Living Mercy Purposefully

A Culture of Encounter

Kitchen Table Conversation
Number Six - November 2026



Welcome to the sixth of our monthly Kitchen Table Conversations. This month, we are invited to reflect on the theme ***A Culture of Encounter.***

What you need: For this month, it is recommended that you have a: Candle (battery-operated preferred); Smartphone, iPad or TV to play the song; and, a Comfortable cup of tea!

Acknowledgement: We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we have gathered. We recognise their stewardship and care of Country and their deep spiritual connection to land, waters and creation.

Light a Candle: If you are able (and fire regulations allow in your building), you are invited to light a candle.

Opening Prayer: God of Mercy, be with us as we gather. Open our hearts and minds to recognise your Mercy in our sharing during this time. *Amen*

Readings:

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, my sisters and brothers, you did it to me. **Matthew 25:40**

We are accustomed to a culture of indifference and we must strive and ask for the grace to create a culture of encounter, of a fruitful encounter, of an encounter that restores to each person his or her own dignity as a child of God. **Pope Francis, 13 September 2016.**

Members of the Kitchen Table group are now invited to view the **monthly video** (click here) or read the **reflection sheet** (click here).

You are invited to reflect on the following:

How can we enhance the culture of encounter within our Institute and world?

What is one thing you would like to see as part of
Living Mercy Purposefully: Culture of Encounter next year?
(eg. topic, speaker, activity - please email any suggestions to : communication@ismapng.org.au)

You are then invited to consider:

From what you have heard from the group, has anything shifted your own thinking?
What is emerging that might be new?

Closing Prayer: God of Mercy, as we conclude our time together today, we give thanks for the wisdom we have shared. May the Mercy we have recognised among us continue to shape our hearts and minds. *Amen*

Carry Forward the Light: As we conclude our time together, we extinguish the candle and carry forward the light within each of us.

Closing Song: The Suscipe of Catherine McAuley (click here)

My God,
I am yours for time and eternity,
Lord, I am yours forever.
It is you who must teach me to trust in your Providence,
Loving Lord.

You are a God of love and tenderness.
I place my trust in you,
And I ask that you grant me acceptance of your will,
Loving Lord.

Take from my heart all painful anxiety.
Let nothing sadden me but sin.
And then let my delight be hoping to see your face,
God, my all.

Music by Elaine Deasy rsm

