



Summary of Make Jesus Real Conference 2017

MJR St Joseph's Primary, Tweed Heads

St Joseph's have embraced *MJR* signage throughout the school from 2010. Their message is that *MJR* is a way of life. M.G.T. (meet greet treat each other) – how we interact, care & reach out. They try and keep it simple as it speaks to your heart. In the famous words of Cheryl Tilley, "At St Joseph's *MJR* is a 'gentle breeze that blows through our school'".

They also have monthly '*MJR* Spirit' awards and encourage their students to 'take Jesus out to play'. Their *MJR* visuals are integrated with Pastoral Care and behaviour management programs.

- i) Supporting and reminding everyone of the key *MJR* messages.
 - ii) Information at the entrance to the school.
 - iii) In high traffic areas.
 - iv) Classroom posters.
 - v) On sign posts throughout the school.
- (These are available on the TCEO website – curriculum – *MJR* – 2013 posters.)

Renai Delemontex

Renai presented a practical way of Building *MJR* into our lives using mindfulness and expressing what the students (& teacher) are feeling - using large sheets. The idea of the activity are similar to the yellow card in the back of the *MJR* journal, it's like a GPS – a way of finding themselves.

Students develop their thinking on the large sheets of paper and the topics include:

- i) Attitude.
- ii) GTS - Greet, Treat and Speak.
- iii) The Sacred Door – what are you going to give of yourself once you step through the door? eg classroom, front door at home, etc.
- iv) TAS & TAH – setting goals for Teamwork at Home and School.
- v) God Moments - used the 'remote' as an example of pausing or rewinding to reflect on special times throughout the day.
- vi) Getting switched on to Jesus.
- vii) Use a mirror – reflecting on themselves.
- viii) Go to the heartroom – meditate and naming up troubles, loves, happy things and what they are thankful for.
- ix) Finish with the key points to their lives.

Photos of this activity are on the *MJR* website (makejesusreal.com.au)





John Leyden (Principal) and Katie, Annette, Lynelle and Martine from St Andrews – Ferny Grove, Qld

At St Andrew's *MJR* is an essential 'everywhere' – it is embedded deeply into the school culture. For example, each morning the whole community recites the 'St Andrew's School Prayer' which is infused with *MJR* and reinforces that it is a foundational philosophy of the school.

Their focus is on kindness and acceptance of others, which is a 24/7 message. In fact, there is a colourful 'Our Culture' banner at the entrance to the school.

The Principal (John) provides an *MJR* message at assembly as well as being a focus in the newsletter.

Gr 6's and their teachers are encouraged to share their stories after 15 min meditation and 5 min journal writing during the week.

MJR is also presented to the school community by using various themes that are developed by staff at the beginning of the year which becomes the **COVENANT** that they support and focus on throughout the year...

- 2014 - Go M.A.D.- Go Make A Difference. The ripple effect –everything has a consequence.
- 2015 - Step Up and Shine – keep your sparkle when times are tough.
- 2016 - See the Extraordinary – ordinary stories becoming extraordinary.
- 2017 - Grow with Grit – Growth Mindset – encompasses what we can do to reinforce attitude. Remember your attitude is your motor. [Grit is Jesus' middle name.] Only positive thoughts and attitudes are allowed through the door.

Liz Celegato (Teacher assistant) – St Ambrose's Newmarket, Qld Supported by Michelle Pezzimenti

Liz has developed resources for K-2 using an *MJR* approach that are easily relatable and teachable. Her ideas are simple enough that they can be used on prayer tables or during literacy lessons.

The books that Liz has created are a great to help immerse staff and students into *MJR*.

- i) *MJR* intro – using words and manners – then relating them to Jesus.
- ii) *MJR* 2 – highlights phrases and sayings.
- iii) *MJR* 3 – As I See the Spirit of Jesus.
- iv) *MJR* 4 – My Friend Jesus – where do you see Him?

These books help students become more aware of their own choices and behaviours.

Liz's message also reinforced one of the main tenets of *MJR* that, 'there's NO Catholic Guilt in *MJR* – don't be overwhelmed – take it at your own speed.'





MJR is a huge part of the religious life of the school. This includes focus lessons using the *MJR* journal with activities, craft ideas, hands-on as well as visual reminders around the school (posters created by Tony Lennard TCEO).

Lauren Mitchell – *MJR* song – Jesus in our Hearts

Lauren's message was that *MJR* changes lives both professionally and personally. She is based in the Sandhurst Diocese (Bendigo, Vic) and has implemented *MJR* at schools throughout the diocese. In 2013, Lauren reduced her teaching load to take on an *MJR* role in schools throughout Bendigo and has since resumed a leadership role at her current school where *MJR* is flourishing.

Lauren made the point that *MJR* is not an 'extra' – as it fits into the curriculum underpinning much of the RE curriculum. But, communication with parents essential so that the community has an input in the 'feel' of the school.

Lauren then lead the conference in the song – 'Jesus in my Hearts' (available on the *MJR* website - makejesusreal.com.au).

Carmen Walsh – Catholic Education Office – Wilcannia/Forbes Diocese

The diocese has been 'hooked on *MJR*' since 2013 when Mitch visited and worked with every school in the diocese. *MJR* is valued with 100% of schools using it in some capacity. Even the Bishop uses *MJR* as a base for Spiritual Formation days.

Every second year there is an *MJR* sharing platform where every school is represented by at least one teacher or teacher aide. All are invited to share a 30 min presentation which presents an opportunity to share resources and ideas and includes a reflection time.

One of the ideas shared was 'Prep Prayer Bags' - a little bag that goes home with a cloth, candle, formal prayers, reflective diary and *MJR* 'positive message' postcards.

***MJR* lunch time club** – a faith based art & craft experience. Students choose to join and create drawings or paintings that are displayed throughout the school and this has now been connected to the wider parish. The club is now run by the Year 5/6 students rather than a teacher. They have created a F.R.O.G (Fully rely on God) *MJR* wall - with four quarters (created separately) put together to display around the school.





Jocelyne Benoit – Rockhampton Catholic Education Office - Virtues & MJR

Jocelyne spoke of the *Virtues Project* (<http://virtuesproject.com>) which includes 52 Virtues for Children and 100 Virtues for adults. There is also the *Virtues Project* book which is supported by 'educators' cards that have a definition and then examples of each virtue. There is also an app available. Jocelyne spoke of many uses and also provided a handout that details how major topics in *MJR* can be linked to the virtues.

St Peter's Rockhampton, QLD

The Principal (Anthony Green) and staff from St Peter's love the simplicity of the language of *MJR*. They have had great experiences with *MJR* but believe that a school must have someone to drive it.

At St Peter's they show it in their actions everyday. It is shared in school and class newsletters; simple *MJR* messages are in the school homework grid; the prayer in assembly has a *MJR* gospel reading plus awards have an *MJR* focus. 'Live Jesus in our hearts - forever!' is even shouted at every assembly.

Peer support (with the Grade 6's as leaders) across the school takes different aspects of *MJR* message to younger classes.

Also, at the end of every lunch they have a special time for meditation using the weekly *MJR* theme.

They showed a video of how Prep - Gr 6 students feel about *MJR* which was received enthusiastically.

In closing, Anthony mentioned the idea of 'Go for the gap' – an idea from the All Blacks rugby team which they use to ask how can we do it better? and his final statement, "It's the VIBE! *MJR* puts a smile on people's faces."

St Francis Xavier, Runaway Bay

At St Francis Xavier *MJR* has become a vital part of the school culture. There is a long history of *MJR* at the school and much of that was due to previous Principal, Peter Anderson.

Their focus is to put a name to the Gospel values in *MJR* and embedding the true meaning right across the school, not just teachers and making sure that it is not just an 'add-on'. In fact, it is a whole school approach closely connected to their Ignatian charism and the school mission & vision.

MJR values are also displayed on a 'virtues tree' which is valued by so many and is evident by the number of photos taken in front of the tree.

SFX is a Kidsmatter school which incorporates *MJR* and they display this through events such as; welcome BBQ's, a connected Parents & Friends association plus monthly visits to the local retirement home.

They have also linked *MJR* to the Habits of the Mind- Accepting Myself, Taking risks, Setting Goals, Planning My Time, Being Tolerant, Thinking First, Playing by the Rules, Being Tolerant of Others, and Social Responsibility.





Be a Star - 'let your light shine'

1. Stay focused on Learning.
2. Take Responsibility for Yourself.
3. Act with Care towards others.
4. Respect your Environment.

Mother Teresa in WA

At Mother Teresa they have established an *MJR* Curriculum team. All members are volunteers from staff who believe in the *MJR* message and work to support it throughout the school.

As Mother Teresa is a new school, 2018 will be the first intake of Year 7 students. this will be a focus for the *MJR* team whose aim is to bring Jesus into everyday lives and to encourage every person in the community to live in Christ's way.

