

ISSUE 1 · MARCH/APRIL 2021

HUB HIGHLIGHTS

Mercy Hub, Carlton North, 3054

'Choose to Challenge!' International Women's Day & Sacred People Sacred Earth Day

On March 11th we gathered at the Mercy Hub for the 'Choose to Challenge' afternoon tea, to celebrate International Women's Day and Sacred People Sacred Earth Day. We were joined by captivating speakers, Sr. Angela Reed and Buddhist nun Ayya Yeshe, to explore topics of gender equity, environmental crisis, and how these two pertinent issues intersect. Guests included students from Mercy schools, Sisters, Young Mercy Links members, African migrants, the Carlton community and friends.

Sr. Angela highlighted the importance of International Women's Day for achieving social, political, and structural transformation and discussed the works of Mercy Global Action. Angela asked our guests, "Which significant women would you want to invite to a dinner party?", we received responses such as climate activist Greta Thunberg, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, and Indigenous woman, sports person and former politician Nova Peris. Ayya Yeshe expressed that addressing women rights is also addressing the climate crisis and that to effect change we need to move out of our intellect and into our heart centre. Ayya discussed how we can be present with the needs of our world and how to avoid spiritual bypassing. She asked us, "Is our spiritual practice one of justice, compassion, and embodied spirituality?"

Thank you to everyone who attended the evening and contributed their ideas.

You can rewatch the evening via the link
<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/533345972>

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Hub planning days – with Margaret Endicott

Mercy Hub Team members met virtually with Sr Margaret Endicott rsm (from Brisbane) on two occasions in the past month, to work on an Implementation Plan for the year. The planning process was an ideal opportunity for all to participate and contribute to the plan according to their roles and skills. Marg Endicott’s expertise led to the development of a comprehensive planning document that will guide our ministry throughout the year. Many activities are already under way, and we hope that the year remains Covid free, so that we can continue to invite people into this place of hospitality, education, reflection and action for mission.



Palm Sunday - Walk for Justice for Refugees

On Sunday March 28th Young Mercy Links members along with others from Our Lady of Mercy College Heidelberg and the Hub community attended the annual Walk for Justice for Refugees. At the State Library we were addressed by moving and inspiring speakers who reminded us of the human face behind Australia’s asylum seeker policies. Julian Burnside spoke to us of The Tampa incident and how he became involved with the plight of refugees and fighting for human rights. Sr Bridget Arthur (from the Bridgidine Asylum Seeker Project) spoke about the awful state of limbo that released refugees, who are on temporary visas, find themselves in- unable to work, enrol in university or access Medicare. Moz, a Medivac refugee, just recently released, spoke to us about his message of love and how the support of Australians gave him real hope. He sang an Australian classic- ‘I am Australian’ altering a few lines to sing- “ A refugee, now a free man, I am Australian”. After the speakers we chanted as we walked the city streets ending up at a hotel where some asylum seekers are still being held indefinitely. They shone lights out the windows and waved to us, so grateful for our support. The afternoon provided great opportunity for reflection and definitely inspired a call to action. Hopefully they heard us up the steps of Parliament house!

Easter 2021



From everyone at the Mercy Hub we wish you a happy Eastertide!



Young Mercy Links Orientation Day

On Saturday March 6th a group of young adults gathered at the Mercy Hub to express their interest in joining Young Mercy Links. During a lovely afternoon we shared afternoon tea and met with like minded people who are passionate about social justice and our call to be Mercy in our world. Participants heard about the types of things YML gets involved in and the many opportunities afforded to them being part of a group backed and supported by the Institute. They spent time getting to know each other over a cuppa and sharing their own passions and interests, as well as ways they could explore these through their membership of YML. Our existing members shared their YML journey with the group and emphasised the great benefits and highlights of their many years with us. The room was filled with great enthusiasm and energy and we cant wait to start planning all our actions for the year once our new members complete their formal induction at the end of the month.



African Families Reading Group

We enjoy gathering with these African families who live in this neighbourhood. They are an amazing group of young mothers, some with toddlers and the last time they met they were very excited as they viewed the book display ready for their gathering as they came through the door. In this gathering we chatted about the books that their children were reading. These mums were aware of the need for their children to love books and so want to read with their children at home. In our next gathering we will be helping them to read with their children and appreciate books. I know they are growing in confidence as they continued to chat with one another about books.





Mercy Global Presence

The first Zoom Gathering for Mercy Global Presence was held on February 23rd and presented by Adele Howard. 'Presence in Community and Ministry' and 'Presence to Self and Others' were the two themes. These included very moving reflections from two Sisters in our Institute, Michelle Goh and Ali Roach. Ali's Stations of the Cross, with a focus on homelessness, were used for reflection during Lent by many groups across the Mercy world.

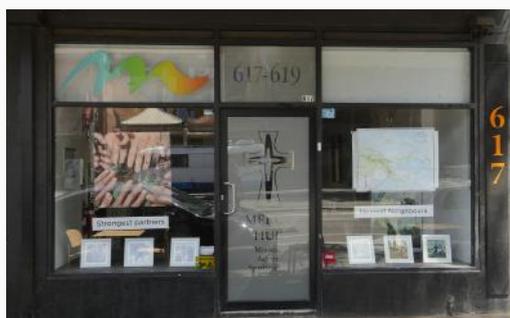
Four beautiful Posters have been created for use as summary reflective materials for the 4 themes of Segment 3. They are available at the link: <https://www.mercyworld.org/newsroom/mgp-reflective-posters-on-presence-theme-a-summary-resource/>

The first gathering for the Fourth Segment 'Integrated' is on the theme 'Contemplative Seeing'. It will be held via Zoom on Tuesday April 13th at 11.00am AEST. The Zoom link is on the Institute Members Area Calendar and a reminder will be made available.

The new MGP Resources have been uploaded for reflective use. They are available at the following web link: <https://www.mercyworld.org/about/our-initiatives/mercy-global-presence/>

Cookhouses n' Tanks a Lot Window Displays

The windows of the Mercy Hub have been filled with a vibrant display showcasing the work the Cookhouses n' Tank's a Lot team do to provide cookhouses and water tanks to rural areas of Papua New Guinea.



Mercy World Posters
<https://www.mercyworld.org/newsroom/mgp-reflective-posters-on-presence-theme-a-summary-resource/>

Stay up to date with everything happening at the Mercy Hub via the website <https://www.mercyhub.org.au/> or scan the QR code

