

# MJR Bulletin

JUNE/JULY 2021



Once again we have a jam-packed MJR Bulletin for you!



Mitch is off on his yearly trip – with some very troubling weather – as he was caught up in the Victorian storms. However, he still managed to drop in on some schools, and in this edition Mitch shares the presenting of MJR Workbooks to students in a special manner, putting together an MJR Mass, and a message from WA Auxiliary Bishop whom Mitch taught.

We also look at MJR signage, the part MJR retreats can play in both the primary and secondary sectors, and the part habits play in our lives. Plus, as we all begin to look at taking a well-deserved break during the mid-year holidays, we are highlighting music videos to inspire.

Also, check out the great special Garratt Publishing has on the *Make Jesus Real Years 5/6* workbook. See the last page of this Bulletin for details.

Take care of yourself and one another.

Marty Ogle



## PRESENTING MJR WORKBOOKS

Mitch went to **St Brigid's Primary School in Wynyard, Tasmania** earlier this year, during which Year 3 teacher Natasha Martin had a

simple presentation to the students of their *Spirit of Jesus* (SOJ) books.

Natasha explained to her students that the SOJ book was book for life, and that teachers don't do everything in them, but they can add their own thoughts, observations or goals.

What impressed Mitch the most was that the students were so excited to receive their SOJ book. They were keen to find out what was inside, and were asking their friends to look at different pages.

The students had a lesson in which they wrote where they had seen the *Spirit of Jesus* in others, and in themselves.

Natasha then asked her class who liked SOJ, and their response was so positive and enthusiastic.

Mitch feels it is a great idea to have a simple presentation of the SOJ book in Year 3, and the *Make Jesus Real* book in Year 5, as it raises the importance of these workbooks.



Natasha Martin and Mitch presenting Lucas Taylor with his SOJ book.

## AN MJR MASS

Nik Hofmeester from **Yidarra Catholic Primary, WA** organised an MJR Mass to celebrate the start of the school year. Nik has kindly shared this with us. Click [here](#) to view.

Mitch has also suggested the following great ideas that could be included in the Mass.

1. Before Mass starts ask some students to share where they saw the *Spirit of Jesus* at your school over the previous week
2. For the *Prayers of the Faithful*, have some students create and read out their own prayers based on an MJR theme. For example, *what they are grateful for*.
3. Play the MJR song at the end of the Mass.  
This available to download from the resources page of the MJR website:  
<https://makejesusreal.com.au/2018/05/08/the-mjr-song/>
4. At the end of Mass, just before everyone leaves, ask one of the students to say over the microphone "Live Jesus in our hearts" and the whole school community responds – with enthusiasm – FOREVER!
5. Share the Mass resource.

## MESSAGE FROM AUXILIARY BISHOP DON SPROXTON IN WA

As a follow up to speaking at both the MJR conference for Primary staff, and at the MJR Symposium for Secondary & Primary staff, Auxiliary Bishop Don Sproxton had a feature article published in this latest edition of WA's *The Record Magazine* about MJR.

Bishop Don's message was very clear, and also very powerful. He said, "Jesus began to be someone real, .... someone I could trust."

To read the full article, click [here](#).

We'll bring you more from Mitch's travels in the next Bulletin!

## ENCOURAGING FEEDBACK

While caravanning in NSW, Chris Kupkee from Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes organised a meeting with Dr Gerard O'Shea and his RE team from Wilcannia-Forbes who have been embedding their new and exciting RE Curriculum *Educating in Christ*.

Dr O'Shea, who is the Assistant Director of Catholic Education (Mission and Religious Education) for the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes, was very encouraging when he saw that MJR supported the NSW guidelines, *Catholic Schools at the Crossroads*. He sent me this quote regarding the document and MJR:

*One of the principal goals...[is that]...students will be brought to a knowledge, and as far as possible, love of the person, life and teachings of Jesus Christ and of the trinitarian god of love. Religious education then incorporates the goal of intimacy with Jesus Christ. This practical application is presumed to be the integral part of the task. It is in this space MJR can play a role.*

This supports the Ignatian Spirituality of Reflection that MJR is built on. The exercise below is a good example of this principle.

At least once a week after lunch, ask students to go into their 'heart room' for eight minutes. While there, ask them to write in their book the answer to the following two questions:

1. Where did I see the *Spirit of Jesus* in my life the past three days, and what is the gospel value in my story?
2. What did I do over the last three days to show the *Spirit of Jesus* to others, and what gospel messages did I demonstrate to others?

This exercise is so helpful in developing an 'intimacy with Jesus', as Dr O'Shea suggested.

It was a great experience speaking to Dr O'Shea, as being an Assistant Director of Catholic Education, he really understood where MJR was coming from, and how it can support an existing RE curriculum.

## MJR HINT

Remember to visit the MJR resources as there are so many helpful ideas and suggestions at:

<https://makejesusreal.com.au/resources/>





## MJR RETREATS

A very powerful way to reinforce the MJR message is to have a focussed retreat.

Recently I took a class of Year 8 students from **St Brendan Shaw Catholic College, Tasmania**. The lessons focussed on *Values* and the acronym *GATE* (Gratitude, Appreciation, Thankfulness, Enthusiasm).

At the end of the sessions, we sat in a circle and discussed what they would remember about the retreat experience. Here are some of what they said:

- Love
- Asking for help
- Use my manners
- Gratefulness
- Values – kindness

- Thankfulness
- To be happy and successful
- Don't take things for granted
- Be appreciative
- Friends and family
- Goal to help at home more
- Don't take small things for granted- Sometimes it is the little things that matter
- You're not alone
- There is always help if you ask for it
- Thankful to come here
- The power of knowing what you want to do
- Keep trying, even when it is hard
- Asking for help doesn't make you weak
- Be more kind
- Tasmanian appreciation
- Don't give up just because today sucks
- Saying yes more often (when it is appropriate)



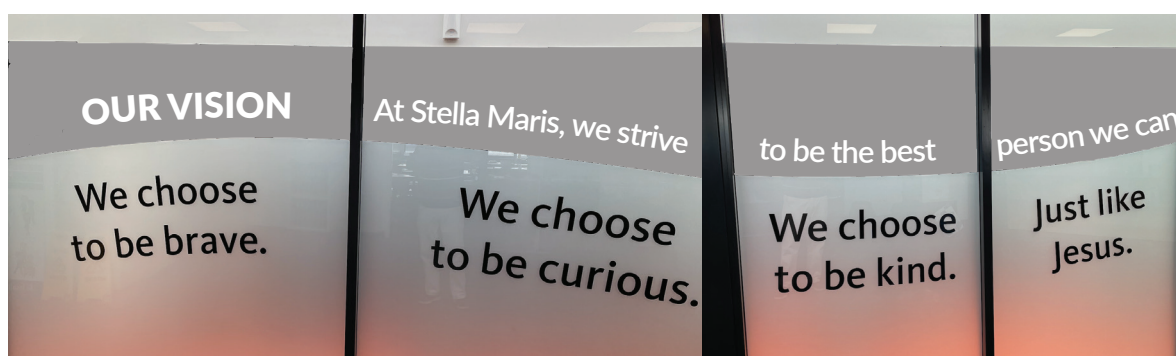
## SIGNAGE

To help reinforce the MJR and Catholic Message many schools find great ways to remind those in their care that the message of Jesus is so powerful.

I saw an excellent example of how signage can be used to reinforce messages at **Stella Maris in Burnie, Tasmania**.

Below is a picture of it – WOW!

Note: Photo has been enhanced so text is more visible.



## HABITS

This term in Tasmania, I have been concentrating on *Habits* with primary students. We looked at both good and bad habits.

I then asked them to choose which habit they were going to try to remember. Their habit was then placed on the class window as a reminder to them.



Students from **Sacred Heart Geeveston, Tasmania** standing in front of their habit.

## POSITIVE FEEDBACK

We never know what positives students take away from our lessons.

Watch this short vox pop featuring a parent who recently told me that after one of my lessons, her son is now such a delight around the house – she loves what has occurred!

<https://youtu.be/7YykgYR0D6E>

## LINKS

This month I am concentrating on music to help you, and we have received two inspiring videos suggestions that fit the bill!

The first is from Gemma Thomson, of **Iona Presentation College WA**.

**A LIGHT TO OUR PATH** by Amara Primero

<https://youtu.be/2ShiJfkZD7c>

### LYRICS

*To those who could not speak, you gave a voice  
Those who suffered weakness, you gave them strength  
When faced with fear, you walked beyond,  
you were daring  
What seemed impossible, taught us to trust  
A lamp to guide us, a light to our path, your lantern,  
it keeps burning bright  
A lamp to guide us, a light to our path your lantern,  
it keeps burning bright  
Your faith and your love, your legacy lives  
There was a time when hearts were hurting and courage  
and purpose were lost  
But on the other side of darkness, there is light  
A lamp to guide us, a light to our path, your lantern,  
it keeps burning bright  
A lamp to guide us, a light to our path your lantern,  
it keeps burning bright  
Your faith and your love, your legacy lives.*

The next video is from Gerry Peters of **St Brendan's Shaw College, Tasmania**, which is beautiful, and very powerful.

**BE STILL** by The Killers

<https://youtu.be/sc4l9MweBy4>

Plus, this video, which is one I use in primary classes.

**LIVE LIKE THAT** by Sidewalk Prophets

<https://youtu.be/4r1ILYKdMLU>

They also have a great song called *Smile*.

<https://youtu.be/mjurY5mR2hs>





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## MJR PODCASTS

*The MJR Podcast – A GPS for Life*

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

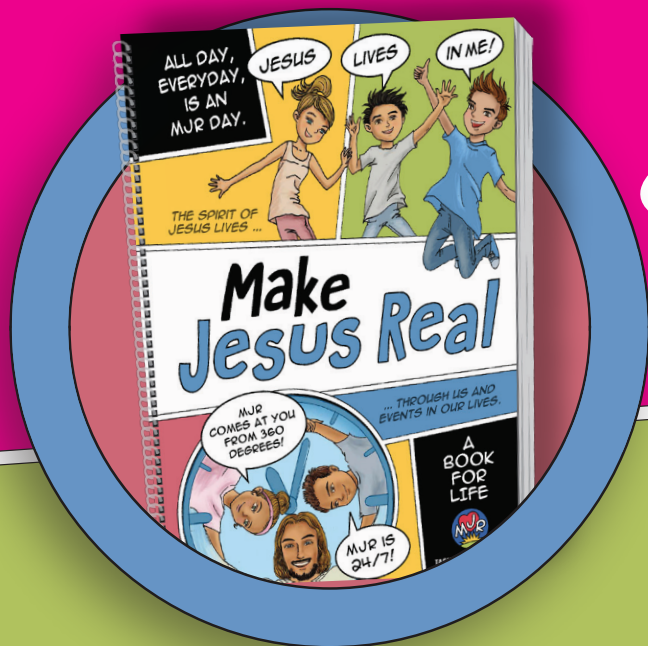
To listen to the MJR Podcasts go to:

**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4VDJEOOnCL2UVvL7AqPX91Y>

**iTunes:**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/the-mjr-podcast-a-gps-for-life/id1513474986>



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## 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.

Please email Marty at [marty.ogle@catholic.tas.edu.au](mailto:marty.ogle@catholic.tas.edu.au).

**Note:** If you are including images, please ensure you have permission to do so.

**Live Jesus in your Hearts – FOREVER!**

The MJR Team ... Marty, Mitch, David, Karen, Rose, Sandy and Charmaine



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