

Make Jesus Real

DECEMBER 2018
BULLETIN



GREETINGS FOLKS ...

What a HUGE year it has been for MJR!

I have been honoured to expand the message right across Tasmania and to hear how Mitch and so many other enthusiastic teachers are also passionately delivering it throughout Australia. To have been able to work with the wonderful Gemma Thomson from WA to produce MJR 24/7 has also been so fulfilling.

Recently I trialled some of the MJR 24/7 Secondary Topics and asked the students from Years 6 and 7 the following questions:

- What do you think of MJR?
- Should it continue into High School?
- How would you improve the MJR message?

Here is a selection of their answers:

I find the lessons really motivating and inspiring. They teach me to work hard and follow my dreams. I think these types of lessons will be more beneficial in high school.

I would want to like to keep doing MJR because it always makes me happy and makes me feel good about myself.

MJR is a great way to learn what Jesus did and how he did it, because you can do it yourself.

It has great messages and life lessons that helps everyone in life.

People start to get moody in high school and a lot of them become turkeys so I think we should continue MJR to help us continue high school without turning into turkeys.

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AND SOME MORE GREAT FEEDBACK ...

I then asked for ideas on **How to improve the MJR message ...**

*More catchphrases!
e.g. re-legend (religion+legend).*

There could be a day or two when all MJR schools come together and have big lessons with other schools and discuss things.

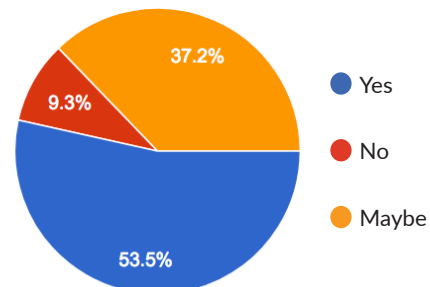
I think MJR is great how it is and I really think that it should go all the way to grade 12. To really get the MJR message across we should be having more MJR lessons. Instead of focusing all about the program should also be focusing on basic life skills.

I think that it helps me to find Jesus in my life plus gives me lots to focus on as I am growing up.

It would be cool to have a digital MJR. Like an app that has lots of activity's and cool lessons maybe for people in more remote areas e.g. podcast.

Below is a diagram to representing the responses to the question:

Would you enjoy continuing MJR into high school?



Wow! We are definitely on the right track!

Marty

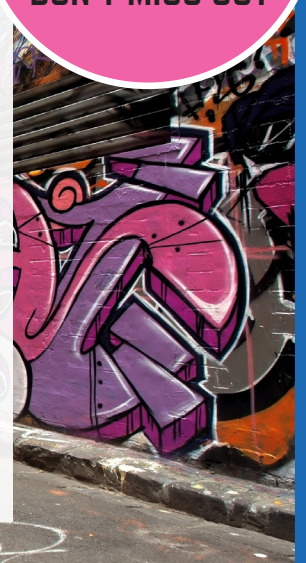


2019 MJR CONFERENCE MELBOURNE MARCH 21 & 22, 2019

[CLICK OR TAP TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

[CLICK OR TAP TO VIEW THE DRAFT PROGRAM](#)

**EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL
ENDS 20 DECEMBER
DON'T MISS OUT**



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2019 HIGHLIGHTS FROM MITCH

I am in a unique position as I see MJR happening in many Dioceses, both in a BIG and small way. A selection of my highlights ...

1

Carmen Walsh at CEO Wilcannia Forbes, explained to me how they have an MJR person in every school and once a term they all have a phone hook-up to swap ideas. Every 2nd year they come together and have a two day MJR Conference in Forbes. So effective!

2

Di-Anne Rowan, Head of RE in the Rockhampton Diocese, has asked each school to have an "MJR Champion", and those people are supported by the Diocese to come to the Melbourne Conference. Catherine Simmons was appointed by the CEO to support schools. Wonderful to have that support from a Catholic Education Office, as it makes such a difference.

3a

Eugene Lee, Principal, St Denis Catholic Primary School, Joondanna WA, has, over the last nine years organised many schools to come together in Perth for in-services on MJR. Great things are also happening in the Bunbury Diocese, Kalgoorlie, Albany and Perth.

4

Personally, my highlight is going into classes to see and hear kids coming up to me at the end of a lesson, looking me in the eye and saying, a genuine thanks for coming into the class, and that the lessons made sense to them. The same with the teachers, with many saying, "You taught me 13 years ago and I still have my MJR book and the Green Card".

3b

Laura Avery, Head of RE in NT in Darwin, organised cluster meetings with seven schools. The dots are differently joining in NT, as interest and enthusiasm is really growing and spreading.

5

Finally, this blew me away at **St Johns in Richmond, Tasmania ...**

My nephew, Luke Mitchell's two sons, Sid and Otto were born 22 weeks premature. At the time things were very touch and go. I asked the class to continue to pray for them. Today, 8 months later, I walked into the room and they wanted to know how Otto and Sid were going, as they have been praying daily for them. Their prayers have been answered, as both Sid, Otto, mum Zoe and dad Luke, are one very grateful, happy family, as both boys are strong and well.

Thanks Mel and your Grade 3 & 4 class at St Johns – the power of prayer!

Cheers

Mitch

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TASSIE TRAVELS ...



Marty teaching Year 6 students from **Sacred Heart College, New Town Tasmania** .

We were concentrating on anxieties the students may have about high school.

Students from **Sacred Heart Catholic School, Geeveston Tasmania** on Bruny Island doing an MJR leadership course.



The students from **St Finn Barr's Catholic Primary School, Launceston** are making coin lines in the shape of cows, to raise funds for drought relief.

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GOING TO YOUR HEART ROOM

Nicky Holloway, Year 3 teacher from **St Marys College, Hobart**, has set up a special *Heart Room** in the corner of her classroom and has shared the story behind its creation ...

"In recent years, our lives seem to have become busier. It became apparent to me that schools need a quiet space for all students, especially those who have Autism Spectrum Disorder or other conditions, that are negatively effected by constant noise and distraction. We began creating a mindful space in our classroom.

Our *Heart Room* is a place where we can practise mindful activities like finger knitting, creating mandalas and reading beautiful prayer cards. It is strongly connected to the *Spirit of Jesus* program and is a place where we can reflect on the *Spirit of Jesus* in our lives. Our crucifix, which is made of drift wood, is the focus of our *Heart Room*. Heart Cards identify the values that are embedded in the *Spirit of Jesus* program.

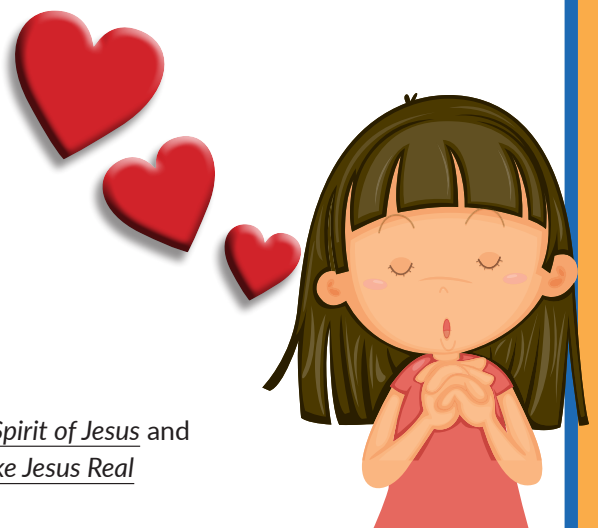
The kids love going into their *Heart Room* and after going in, they write in the journal section of their book with:

'I saw the *Spirit of Jesus* when....!'

Rosemary O'Rourke, a student teacher and artist, was inspired by the idea of our *Heart Room* concept and was instrumental in the design and creation of our *Heart Room*. We are extremely grateful that she helped to create a wonderful space for all students at St Mary's College to reflect on the *Spirit of Jesus* in our lives."



Nicky and some of her students in the special *Heart Room* in the corner of her classroom.



*See p72 of *Spirit of Jesus* and p111 of *Make Jesus Real*

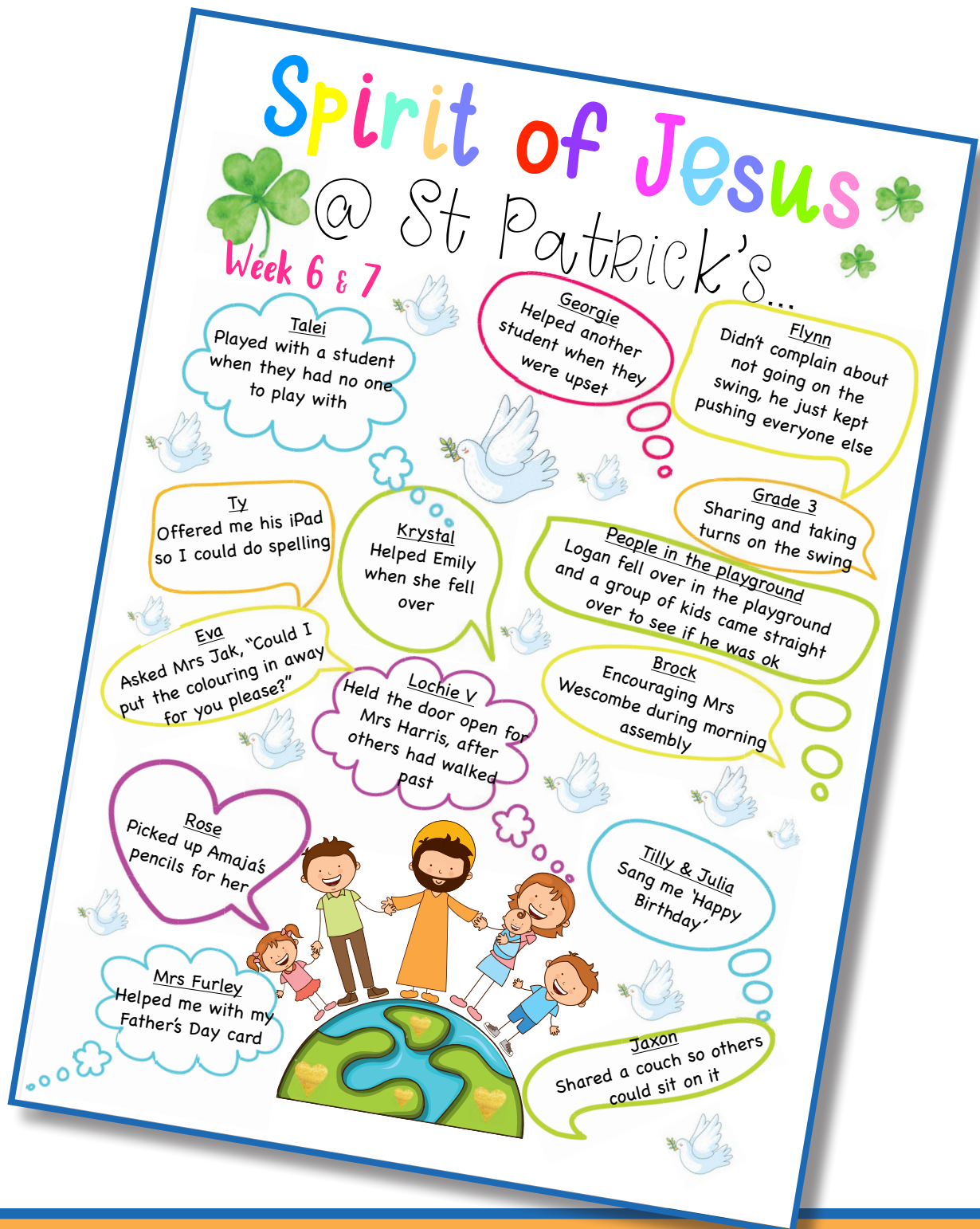
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PROMOTING THE SPIRIT OF JESUS

We promote the term the *Spirit of Jesus* as a way to put the Jesus' message into action.

We ask students and staff to name up when they see *The Spirit of Jesus*, so that it becomes a positive habit to try and achieve in our lives.

A great example of this can be seen in the main foyer of **St Patricks Catholic School, Latrobe North Tasmania ...**



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LINK

A beautiful video showing the true 'Spirit of Christmas'

<https://youtu.be/ViGa3ZzLHOI>

Merry Christmas and
a beautiful 2019
from the MJR Team
Marty, Mitch, Michele, Rose,
Charmaine and Alex



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