Reflection on the Jubilee Year of Mercy

On December 8, 2015, Pope Francis has invited all people of good will to enter into a Jubilee Year of Mercy. In his announcement of this Jubilee, Pope Francis says that the whole Church “will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God’s mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time. Do not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness” (http://bit.ly/1JmpqBp). The following topics and quotes found in Misericordiae Vultus are an invitation to explore how you can be Christ’s hands and feet by performing acts of love, justice, peace, and, of course, mercy. This is a reflection to recapture our journey through 2016 at Sacred Heart.

Jesus’s Life as the Manifestation of God’s Mercy

“His person is nothing but love, a love given gratuitously. The relationships he forms with the people who approach him manifest something entirely unique and unrepeatable. The signs he works, especially in favour of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion” (#8).
The Church’s Call to Bring the Message of the Gospel, the Mercy of Christ, to All People

“Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy” (#10).

“...wherever the Church is present, [...] mercy [...] must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy” (#12).

The Practice of Pilgrimage

“May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God’s mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us” (#14).

Reflecting on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

“How many are the wounds borne by the flesh of those who have no voice because their cry is muffled and drowned out by the indifference of the rich! During this Jubilee, the Church will be called even more to heal these wounds, to assuage them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care” (#15).

The Relationship Between Justice and Mercy

“These are not two contradictory realities, but two dimensions of a single reality that unfolds progressively until it culminates in the fullness of love. Justice is a fundamental concept for civil society, which is meant to be governed by the rule of law. Justice is also understood as that which is rightly due to each individual. [...] justice is conceived essentially as the faithful abandonment of oneself to God’s will” (#20).

The Common Theme of Mercy that Connects Christianity to Judaism and Islam

“As we have seen, the pages of the Old Testament are steeped in mercy, because they narrate the works that the Lord performed in favour of his people at the most trying moments of their history. Among the privileged names that Islam attributes to the Creator are “Merciful and Kind” (#23).

Reflection Questions

What would authentic mercy in our world look like? Think of all the communities you are a part of: family, faith, friends, neighbourhood, state, nation, world, etc. Who are the faces in these communities seeking the healing balm of mercy?

How do you see justice and mercy working together to create a just and merciful world?
Think of one act of mercy that you can bring to our broken world.

How can this become part of your daily prayer, work or school routine, etc.?

Pick a quote from this reflection. What message spoke to you from this quote? How can these words serve as a compass in your life, daily actions, and relationships?
Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,
the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
“If you knew the gift of God!”
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.
Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this of you, Lord Jesus,
through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy;
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever.
Amen.
This term in religion year 2M have been unpacking the fertile question of 'How does the bible tell us about God’s relationship with Jewish people?' Throughout the term we have been exploring the story of Abraham and Sarah. During this time, we read the bible passage and discussed the covenant that God made with Abraham. When discussing the relationship, the God had with Abraham and Sarah we completed our own retells of the story in small groups. The students enjoyed demonstrating their creativity, by making their own little puppets of the characters. They used these to depict the story in their own words to the class. Further to this, when exploring the covenant that God made with the Abraham and Sarah we discussed about the covenant that he made with Jewish people. We explored some other people in the bible that God made promises to, as well as the promises he has given to ourselves. The students enjoyed drawing pictures to depict what eternal life would look like to them.

To strengthen our background knowledge in this topic, we have also been exploring how Jesus was born a Jew. As a class we investigated what traditions his family may have had during this time to celebrate God. We compared these to the catholic traditions that we have and found some common and different ways that we express our relationship with God in daily life. We also had the opportunity to examine many of the signs and symbols of the Jewish faith. This will lead us to the celebration of Advent and the birth of Jesus, summarising our unit perfectly.
Finally, our prayer mat has been completed for the year and it looks fantastic! The students are very proud of their efforts, as am I and we are very much excited to begin using this as a part of our prayer circle for the remaining weeks of the year. This prayer mat will be raffled off to a lucky person in 2M to keep as a reminder of the year we have had together.

TERM 4 – 5 SILVER

This term students are using the main features of the Gospel texts of Luke and Matthew to illustrate the infancy narratives. They are highlighting the similarities and differences of these birth stories and investigating how the Gospel writers shaped their texts for their particular communities.

We are continuing to practice meditation and prayer to nurture our spirituality and bring us closer to God. We have looked at mandalas and together we have created a class mandala out of rice. We also practice contemplative prayer and have enjoyed the ritual of enjoying the sensations of a cup of herbal tea.

Our focus continues to recognise the presence of God in our daily lives.
Religion in Four Maroon This Term
This term in Year Four Maroon we are focusing on the life of St Paul, in particular his writings about living in a Christian community. We shall be investigating his letters to various first century communities. We will be discussing how these writings have had a major impact on the direction of our church and our views on what it means to be a community contributor in the image of Christ.

We will be looking at St Paul as both a leader of our early church and as a historical figure. During our library lessons we will be using an online timeline to plot the journey of St Paul, then we will be putting it into the wider perspectives of both Aboriginal history, European history and the history of our own lives. This will help us to see the greater context of our existence and how events in the past have shaped how we live as Christians today.

Year 4W - The Philosophy of St Paul and his connections to communities
This term in Four White we are focusing on the fertile questions How do we respond to the wisdom of St Paul? How does this help people understand about living in community? We have identified the difference between a
traveller and a pilgrim. We are discussing why we would visit Sea World or Wet and Wild followed by the question why would we visit ANZAC Cove and why would people want to climb Mt Everest. We are comparing the difference in preparing for the trip – exercise, clothing, mental and physical preparation. Other questions to consider for such an exercise are what we would experience when we are there – sensory vs spiritual? Why would people want to visit somewhere that would make them feel sad? What dangers could they encounter?

We are also building up a profile of St Paul and investigating what it may had been like to live in Paul’s time. Topics to consider are housing, transport, clothing and communication between the different communities in Paul’s time.

Students are developing an understanding of the purpose of St Paul’s travels. Was he a tourist or a pilgrim and what drove him to travel in those times. We understand that St Paul was a talker and he established communities through his letters after the visit. We are investigating what were the characteristics of communities and what were the common qualities of the members of the communities. What did Paul do to keep in touch with the communities? Paul taught us many examples about how we are Community. In conclusion we ask the question how can we live like Paul wished us to (and therefore how Jesus wanted) and how do we fail to live as we should?

**Colossians 3:15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

**1 Timothy 4:4-5** - For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.
During Term Four, Year 4 Silver students have been learning about the life of Saint Paul and understanding his teaching, through the New Testament, about living in community. Saint Paul is one of the most important and influential of all the saints. We have learned that Paul was a Pharisee prior to his conversion to Christianity. During his time as a Pharisee, he persecuted many Christians.

Paul became a Christian through an encounter with Jesus, following His resurrection, on the road to Damascus. After Paul’s conversion from Judaism to Christianity, he went to Jerusalem where he saw Peter, James and John. Later,
he went on with Barnabas to preach the good news of Jesus. Paul made many Missionary journeys to the Roman Empire, preaching the Gospel and giving strength and encouragement to the early Christians.

When Paul became more aware of God’s presence in his life, he was able to remind other Christians to become aware of the power of God, giving them strength, wisdom and endurance to do all things through Christ (Philippians 4:13).

Paul reminds us today that our power to live the Christian life, comes from God, not ourselves, and that God can change anyone. During his mission in spreading the good news to all, about God, Paul suffered in spreading the Gospel of Jesus. Most of his missionary works were in what is now modern day Greece and Turkey and the surrounding areas.

During his time of preaching about Jesus, Paul was put in prison for his beliefs and letters to the Christians. Later, after being released from prison in Rome, as part of his missionary work, he visited parts of Spain. He was then later taken into prison again with the apostle Peter. Later, Paul was executed by order of the...
Emperor Nero, in Rome.

The children have been very curious and interested in learning about Paul and his works as a Preacher and Philosopher. They have learned that Paul wrote many of the letters in the New Testament.

Saint Paul is the patron saint of missionaries, evangelists, writers, journalists, authors, public workers, rope and saddle makers and even tent makers. His feast day is on June 29, when he is honoured with Saint Peter, although he is also honoured on other days throughout the year.
As we anticipate the Church’s Season of Advent, we take time to remember how our words and actions have a powerful effect on the lives of other people.

Year 3M began our final Religious Education Unit for this year, contemplating the words of Gandhi.

“Be the change you want to see in the world”.

A very simple but powerful message for people of all ages. The students engaged in discussion as to what this might, look like, sound like and feel like and how they could be an agent of change in today’s world. The students also considered this quote by Dr Frank Trujillo, “Who am I to change the world? Who am I to think that I can make a difference? All it takes is one person-just one person!- to make a difference in their lives”.

After listening to the story of “The Starfish”, students identified areas of need in the world and at a more personal level what they could do to help make a change to the circumstances of others.

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The Starfish Story

Many starfish washed up on shore. A young boy started picking them up and throwing them back into the ocean. Someone saw what he was doing and told him that it was pointless, that there were too many to save, that it wouldn’t make a difference. Throwing another starfish into the sea, the little boy responded,

"It makes a difference to this one."
What so ever you do.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOMeVkXdxXQ

“Whatsoever you do to the least of your Brothers”

Stanza: Whatsoever you do to the least of your brothers,

That you do unto me!

Verses:

When I was hungry you gave me to eat
When I was thirsty you gave me to drink.
Now enter into the home of your father.

When I was tired you helped me find rest.
When I was worried you calmed all my fears.
Now enter into the home of your Father.
When I was lonely, to me you did speak.
When I was troubled you listened to me.
Now enter into the home of your Father.

When I was homeless you opened the door
When I was naked you gave me your coat
Now enter into the home of your Father.

When I was laughed at, you stood by my side.
When I was happy, you shared my joy.
Now enter into the home of your Father.

The students wrote and drew about how they could be the change to others.
Year 5M –

Term 4: Fertile Question: “Who’s Telling the Story?”

As part of the Achievement Standard in term 4, students in 5M have been learning about how the different Gospel writers wrote for their particular communities. By looking at the Fertile Question: “Who’s Telling the Story?” the students have looked at the similarities and differences in the nativity scene in both Matthew 1:18-2:23 and Luke 2, and have created a Christmas card from one of the gospel writers of their choice. They have also learnt about how believers live according to Jesus’ new commandment of charity (love); and make and act upon informed moral choices. They have demonstrated this learning, by raising money for ‘Orange Sky’, and by participating in the Leadership process. In this process they have had the opportunity to express what Ministry they would like to be involved in, in order to serve best our ‘Sacred Heart’ community. They also look at the significant role that Mary played in the lives of believers past and present, particularly in Advent.
Religion in 3 Silver

In Religion 3 Silver have been looking at how “we can be the change” and through an understanding of scripture how the message of Jesus is conveyed to others. We are looking at what it means to be poor or disadvantaged and how we can enact the message of Jesus in our lives. Students will be asked to create a poster for a Christmas appeal that targets the less fortunate.
We have looked at The Mission of Christ-Luke 4: 16-21 and chosen the following words from our own school song which we feel convey this mission of Christ.

**Mercy, Justice, Respect, Faith, and learning to walk in Jesus’ steps.**

Christ’s mission was to reach out to the poor, to deliver the captives, to restore sight to the blind, and to lift up the downtrodden. This mission is as relevant today as it was then. We should commit ourselves to fulfilling His mission.
Please look out for our posters about the St Vincent De Paul Christmas appeal and give generously.

**Prep Silver Religion Newsletter Article**

In Prep Silver this term we have been learning about the Creation Story. We began the term with a Prayer Circle and thanking God for the beautiful world he created for us. We have discussed how God is a creator—and how and when we created the wonderful world in which we live in. Together we created a collage of what God created...

God created the fishes in the sea.... By Hunter

God created the birds in the sky .... By Mischa

God created the people who live on planet Earth.... By Ben

God created the butterflies.... By Mia
This Term in 1S we have been learning all about Mary the mother of Jesus. We have heard stories about her, learnt songs and prayers about her and viewed and created images of her.

Here are some of our responses

Why should we honour Mary?
Because she was chosen out of all the women to be Jesus Mum (Evie)
Because she is so special and she had Jesus (Stella C)
Because God chose her (Daniel)
Because she was kind and nice and had the baby Jesus (Poppy)

What are some ways people can honour Mary?
Sing songs to her, pray to her, have a good heart like her (Lauren)
We can say the Hail Mary (Archie)
Following God and being kind and nice (Emma)
Create paintings of her (Isaac)
Think about her and talk to her (Stella H)

How is Mary like your Mum?
They both had babies (Will)
They look after us (Lily)
They are both lovely and caring (Ella)
PREP M

In Religion this term we have visited the Church to learn about our Sacred Place. We talked about Father’s special chair, the Altar, the Paschal Candle, the Tabernacle and the Lectern. We drew fabulous pictures and wrote amazing recounts of what we saw. We think our Church, Sacred Heart is very special.
Validation of School Religious Education Programs
Each Catholic and ecumenical school is required to have a documented Religious Education Program designed in accordance with the Religious Education Curriculum and approved through an Archdiocesan validation process. Regular monitoring and review of the program and its delivery is aligned with approved cyclical review processes.


Over the past three years all teachers of Religious Education have been involved in the process of building a Scope and Sequence that aligns with the Line of Sight documents for RE. This also considers the use of the Achievement Standard that addresses what each student should know and understand by the end of their specific year level according to the Religious Education Curriculum, Archdiocese of Brisbane (2013). Countless hours were spent gathering evidence to address each element and criteria for the validation of the RE Program, the creation of a new Planning Template for each unit of work, studies of the Worlds of the Text. The program was put under the scrutiny of teams from two of our other schools as well as one of the Brisbane Catholic Education religious education officers. To our great delight the Sacred Heart Religious Education program passed their scrutiny and with a few recommendations of areas for growth in the year ahead has been officially validated for the next five years. I would like to congratulate Maureen Cullip and Karen Schlort who were there to present the program with me. My thanks to Margaret Concannon and Priscilla Gordon who spent many hours as part of the Validation Team gathering the documents.
and assisting in the meetings that we encountered on this journey. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the rest of the teaching team at Sacred Heart for they too have worked hard behind the scenes particularly in the RE classroom.

Religion Curriculum in Year 1M

Loving Mary

We pray to Mary, Mother of God. We thank you for loving us. You bless us with your grace, love and kindness. We honour you with love, praise and respect. We are thankful for your generosity, kindness and forgiveness. We lift up our spirit in joy to you.

Amen
Year 1 Religion Term 1: Mary

Name: Shayna

Why should we honour Mary? Because she loves me.

What are some ways people can honour Mary? Hail Mary, draw a picture of Mary, you can say hail Mary, write good words about Mary.
Year 1 Religion Term 4: Mary

Drew your own image of Mary.

Why should we honour Mary? Because ____________

kind and wise

What are some ways people can honour Mary? ____________
The Religious Newsletter of Sacred Heart SANDGATE

Year 1 Religion Term 2: Mary

Name: Elizabeth

Draw your own image of Mary

Why should we honour Mary? because Mary is nice
Caring, loving, creative and pretty

What are some ways people can honour Mary? Care, love for Mary
Love and be nice.
Draw your own image of Mary.

Why should we honour Mary? Because she is very nice.

What are some ways people can honour Mary? By singing, by praying, by thinking.
Year 1 Religion Term 4: Mary

Name: Isabelle

Drew your own image of Mary

Why should we honour Mary? Because she is important

What are some ways people can honour Mary? The hail Mary, prayer song.
How does the Bible tell us about God’s relationship with the Jewish people?

This is the question we asked in Religion in 2S.

We started looking for answers to this question by looking in the bible at the Old Testament. We found Genesis 17 and the story of Abraham and Sarah.

We discovered that God chose Abraham to be the father of all nations. God promised Abraham a son and many descendants and God promised they would go to the Promised Land. The Jewish people are called a covenant people. A Jewish understanding of covenant is an agreement between themselves and God. God promised to protect them if they kept God’s law.

We have been investigating how Jewish people today, live the covenant through their daily lives. We thought about how Jesus began his life as part of a Jewish family.

This is Marley looking at a toy version of a Torah which told about all Jewish laws from God and was like a scroll.

This is Tom wearing a kippah and a tallit which is a prayer shawl. Men have to cover their head when they enter a synagogue.

Max is blowing a musical instrument, called a shofar, It makes a loud piercing sound like a trumpet and reminds Jews of God’s great power.

Matilda is preparing the Seder meal which is a highlight of the Passover celebration where they eat Matzah—unleavened unleavened bread.

Part of Jewish life means eating correct food which is Kosher.
RE Newsletter Year Six

As the final course of study in Religion in Year 6, we have read the words of Jesus when he said to his followers: “who do you say that I am?” and turned that question to ourselves. After our seven years of study in Religious Education, who do we, each of us in Year 6, say that Jesus is?

Here is a snapshot of the deep, reflective and insightful answers that the girls were able to produce in answer to the question.

I looked at this painting I thought of a rainbow because, Jesus does not see colours as separate colours. He sees them as a rainbow that all works together and are all different. Like Jesus brought all different people together and helped them to work together.

I think that the modern version of Jesus is every-one. When I say every-one I mean that Jesus is in us all, down in our hearts. Jesus is always inside our hearts every minute of every day.

Whenever you feel alone Jesus is always there.
Jesus showed us how to live our life to the best. He is always with us no matter what we have done. When you have no one to look up to, he will be there.

I chose this modern picture because I think that Jesus really would have looked like this because he was from Jerusalem. The idea of a white Jesus was only thought because most catholic people were white. So I believe that Jesus would have looked like this.

“Lamb of God” is a title from the old testament, it is significant to me because the Jewish believers made an offering to God by sacrificing the purest lamb, that makes a connection to Jesus because he was pure, innocent and he was sacrificed just like a lamb.
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: This title means the most to me out of all the others is because Jesus is saying that he will help guide us in truthfulness and in life so that we may enter heaven with a good and loving soul. John 14: 5-6

I choose this image of Jesus because I like the way that they portray him as a Jewish boy because Jesus was a good Jewish boy and most of the images you see of Jesus is him on the cross or teaching his people, but this one says that he is a Jewish boy sent to do great things

This photo symbolizes love because roses are the flower of love. Jesus showed lots of love and dedication to his work as the bringer and teacher of God.
It is believed that Jesus is guiding us through life, just like shepherds do to sheep. It was Jesus who said that the shepherds knew his sheep and his sheep knew him.

This picture means to me that Jesus is looking at us in all directions and he is holding the earth with one hand and is holding everything in place. Jesus is the one that makes everything a better place.
I think Jesus is always with me every step that I take in my life, he will always love me, care for me, look out for me and be my best friend always because he will never leave my side.

In this photo here it shows me how Jesus has such a kind face and he was so loving and has such welcoming arms that are out saying “come to me”.