

# Hub Highlights

Quarterly Newsletter of The Mercy Hub / March 2022

## Renewing our energy to find what matters..... towards Easter!

At the Mercy Hub it has been both a joy and a challenge to be opening doors again after two years of stop-start activity with the Covid pandemic. Covid is still around in the wider community and so we are mindful of this in our planning as we go forward.

This 'Hub Highlights' offers just a glimpse into some of the gatherings that were held at the Hub in these past weeks of 2022.

The Lenten Pilgrimage and reflections each week have been a rich opportunity via zoom to 'walk lightly and slowly' as we ponder the journey of our lives, and our journey to Easter.

*"Walk slow, don't rush. That place you have to reach is yourself."*  
- Jose Ortega y Gasset ( Handout Week 4 - Lenten Pilgrimage.  
Dr. Frances Baker rsm)

As we move towards Holy Week, mindful of the incomprehensible suffering of families who continue to face violence and war, we pray that the firing of weapons may cease and that the Risen Christ may bring peace and hope into our world this Easter.

Dr Elissa Roper will lead our Comfortable Cuppa reflection morning on Wednesday 13th April @10.30. All are welcome to join us online for this session.

**Marg Moore rsm**

## A Lenten Pilgrimage from the Mercy Hub



We have been given a rich opportunity for reflection with Frances Baker rsm guiding us each week through the Station Churches of Rome. We walked the roads and laneways around this ancient city, entered Churches and Basilicas. We were reminded that some of these ancient holy places were once home to pagan temples, house churches and monasteries dating back as far as 2nd, 4th, 12th and 16th century history. These weeks have truly been an archeological and artistic journey. We have been opened up to the beauty of art through frescos, mosaics and paintings that have their place in Christian history. Each week we have been invited to ponder on the ways in which these historic experiences might speak to a contemporary way of living our faith.

## Young Mercy Links 2022 Orientation



On Saturday March 5th Young Mercy Links held their annual Orientation day to recruit new members. It was so lovely to physically be together after a long year of online meetings. After introducing ourselves we went around the table and shared our passions and personal social justice journeys. We spoke of what drew us to YML and why we wanted to be leaders in Mercy. We finished off with a lovely afternoon tea and energetic discussion about what this year could look like and what advocacy, education and volunteering we wanted to do. We warmly welcome four new members to our group and hope their time with us is enriching and purposeful. Entering the new Covid normal we are so excited to begin this year planning big events and being active in our community. Our first event is coming up next month with the 'Shape of Hope' book launch on Friday 29th of April down at The Hub. Keep an eye out for all the YML initiatives happening this year!

Angela Scarafilo  
(YML Co-ordinator)

## Glimpses of Holiness & Hope

stories of synodality today

Holy Week Presentation by

Dr Elissa Roper

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April

10:30 – 11:30 am

## International Women's Day Event at the Mercy Hub



In the present day, we see and hear stories of displacement and suffering among many refugees. We wish to highlight the plight and challenges that many migrants face. For International Women's Day, our guest speaker was Mahboba Rawi OAM, founder of Mahboba's Promise, an Australian aid organisation that provides support to the needs of children and women in Afghanistan. As an Afghan refugee and now an Australian citizen, Mahboba's personal experience and story enabled her to establish programs of assistance for young children and women in the form of schools, shelters, and health clinics. Mahboba expressed how passion, dedication and honesty can effect real change and overcome difficult circumstances. Participants joined us from schools, young adults (Young Mercy Links) and other community groups. For more information, email: [juliet.talarico@ismapng.org.au](mailto:juliet.talarico@ismapng.org.au)

## Julia Thwaites immersed in Jan Gray's scholarship through the Mercy Hub



"In 2019 I began what seemed like the simple task of recording and organising the book collection left to the Sisters of Mercy by the late Janette Gray.

It has been a privilege and joy to work among the wonderful sisters at the Mercy Hub, and to be immersed in Jan Gray's world of thought. Through her book collection, I learned about a woman of remarkable curiosity, intelligence, and rigour.

I have no doubt that the opportunity given me through the Janette Gray PhD Scholarship 2022, has in part grown out of my work here in this wonderful little library, and I'm sure that these books will continue to sow the seeds of curiosity and to give life to deep thought and reflection for all who use it."

Warmest regards,  
Julia

## Mercy Hub together with St. Vincent's hosts 6-weeks of harps for Happiness & Health group



The Mercy Hub in partnership with St. Vincent's Hospital hosted a six-week community program, "Harps for Happiness and Health Group," through the guidance of Jane Belfrage and Tanya Wall. Each person was provided with a harp. The sessions began with warm-up exercises, explorations in the creative process and the option to reflect and share within the group. Each session lasted for 60-minutes and attendees did not need to have prior experience with a musical instrument. The only requirements were a love for music and the curiosity to participate.

*Jane Belfrage and Tanya Wall*