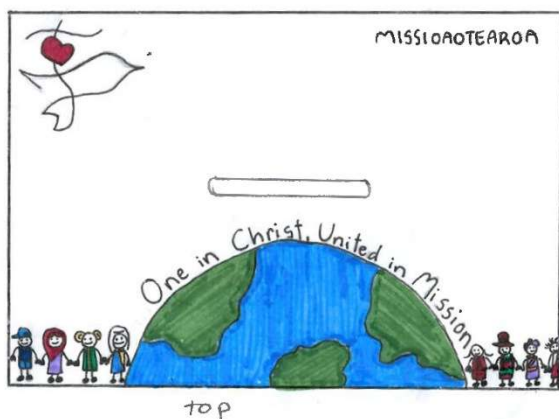
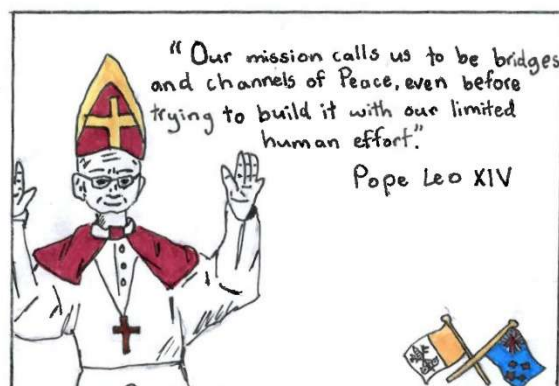
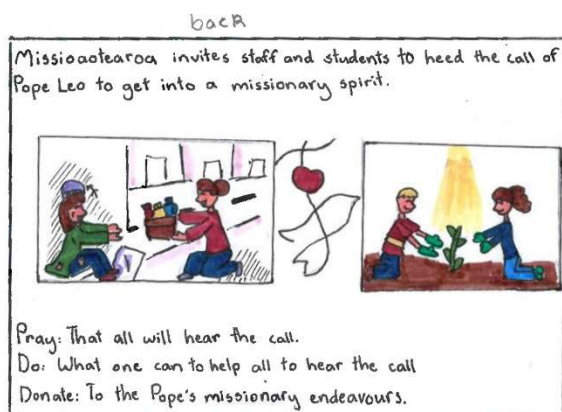
They won prizes of \$100 and \$150, respectively, including a certificate. Although it was not part of the contest prize, Fr Michael has decided to gift each entry a “Mission Rosary”. The beads for each decade have different colours representing the five continents supported by the TPMS. It was introduced by the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who, in his time, was the TPMS’ National Director for the USA. He is about to be beatified on 24 September this year.



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N.B. 1) *The actual design of the Mission-Box for 2026 may not necessarily incorporate the designs of the winning entries.*
 2) *Heads-Up. For 2027: Possibly a “Design a Poster Contest” for Mission Sunday*

WINNERS 2026



Primary School: Vivian Nguyen
 (Year 7/8), St Joseph's School,
 Papanui, Christchurch

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