



## Vale Pope Francis

1936 - 2025

With the passing of Pope Francis, I felt it would be a great time to revisit his wonderful contribution of bringing HOPE to a world that is badly in need of positivity.

He had a simple message that young people especially appreciated. His message was that of opening our arms to all, nurturing change, and putting into action the message of Jesus.

It is amazing how closely Pope Francis and the MJR philosophy aligned.

This connection between Pope Francis & MJR is easily seen when examining Pope Francis's post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Gifts and Challenges of Family Life, *Amoris Laetitia - The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family* (2016).

In this, Pope Francis stated:

264 .... (we need) active methods and a dialogue that teaches through sensitivity and by using a language children can understand.

266. Good habits need to be developed. A person may be sociable and open to others, but if over a long period of time he has not been trained by his elders to say 'Please', 'Thank you', and 'Sorry', his good interior disposition will not easily come to the fore...

267 ...Moral education has to do with cultivating freedom through ideas, incentives, practical applications, stimuli, rewards, examples, models, symbols, reflections, encouragement, dialogue and a constant rethinking of our way of doing things; all these can help develop those stable interior principles that lead us spontaneously to do good.

In MJR, we continually push the need to develop good habits (eg WEST), the art of reflection, and the encouragement of using language that transmits into positive action. This is very similar to the quotes from *Amoris Laetitia* mentioned. Plus, Pope Francis's 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope' also aligns with the MJR ethos.

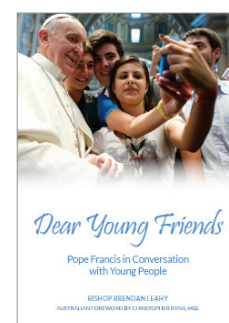
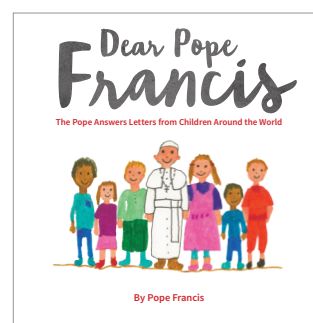
Much has and will be written about His Holiness, but his connection to the poor, the planet, and to children must be highlighted.

May he rest in peace. Because, PEACE is what Pope Francis continually sought for the underprivileged and deprived.

Below are two wonderful books that showcase Pope Francis's connection with young people. They are available from Garratt Publishing.

*Dear Pope Francis: The Pope Answers Letters from Children from Around the World* by Pope Francis  
<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9781925073188/>

*Dear Young Friends: Pope Francis in Conversation with Young People* by Bishop Brendan Leahy  
<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9781925073492/>





## POPE LEO XIV

May God Bless Pope Leo XIV and the Church.

Our new Pope's name, in part, Latin for Lion, references strength and resolve, and

is perhaps a nod to Pope Leo XIII, the originator of Catholic Social Teaching, the dignity of individuals, and the wrongs of both capitalism and socialism.

Further, Leo XIV's Augustinian order places a strong emphasis on brotherhood and sisterhood as a way to grow closer to God. In his election, perhaps it's not surprising that the Church has affirmed it considers all individuals should be friends and that it will continue to stand with the poor, the refugee, the ostracised, the immigrant, and the voiceless.

## SAVE THE DATE!

26 June 2025, 7:00 pm (AEST)

Garratt Publishing is hosting a **MAKE JESUS REAL WEBINAR**

The theme of the Webinar will be **A MJR Refresher for Primary**. **Marty Ogle** will demonstrate how you can use the *MJR Workbooks* to transform the lives of your students and your school community.

Click [here](#) to register your interest.



## GET2GETHER DAY

Recently St Joseph's School in WA held a *Get2Gether* Day where teachers met up to discuss all things *MJR*. Teachers exchanged *MJR* ideas and ways to successfully implement *MJR* into the classroom and in the school. Marcus Donnelly shared his experiences of the positive impact *MJR* has had in the schools where he has been principal. Louise Tomlinson demonstrated the *MJR* websites of [www.makejesusreal.com.au](http://www.makejesusreal.com.au) (for primary) and [www.mjr247.com.au](http://www.mjr247.com.au) (for secondary), and Peter 'Mitch' Mitchell challenged the participants by asking them 'What do you want to take into your role at school?'

John Rose and his team at St Joseph's are to be congratulated for such a successful event...

**'...refilled our spiritual cup  
with MJR inspired ideas for our school...'**

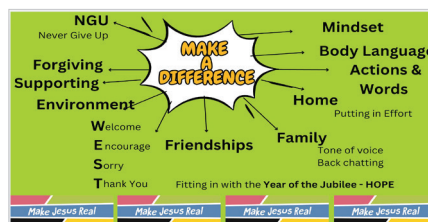
Click [here](#) to view a few pictures from the day.

We look forward to more schools around Australia holding their own *Get2Gether* Days!

POSTERS FOR  
REFLECTION

Here are three posters you can display around your school. Each demonstrate a simple but very effective way to help students to reflect. Thank you to St Mary's Hobart for their take on **MAD - Make A Difference**.

Click on the images to download.



St Mary's from Hobart



## LINKS

**The amazing story of the Loretto Staircase – a miracle?**

The Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, New Mexico is known for its unusual spiral staircase that is an exceptional work of carpentry. The construction and builder of the staircase is considered a miracle by the Sisters of Loretto and many who visit it.

*The Loretto Chapel Staircase Miracle - Voice of Jesus Christ*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9j5HH8FCqBQ>

**A beautiful song that must have been written to get teachers to think, *Why am I teaching?***

Mike & The Mechanics – *Let Me Fly* (Official Audio)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AOwDnDj3Vw>

**A fascinating video explaining the science behind stepping forward to help (or not stepping forward!).**

*The Bystander Effect - The Science of Empathy*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY6eUTLzcU4>





## MJR PODCASTS

*The MJR Podcast – A GPS for Life*

Each Podcast episode has an accompanying 3-2-1 Activity Sheet which is available from the Resources page of [www.makejesusreal.com.au/resources](http://www.makejesusreal.com.au/resources).

To listen to the MJR Podcasts go to:

**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4VDJEOnCL2UVvL7AqPX91Y>

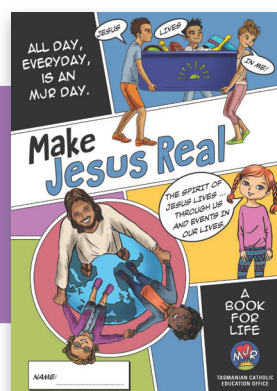
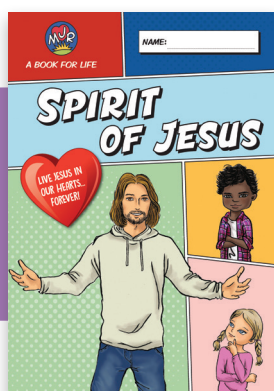
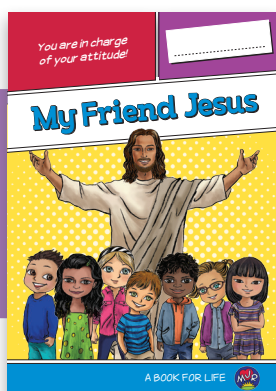
## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Got an idea for a story, or want to share a story that captured the ears and hearts of your students? We'd love to hear from you.



Email Marty at: [marty.ogle13@gmail.com](mailto:marty.ogle13@gmail.com).

Note: If you are including images, please ensure you have permission to do so. We will blur out faces of children.



## DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH WORKBOOKS?

Remember, **each student must have their own workbook** to enable effective learning of the MJR messages and to ensure these messages stay with them beyond classroom.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO ORDER.

### \*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PHOTOCOPYING\*\*

Photocopying more than one chapter per student, or more than 10% of any workbook per student, may be detrimental to those who have carefully crafted the MJR program. Details on how much content you are able photocopy under the **STATUTORY EDUCATION LICENCE** can be found [here](#).

Live Jesus in your Hearts – FOREVER!  
The MJR Team