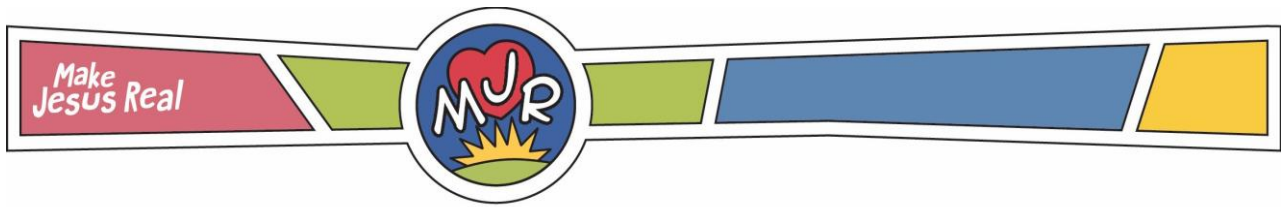


### A message from Peter Mitchell

Thank you for attending the National Make Jesus Real Conference 2017 on the Gold Coast. I wanted to share some personal thoughts, and reflections from the 2 days.

As Catholic educators, one of the greatest gifts that we can give our students is for them to see the Spirit of Jesus in themselves and others. To recognise His presence in themselves and others and to live the gospel values of kindness, compassion, friendship etc. is the bottom line of Catholic education. Here are some other pointers that might help you with your work in *MJR*...

1. Our greatest treasure in the Catholic Church is the "Spirit of Jesus" that is shown every day in our lives and especially in our Catholic Schools. The world is so much in need of the Spirit of Jesus now. If the whole world lived GTS (Greet Treat and Speak) the world would be a much better place, starting in your own classes, schools and homes.
2. When you see the *SOJ* moment happening, name it as it happens. In my experience, if you start it then you will find that your class will pick it up and say "there is the Spirit of Jesus". When your classes get 'switched on' to seeing the *SOJ* in their lives then they will be living their religion.
3. Also, encourage your students to pass the "thank you test". Thank a person and use their name. When your class start doing that you will notice the Spirit of kindness, compassion, etc., growing.
4. Get someone to come into your classroom to mark the class on how they say a personal "Good Morning" and/or a personal "Good afternoon". By doing this you will be developing their interpersonal skills. Additionally, you will find they are practicing how to be a "giver of themselves to others."
5. A day is wasted if you don't reflect on it. After lunch it's useful if the kids can go to their "heart room". After a few minutes they then journal their feelings. Get them to put the date on the page. They can start their sentence with, 'I saw the Spirit of Jesus when...'. When they have finished their sentence get them to highlight the Gospel Value (thanking, helping, kindness etc). Once a week get the class to journal where they saw the *SOJ* in themselves.
6. Start the day with the morning offering. JESUS TODAY I OFFER YOU MY WORK, PLAY, JOYS, LAUGHS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS. AMEN. A great way to finish the day is – LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS... FOREVER! This can also be done at your weekly assembly when the whole school says it together. Both are simple and easy to do and help everyone discover *SOJ* in your school.



7. The yellow card at the back of the *MJR* is a great activity to do with the Gr 6's within a month of them finishing primary school. This activity helps them to see what lessons on life and people skills they have picked up in their 12 years. If you look through the *MJR* book there are 60 values and attitudes. Get them to write at least 20 on a piece of paper, then narrow the list down to 10, then 5, then 1. The one is the key to their life at that stage as a 12 year old. Then, get them to write their top 5 on the card. Encourage them to reflect over their life to find 7 or so key areas they enjoyed and complete the 'memories' part of the card. If they look to the future to see what sort of a person they would like to be by 18 they can complete that section. There are some positive messages on the back of their card to guide them.
8. Getting your class to 'dob' on other students doing positive things during recess and lunch to see where the *SOJ* is in the yard. Listen to some of the stories which sets up the positive *SOJ* spirit in your class and school. Then ask the students to see where *SOJ* is in their home. We should empower our parents to see how simple the *SOJ* message is in their lives as well.

#### **LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS...FOREVER!**

If you know anyone of your teaching friends in other Catholic Schools who may be interested in *MJR*, encourage them to make enquires. As in the Gospels spread the "Good News" of *MJR*. So far *MJR* has spread by word of mouth.

Again thanks for attending the *MJR* 2017 Conference, and I hope my own reflections offer a few ideas for you to reflect on, and use with your children.

Peter Mitchell

[mjr.peter.mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:mjr.peter.mitchell@gmail.com)

