

# Make Jesus Real

NOVEMBER 2019  
BULLETIN



## MAKING THE MOST OF THE LAST WEEKS OF SCHOOL FOR 2019

With assessments complete and only a few days left of the school year, it is a great time to really focus in on MJR. Here are some ideas that you might like to try:

### MJR Inspired Christmas Gifts

Each year we invite children to make Christmas cards and gifts for their families. Why not include the language of MJR this year? Christmas cards with a personalised message of encouragement or thanks to parents will be well received as will gifts that can be used the whole year through. Why not paint wooden pegs and write encouraging messages on them for parents to use instead of paper clips or paint a large rock with a positive message for a paper weight? Painted empty wine bottles or glass jars, (with an MJR message of course!), become beautiful vases. Bookmarks and magnets are other great gifts that can be customised to spread the MJR message this Christmas.

### SOJ a Day Challenge

By the end of the year excitement for holidays is usually at fever pitch. Why not set your students a *SOJ a Day Challenge*! Encourage the students to look for ways to make someone's day, whether it is lending a helping hand, giving a compliment or an encouraging word or holding a door open for someone and letting them go first. Students might like to create a vlog to document their experience.

### MJR Mini Retreat

A mini retreat can be run at your school and might be a half day or a full day in length. You might like to select a theme such as *Gratitude* or *God Moments* or take a more general approach. During the retreat you might like include a song, a YouTube clip or a short video to prompt discussion, an outdoor game or challenge, an art or technology-based task and reflection and journaling time. Students get a lot out of a day or session like this.

Enjoy the remainder of the 2019 school year!

God bless,

Catherine

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MJR SCHOOLS

## Sharing MJR with the Wider Community Through Social Media

Many schools are doing great things with MJR. Social Media is a wonderful way of sharing the MJR message with parents and the wider community.

Click on the following links to take a look at what some of the schools in the Diocese of Rockhampton have been posting on Facebook about MJR.

[Catholic Education Office Rockhampton fortnightly MJR posts](#)

[MJR Kid's Club at St Mary's Catholic Primary School Mackay](#)

[Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Springsure MJR News](#)

[St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald MJR Group Activity](#)

[Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Longreach MJR Golden Lantern](#)

## LUNCHTIME LEGENDS

### ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, RURAL VIEW, QLD

Lunchtime Legends is one of our Year 6 MJR initiatives at our school, where two Year 6 students are rostered on at lunchtimes to actively monitor and encourage positive participation in the playground.

They wear a bright yellow vest, which easily identifies them, and they are actively looking for opportunities to support and encourage other students and to capture the *Spirit of Jesus* in the playground.

They reward students who are spreading the SOJ and doing good for others with a 'raffle ticket' placed into a prize draw. The weekly draw is for an ice block voucher and the end of term draw is for movie ticket vouchers.

Next year we plan to have these students capture SOJ moments on an iPad and these can then be shared in the school newsletter and on the school's electronic signage.

These are two of the posters designed by Year 6 students and displayed around our school promoting Lunchtime Legends.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MJR SCHOOLS CONT'D...

## MJR @ ST PATRICK'S

### ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, EMERALD QLD

Here at **St Patrick's Emerald** we have chosen to integrate MJR as part of a whole-school approach. We dive deep into three MJR Themes per term. These form the basis for our morning Principal Pep Talks, newsletter reflections, classroom discussions, Prayer Assembly themes and our weekly *Spirit of Jesus* Awards. Furthermore, I, in my role as APRE, visit every class on a 3-week cycle to explore that week's theme, whether it be "Saying Sorry" or "Showing kindness". During the MJR discussions, the students watch videos, play games and reflect on their personal relationship with Jesus. We are super excited that all students will be receiving a MJR workbook next year and we are looking forward to using the reflective journals at the back of the workbooks.

This year we have loved learning how to be WESTIE kind of people and in particular how we can be ENCOURAGING like Jesus. In St Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, Paul invites us to "encourage one another and build each other up." We can do that through positive, life-affirming words and actions and complimenting those around us. One activity that the students particularly enjoyed was playing a game of Compliment Tag. It was a great opportunity to



practice complementing our classmates (if you are tagged, the tagger gives you a personal compliment and the tagged friend shows gratitude by saying thank you.) See photo above.

Every week, students are nominated by their teachers for the "Spirit of Jesus" award. This is a great opportunity to highlight the wonderful work that our students are doing to make St Patrick's a happy and supportive place to learn. One award presented was: "Thank you for supporting a friend who was finding it difficult to cope with a disappointment. You helped your friend come up with solutions and you were very kind and positive. Jesus was always very supportive. Thank you for acting just like Jesus."

We are proud followers of Jesus here at St Patrick's!

Natalie McCosker  
APRE

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MJR SCHOOLS CONT'D...

## THE POWER OF *MAKE JESUS REAL*

### MARY MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE, HIGHFIELDS QLD

I began teaching at **Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields** in Term 2, 2019. I come from a Christian upbringing, however, I came with preconceived ideas about the Catholic faith. *Make Jesus Real* is a way of life that has had a profound impact not only on my students but also on me. My first encounter with *Make Jesus Real* was at my interview where I was asked by the Principal for an example from a recent lesson of how I made Jesus real in a classroom context. I was utterly taken aback by this question as this contradicted my previous thoughts about Catholic education.



The Spirit of Jesus unites all of us together, so we serve each other with the gifts and talents He has given us.

The cohort of students I was assigned to teach, demonstrated a uniqueness about them with some challenges that needed to be addressed. It dawned on me that this was a situation that Jesus needed to intervene in and that I could not overcome the challenges with my own strength. I was confronted with the thought that: "How can we as teachers *Make Jesus Real* to the students if He isn't real to us?"

As I taught MJR lessons, Jesus placed a love in my heart that He has for the students. As the weeks passed by and I taught the *Make Jesus Real* lessons in my classroom, I sensed a distinct change beginning to take place in the hearts of my students. No longer did I need to revert to behaviour management or intervention for difficult behaviours, instead the Holy Spirit began to work in the lives of the students through *Make Jesus Real*. Students were no longer engaging in destructive behaviours, but they were looking to identify the *Spirit of Jesus* in these challenging situations. Jesus is not interested in behaviour modification; He wants to see a sincere change of heart. I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of this program to turn lives around and achieve lasting change.

Wilna Van Rhijn  
Teacher

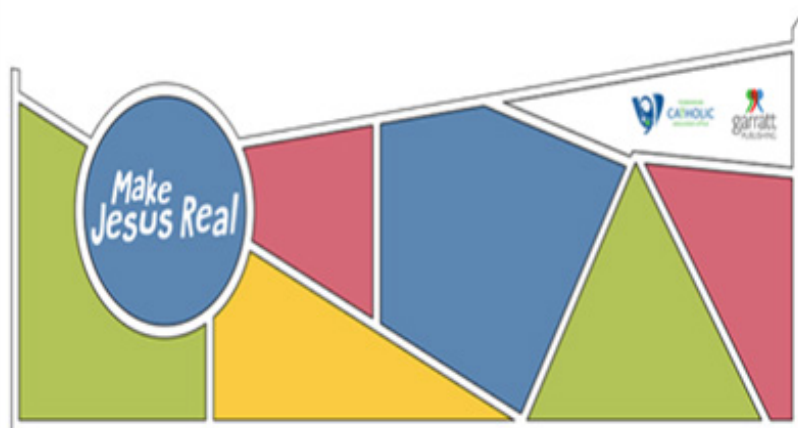
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MJR SCHOOLS CONT'D...

## MAKE JESUS REAL THROUGH THE EYE OF THE LENS

STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, GLADSTONE QLD



## Make Jesus Real Through the Eye of the Lens! Photography Exhibition

Year 6 Star of the Sea  
Students 2019

After a very successful photography exhibition in 2018 and then attending the MJR conference in 2019, the Year 6 teachers decided to link their photography unit in 2019 to MJR. This idea enabled MJR to be embedded across the curriculum, including Religion, Media Arts and English.

Students were encouraged to step outside the box and make links to MJR through reflection.

After an intensive photography course, which explored elements of photography, such as limb chop, the rule of thirds and filling the frame, the students were to choose one of their photographs that meant something special to them. They then had to edit the photo using filters and write an explanation of what Making Jesus Real in their world means to them.

The students prepared for an evening exhibition and the entire school community was invited. At the beginning of the night, the class sang the MJR song – Jesus in My Heart Forever. It was an excellent way of involving the parents and teaching them more about the MJR way of life that we have embraced this year.

Some examples are on the following pages.

Kellie Richardson  
APRE

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## GROWING BY YEAR SIX STUDENT



I chose this photo because this patch of grass is growing just like our faith in God. Everything that God has made grows. The fact that the grass's blades are strong and the dirt has different mixtures really brings this photo to life. It also looks like it has been recently nurtured with refreshing water and warm, bright sunlight.

This photo means that everything has room to grow, including the grass. Once it has grown to its full potential, it will be

thriving. It reminds me of heaven and the way it continues to grow as people every day keep entering Heaven. I find it confusing at how big the field of grass is, but is so easily missed because it is something we see so much.

### **How does this photo link to my understanding of how to Make Jesus Real in my life?**

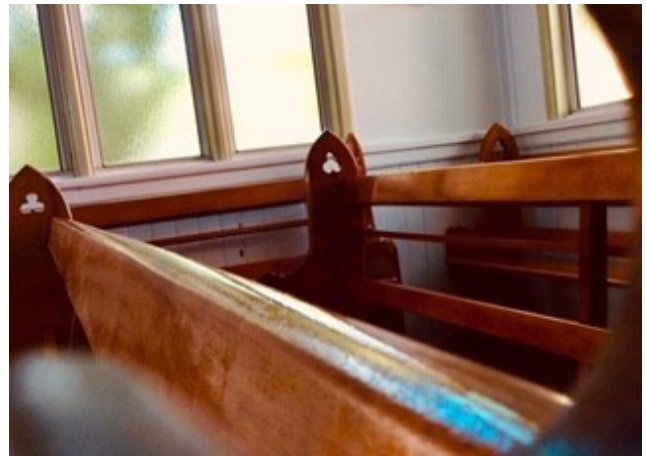
To grow your faith, you need to pray to and worship God. If your faith is small, you will never get the most out of life. I also feel as if we are the dirt and Jesus is the grass, protecting and shielding the dirt from the events of each day.

## FOLLOW IN JESUS' WAY BY YEAR SIX STUDENT

I chose this photo because it reminds me to live like Jesus did and to keep Jesus close to my heart. This photo reminds me to follow in Jesus' footsteps. When I saw this photo I instantly thought of MJR.

This photo means so much to me because we all need to follow in Jesus' way and if we do that there would be more peace in the world. We need to live and love like Jesus did, and help one another to make the world amazing. I love this photo because it reminds me of how Jesus died for us. He loves and loved everyone and he shows this in the way that he treated others. He reminds me to love one another as he did.

I used Leading Lines for my photo; Leading Lines is a natural line that leads the viewer's eye from one point to another. This composition was the third rule we learnt. I can remember Mrs Jenner teaching us this lesson. This was one of the photography lessons that I enjoyed the most.



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## THE END OF THE ROAD BY YEAR SIX STUDENT



I chose this photo because I liked the way that the ground was the focal point and the background was blurry. I really liked the way the people at the end were talking about something to each other.

This photo means to me that no matter where I am, I can always stop and pray when I'm having a rough time at school, at the playground, or at home. I can always have the time and opportunity to stop and pray to improve the spot that needs work.

'The End of the Road' links to my understanding of Making Jesus Real because every human, friend, and family is a gift from God and we should take care of each other and ourselves.

## LIGHT OF LIFE BY YEAR SIX STUDENT

The name of my photo is 'Light of Life'.

Why I chose this title is quite simple. It is because of the fact that the light shining through the leaves of surrounding plants and heat provided by the sun complemented by the shade of bushes are giving this plant its life. All these also contributed to its vibrant colour.

This photo was chosen because the plant was all by itself, despite being surrounded by many outstretched branches of red, orange, yellow, brown and green leaves. It was still standing alone in a pot as if the bush had avoided growing around it. However, the bush had been cut away from the plant. They were required to stay that way.



The photo means a lot to me because it is not only the last photo that I ever took in this subject. I searched for it and found it. I was the only one who chose to photograph this plant. Everyone else just walked right past it without spotting it because it was hidden in its own man-made cave.

This photo makes Jesus real to me, the plant has been created in the eyes of the Lord. It has been given life by the Lord. It has also been given a specific place at Star of the Sea Primary School which has definitely made Jesus real to me. I know that when I look at this photo in the near and distant future, I will remember Mrs Jenner teaching us. A teacher that has definitely without a doubt made Jesus real in all of the year six students.

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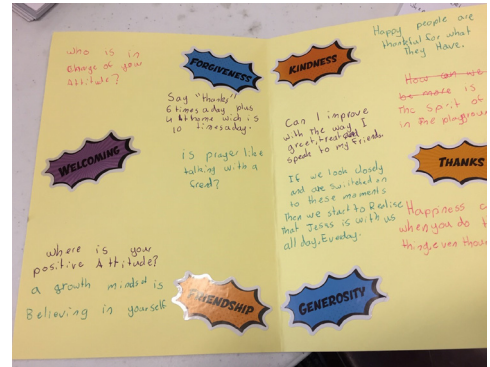


# MJR LESSON

## WHAT HAVE I LEARNT?

The aim of this lesson is for students to realise how much they have learnt about themselves and realise how much they have grown as a person. I highly recommend this lesson!

[Click here for the lesson](#), but in the meantime, here are some pictures from a recent class I taught at **Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Launceston, Tas.**



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# MJR CEREMONY

Rather than just giving the students their *Spirit of Jesus* books when they commence Year 3, the students could be presented with the books during an informal ceremony towards the end of Year 2 in preparation for the following year, signifying their move from lower primary to middle primary.

A presentation ceremony could be held in the assembly area and involve several of the current Year 4 students. They could read, from their cards, their top five messages that they value and want to take into their life (their compass points). You might even like to have the Year 4 students present the books to the Year 2 students with a handshake or invite the Year 4 student to either say an encouraging comment or write an encouraging comment in the front of the book for them.

This low-key ceremony will ideally take place in the 2nd last week of the school year. A ceremony such as this makes The *Spirit of Jesus* book even more special. The same concept could be utilised for the Year 4 students. An informal presentation of their *Make Jesus Real* books (in preparation for Year 5) can mark their move from middle primary to upper primary.

Cheers

Mitch

**ORDER  
NOW**

## 2020 MJR CALENDARS

**ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER!**

The *MJR Calendars* enable students to take the *Spirit of Jesus* and our positive *MJR* messages into to their homes to share and practice with their families and friends.

Allow your whole school community to experience the joy students have as they discover the *Spirit of Jesus* in everyday life.

You can also brand these [MJR Calendars](#) with your own school logo and information.

Use them as a fundraiser – they'll pay for themselves in so many ways!

**Click or tap [HERE](#) to discover how easy it is to fundraise for your school using our 2020 MJR Calendars!**

Contact Garratt Publishing for more information at [sales@garrattpublishing.com.au](mailto:sales@garrattpublishing.com.au)



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## MJR BANNERS

What makes the MJR Banners great:

- Bright and colourful
- 7 core messages to choose from
- 900mm x 500mm in size
- Eyelets that make displaying easy
- Ideal for classroom or around the school
- Constant reminder of the MJR values

[Click or tap here for more information](http://www.makejesusreal.com.au)



## MJR 24/7 – A NEW Resource for Secondary Students

Earlier this year Marty asked some Year 7 students if they liked the idea of doing MJR in secondary school. Nearly 100% of the students put their hands up to indicate the affirmative. When he asked “Why?” a Year 7 boy answered, “Cos it deals with real life stuff that I need to know about!”

This is where our latest resource in the MJR series – **MJR 24/7** – comes into its own.

**Written especially for secondary schools**, **MJR 24/7** gives students the opportunity to reflect on issues around them, promoting resilience and the need to forge meaningful relationships with their family and peers.

The workbook is graphically designed to appeal to students. It is supported by a FREE online teacher resource containing 30 lesson plans that have direct connection to ACARA curriculum and specific Catholic and learning intentions.

For more information on this valuable resource,  
visit: [www.mjr247.com.au](http://www.mjr247.com.au)  
and share the news with your nearest secondary school.

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

The MJR Team ...

Marty, Mitch, Catherine, Michele, David,  
Rose, Karen, Sandy and Charmaine

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