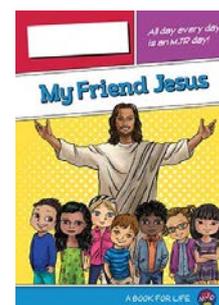


'My Friend Jesus' Journey

Hi everyone. My name is Liz Celegato - I am currently a teacher aide and MJR Coordinator at Our Lady of the Angels - Wavell Heights in QLD. Previous to that, I was at another Brisbane Catholic school for 11 years, 8 of which I have been working in some capacity as an MJR facilitator. I am also author of the book that you were given in your goody bags at this year's MJR conference, called **My Friend Jesus** that has been written specifically for Prep/K, Grade 1 and 2.



- MJR introduced me to what I thought religion should be - particularly when teaching young children about it.
 - Simple
 - Understandable
 - Relatable
 - and
 - Makes Sense (or SURMS as I like to refer to it).
- I realised that through:
 - using manners
 - being kind and considerate
 - having a positive attitude
 - showing tolerance and understanding toward others
 - giving time for reflectionis as difficult as religion needs to get.
- MJR is just so relevant - not only for the students we teach but also for us as adults too. **To grow and learn to be more like Jesus - to be able to greet, treat and speak to others in the way Jesus did** those many years ago is still very important today and is an absolute fundamental of MJR - it is the core of what MJR is about - trying to become the best person that we can be - **to be more like Jesus.**
- **Did you know that.....**

Religion is easy.

Every time we....

- smile
- say please, thanks or sorry
- take the time to help others
- are accepting of others regardless of their colour or creed
- show patience, tolerance and understanding toward everyone around us

....we are actually LIVING our religion.

In other words, we are living out being W.E.S.T.

and we are MAKING JESUS REAL.

- MJR was originally written for senior primary students but I thought those lessons were also relevant/important for the younger years students and so the picture books that helped create **My Friend Jesus** were born.
- **My Friend Jesus** along with the other two MJR books, **Spirit of Jesus** (written by Jason Perry) and **Make Jesus Real** (written by Peter Mitchell) makes a very user-friendly set of teacher resources but they are also a valuable student work book for each individual child alike. Because all primary year levels now have their very own year level appropriate MJR work books, **it makes it extremely easy to teach MJR in your classroom.**

- I recommend purchasing the workbooks for each student if you can. These books give you plenty of content to work with and they are very easy to teach and work from. The books become a lovely memento for the children to take with them on completion of their Catholic primary school education. Hopefully, all three books will be something that they will cherish and revisit.
- The expense of your student workbooks can easily be 'absorbed' by adding the costing to your student book list each year as an MJR book levy. Please see example below:

- With the yearly Sophia book club fee from Garratt, this will allow you to have 15% off **all** books and resources from their catalogue.
- Using this costing as the basis of how much to charge per child:
Either charge a flat rate of \$8 per child per year for MJR books
OR
- **My Friend Jesus** (Prep/K, Yr1, Yr2) \$5.70 per year for 3 years
Spirit of Jesus (Yr3& 4) \$8.50 per year for 2 years
Make Jesus Real (Yr 5&6) \$10.60 per year for 2 years



(Please create your own calculations based on your own individual school's needs - this is just an example)

- If there is one thing to remember about MJR, it is that it is not to meant to be difficult or stressful. Don't try to take on too much at the beginning and be willing to learn as you go - be open to learn alongside your students. You will be surprised at how much you will learn from them and about them during these sessions.
- As you begin to teach MJR and as you get more familiar with it, you will see that you can use MJR all day every day.

You will use the MJR language/terminology:

- while teaching other lessons throughout the day
(eg teamwork when completing a class science experiment, encouraging students to use their manners and kind words with each other and you in the classroom, use Mitch's thank you test - notice how many students say thank you when you hand out a worksheet etc)
- with **all** children during class and at break times in the playground
- with each other, as staff members
- at home - particularly if you have young children of your own.
- I have prepared an MJR terminology sheet to help give you a head start with the language of MJR - please see separate attachment.
- If you would like to know more about the books or if you have any questions about teaching MJR at your school, please don't hesitate to contact me.
My email address is: lcelegato@bne.catholic.edu.au

Happy MJR'ing everyone!!

Liz Celegato
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