**Mercy Hub Highlights**

**November/December Edition**

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**Young Mercy Links Volunteering**

A group of people in a park

Description automatically generatedAfter a very challenging year it was so lovely for our members to get back into volunteering. Last week we distributed meals to some of the residents of the West Heidelberg community. The Bellbardia Food Service is a joint initiative run by the Exodus community group and the students of Our Lady of Mercy College. OLMC students cooked the delicious meals and kindly invited us along to help with the delivering. It was so fantastic to be out in the community again. We will be helping with this for the rest of the year and look forward to working more closely with both these groups in 2021.

Photo: Eve Johnson, Jessica Luna

**Comfortable Cuppa – during November**

**Week 1:** To mark *Naidoc Week* our November Comfortable Cuppa prayer began with a marvellous journey through beautiful regions of our country with Margaret Ryan as the tour guide and prayer guide. The scene was set with a song by Helen Kearins “Quieten my spirit” and concluded with another song by Archie Roache.

**Week 2:** Remembrance Day Nov 11- we paused to remember those killed in wars.

As well, who could forget the remarkable and moving letters written to Catherine for our Comfortable Cuppa prayer.

We include here the letter written by Angela Scarafilo [Young Mercy Links Coordinator]

*Dear Catherine,*

*I remember the first time we met! It was in the faces of my teachers and peers at one of your schools- the warmth and sense of belonging I felt there never left me as I ventured out into the big wide world. Even once I had left its gates, I felt you calling me, I wanted to walk with the people as you did. Your voice sent me to far off places and to distant lands, here I met you again in the faces of the children in a Kenyan orphanage, in the faces of the street children of Manila and in the faces of aboriginal children in the Australian bush.*

*After my worldly wonderings had come to an end I settled again in you, in a community that felt like home- I returned to one of your schools amongst the faces that gave me purpose and inspiration. Now a teacher myself I taught about you and your extraordinary life and encouraged my charges to be woman of mercy in their own rite. I was so lucky to be surrounded by amazing women who live out your charism and even more privileged to be invigorated by the young women whose passions and sense of justice reflected your own.*

*I have been so blessed to have had you with me all of my adult life and I take your story with me everywhere I go. Your community has enriched my life and exposed me to new learnings that deepen my understanding of humanity and our life on this earth. Whenever I take leave momentarily from this community your voice calls me home. And now I see you again in the faces of the Young Mercy Links members I work with. I was once like them starting out in the world so eager to make a difference, so responsive to your call to Mercy. Such is your impact it comes full circle, one that continually perpetuates- your legacy lived out through us.*

*Yours in Mercy and with eternal gratitude,*

*Angela*

**Week 3:** Denise Hinton from Mackay QLD led our reflection in Week 3 - focusing on the importance of gratefulness. Words and song by Br David Steindl-Rast invited us to   
***‘wake up with gratitude for the gift of the day that is given us.’***

**Week 4:** Our final November Comfortable Cuppa was led by Elizabeth Young, Forbes NSW. The theme that Elizabeth chose put us on a gentle pathway towards Advent and Christmas:

***‘We remember in order to move forward.’***

**The Advent Time**

Grass crackling dry like tinsel

and mozzies singing their carol-like tunes.

This is the season we have been waiting for,

counting off the suns and moons.

Expectation hangs like pregnant air

and plans go flying, calendars fill.

Even the atheist shopper knows

that the world is holding its breath until

the clanging of a baby's cry matches the bells

and it's time to be loving, giving and true,

as from splashes of red and green emerge

the purple hope of a life that's new.

And we've only to notice the promise of joy

if we doubt that God could visit the earth.

As we blur in the rush and parch in the heat,

for one heartbeat away from Advent, His birth.

Elizabeth Young rsm

*Our special thanks to each of the Comfortable Cuppa Prayer leaders during November.*

** **December: Advent Comfortable Cuppa Prayer (see flyer)  
Dates– Dec 2nd, 9th, 16th Wednesdays @ 10.30am**

**ZOOM LINK –** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83994659004>

**Mercy Hub Christmas gathering – all welcome!  
Join us on Zoom - December 16th @ 7 pm**   
**Zoom Link**: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82934197951>

**Evening gathering for Mercy Hub, friends and Community South C to Celebrate Christmas together.**