





Kildare  
MINISTRIES

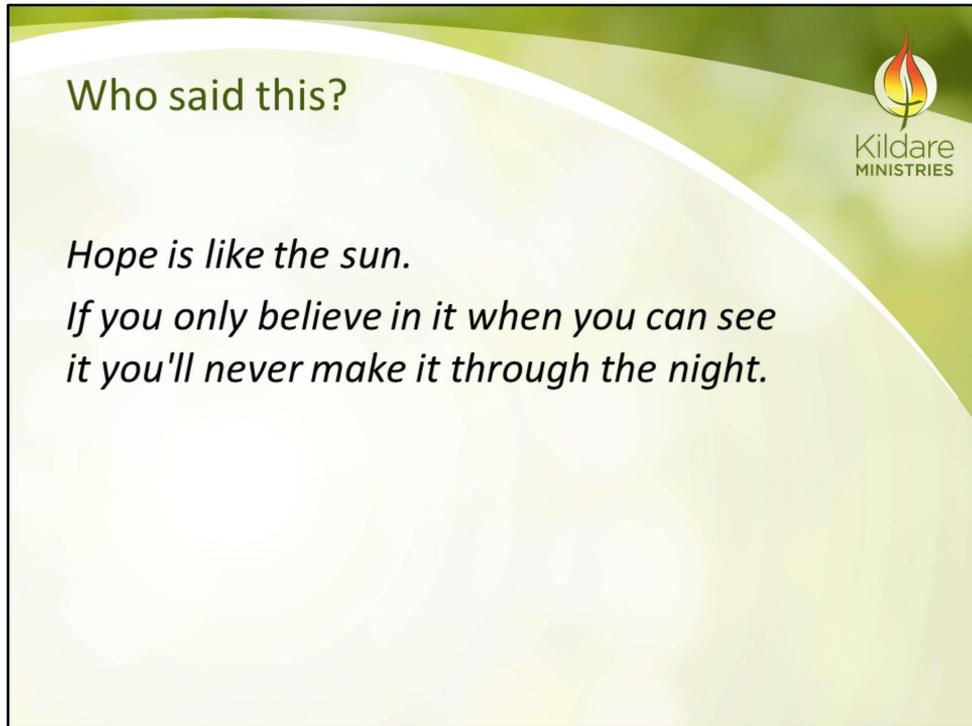
*Today we stand in footsteps millennia old.  
May we acknowledge the traditional owners  
whose cultures and customs have nurtured,  
and continue to nurture, this land, since men  
and women awoke from the great dream.  
We honour the presence of these ancestors  
who reside in the imagination of this land  
and whose irrepressible spirituality flows  
through all creation.*

Source: <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/spirituality/welcome-to-country-acknowledgement-of-country#ixzz55AIEgwRB>



Introduce self

Returning from lengthy summer break... enjoying time with family and friends... one of my most favourite holiday activities led me (inadvertently) to this reflection on hope



**Amilyn Holdo:** When I served under Leia, she would say, hope is like the sun. If you only believe in it when you can see it...

**Poe Dameron:** You'll never make it through the night.  
From Star Wars: The Last Jedi (2017)



**Amilyn Holdo:** When I served under Leia, she would say, hope is like the sun. If you only believe in it when you can see it...

**Poe Dameron:** You'll never make it through the night.  
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What is the context for this quote?

Typical Star Wars scenario... Rebels overpowered by Empire with greater numbers, more advanced weaponry etc etc... yet as always, rebels hang on to their sense of purpose – something worth fighting for against all odds



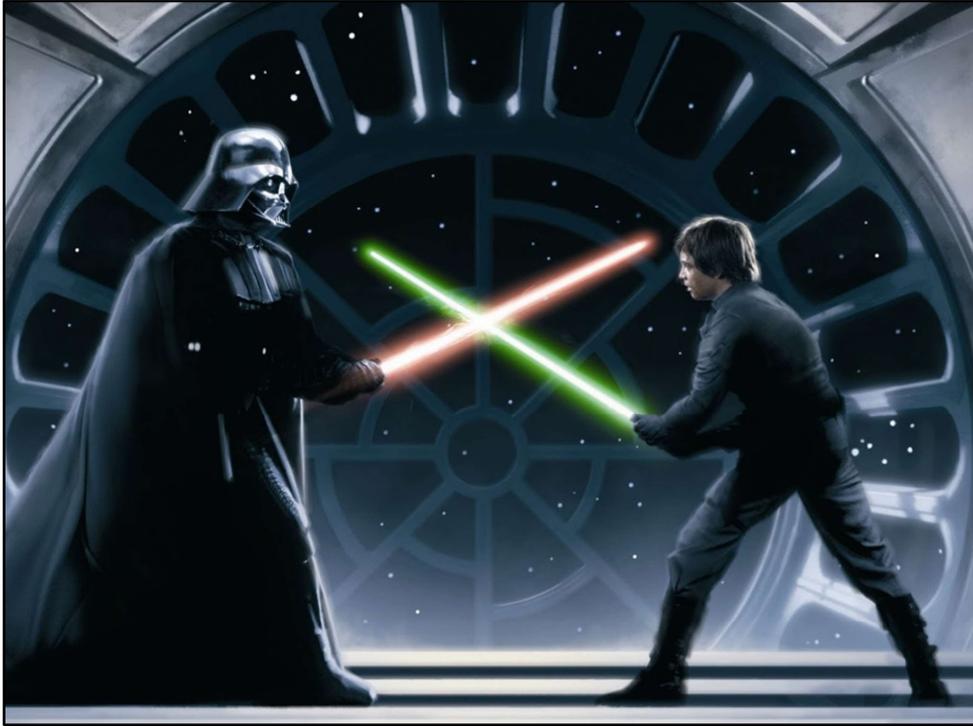
What is the enduring story of Star Wars?

Essentially it taps into the integral human search for meaning.

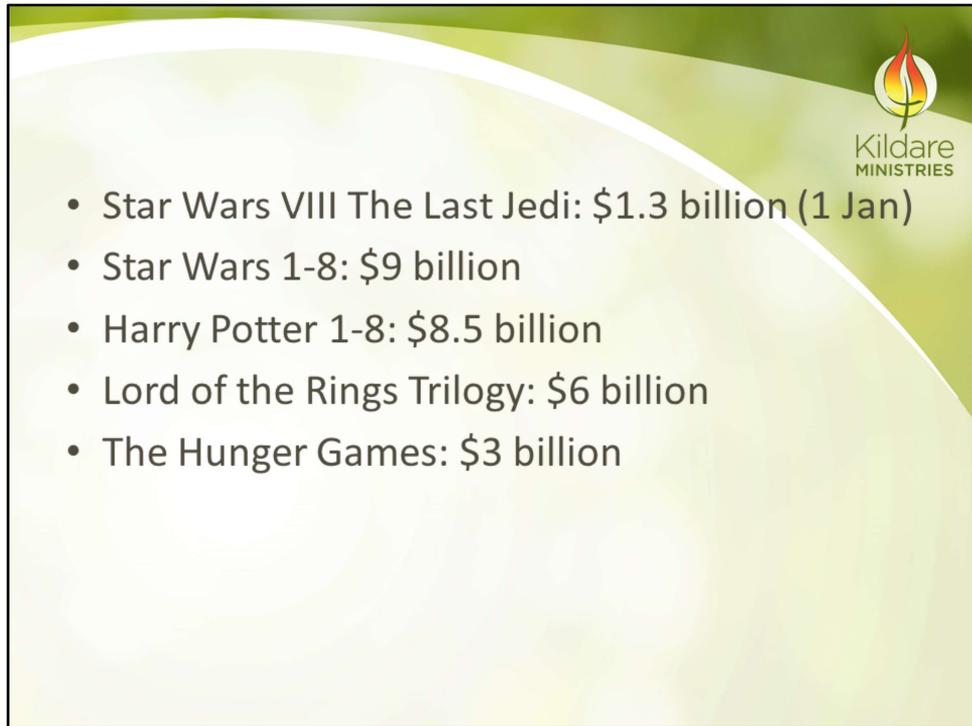
In the face of every good reason not to believe, we keep on believing there is something holding onto, something worth striving for.

That in the end, light will win over darkness, good will conquer evil.

And also, a sense that living a life without purpose and meaning is the easy way out.



And that actually there's a little bit of Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader in all of us



If the box office takings are anything to go by, people really quite like these movies!

Tapping into something integral in human condition

Despite the fantastic story and special effects there is powerful symbolism in them all, which leads us to think deeply (if we want to!)

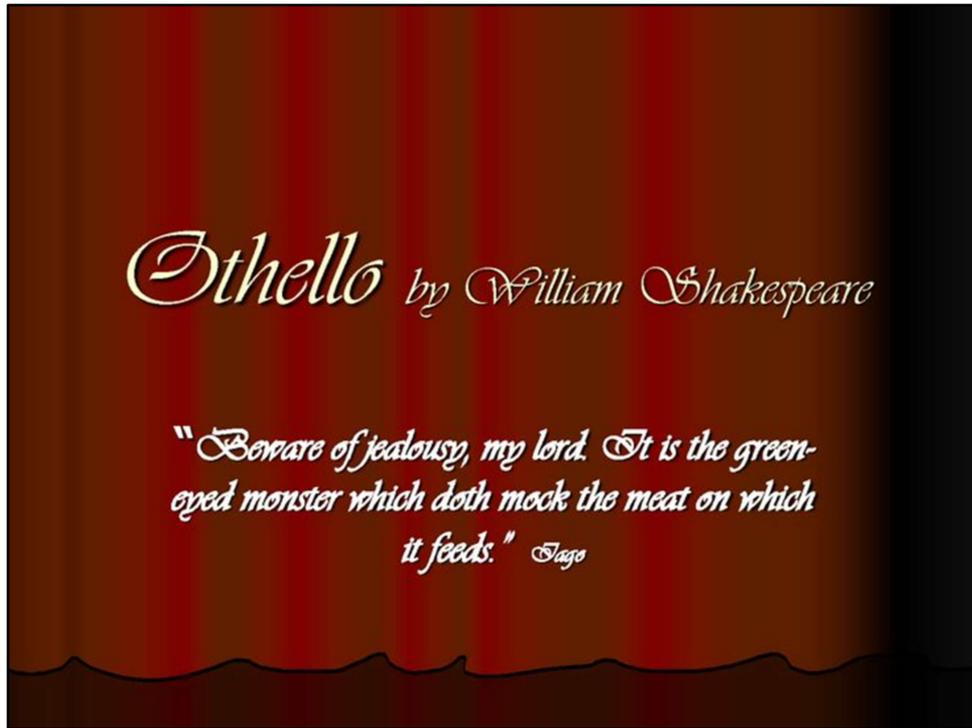
But key to each of these stories is a protagonist, who makes a really important choice

In the face of overwhelming temptation

Each chooses a hope-filled, purposeful life for the greater good, in solidarity with their 'gang'

Choosing hope over despair, loneliness, greed, selfishness, power, anonymity

Choosing something meaningful over something empty – and it's the more difficult, yet infinitely more rewarding choice



By contrast, I also saw Othello with my children

Villain was a manipulative liar

Protagonist was so consumed with jealousy and despair he killed his wife and then himself

So in essence it became an easy lesson for me to my children – do you want to be Luke Skywalker, or Othello?



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## What is hope?

- Hope is a state of mind, not a state of the world... and it's not essentially dependent on some particular observation of the world or estimate of the situation...
- It transcends the world that is immediately experienced, and is anchored somewhere beyond its horizons...
- It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.

Bernard Brandon Scott - From Parables to Ethics, in *The Once and Future Faith*

Consider the cartoon (handout) – discuss with person beside you – what does it say hope is?

Recap from day before – where are you sitting with this now?

Some definitions of hope...

These definitions of hope strike me as being particularly useful when considering how we might work with someone whose situation appears entirely 'hope-less'



This image is of Behrouz Boochani, an Iranian Kurdish journalist and recognised refugee who has been detained on Manus Island for more than four years  
Recently honoured at the Amnesty International Australia 2017 media awards for his work **'Voice of Manus'**: Behrouz Boochani, *The Guardian & The Saturday Paper*

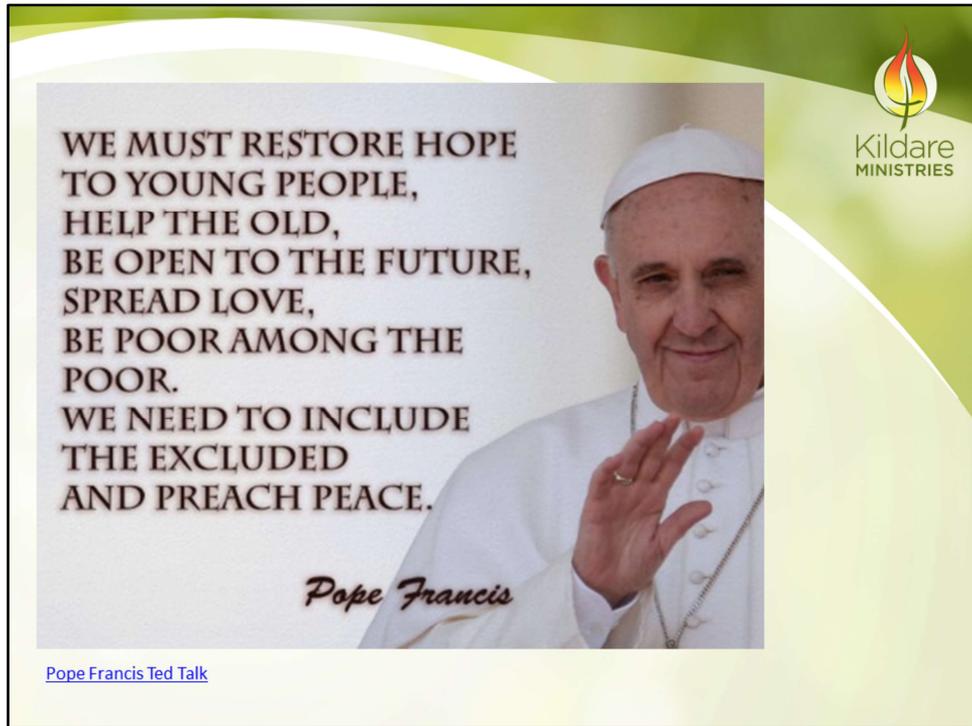
Read extract from 'The Saturday Paper' (silently)

Silent journaling

Move into 2-3s

Some questions for discussion if needed

(break)



What are our take-away messages from this – i.e. what are the practical implications?

Impact of ideas – solidarity  
'The other has a face'

Handout – excerpts from Pope Francis talk  
Discuss highlights in 2-3s



## Student Leaders Reflections

### What does this mean to you?

- Optimistic state of mind
- Realistic achievement – contributing to the world and your community – GOALS
- Glass half full
- Expectation of positive outcomes
- Contributes to motivation
- Hope for others not just ourselves (this is a guide for us) this gives everyone a sense of purpose. Action where there is wrong
- What makes us 'hopeful'? Wanting the best achievement: personal, year level, school community

### What does this look like at Killester?

- Encourage/opportunities for extra-curricular activities.
- Celebrating students achievements – awards
- Positive/passionate teachers/loving what you are teaching.
- Building community – support/role modelling
- Creating a culture
- School is an oasis – a place of hope.

### What would you like to do in 2018?

- Building relationships with Homeroom Teachers
- Communication with all teachers
- Allocated time for a 'talk' with teachers.
- Boost confidence, support and motivation
- Use of homeroom period – more opportunities to build relationships
- Increase number of homeroom periods
- Increase student voice – for all students
- Increase empowerment
- Showcase 'wins'

### How does this relate to our mission/gospels?

- Good Samaritan story
- Prodigal son story
- Fulfilling life – actions
- Helping the poor/vulnerable
- Working together
- Hope is close to faith

So how does this impact with the lives of our students? Consider what your student leaders have said about hope, and how they think it can be built into their lives at school

Handout student reflections for staff and move into 2-3s

## Student Leaders on hope:



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- What links can you see between these young people and the reflections from Manus Island?
- What links with the Ted talk, particularly around the notion of solidarity?
- Where is the sense that Hope is an ACTION that requires CHOICE?
- Is there anything you'd like to see included?

In 2-3s discuss questions



In our Year Level teams:

- Can we build these ideas into our work for the year?
- How might this work?
- What outcomes might we expect to see?

Response to student leader ideas in Year level groups

10-15 minutes discussion in teams with no pen to paper – dreaming time

Following discussion – write down as an individual what practical ideas have arisen for you

Sharing amongst team and distilling into some clearly defined goals and actions

Write down on butcher's paper – if time spokesperson share with wider group and consider where there is overlap/synergy

Finish at 12.10.

## Closing Prayer



*Leader:*

*We must learn to live in new times.*

*What we have always known is no longer enough  
to answer the questions that arise in us.*

*We find ourselves facing a new history,  
and therefore facing a new word from God...*

*We may not cling to the truth we have always known,  
but seek in truth the desires of God active in these times.*

## Closing Prayer



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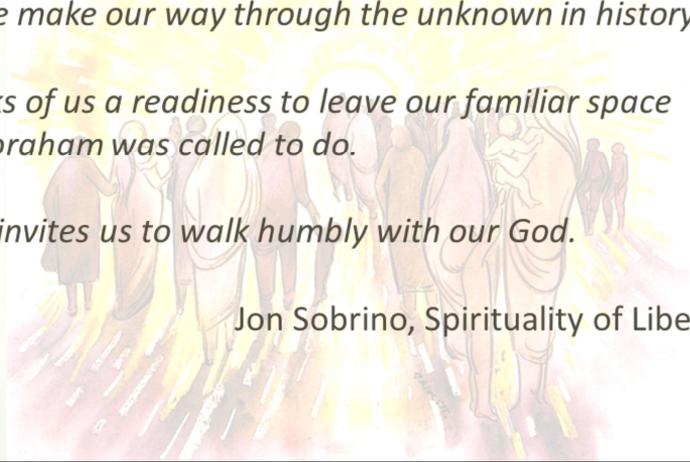
*Leader:*

*This calls for fidelity to God  
as we make our way through the unknown in history.*

*It asks of us a readiness to leave our familiar space  
as Abraham was called to do.*

*As it invites us to walk humbly with our God.*

Jon Sobrino, Spirituality of Liberation



## Closing Prayer



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*Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13*

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

## Closing Prayer

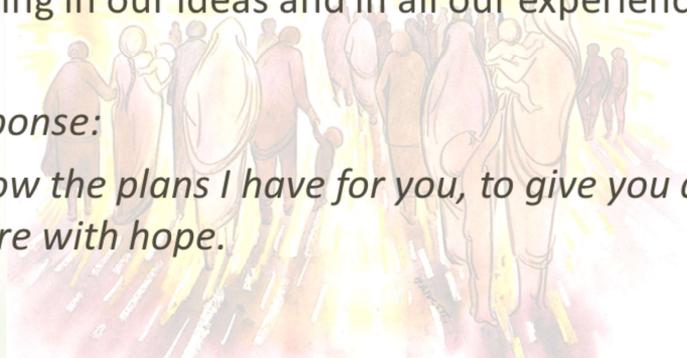


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God of time and change, be with us as we explore the future. May we be open to your Spirit as a creative and energetic presence moving in our ideas and in all our experience.

*Response:*

*I know the plans I have for you, to give you a future with hope.*



## Closing Prayer



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Give us patience with partial plans and fragments of the future glimpsed imperfectly in hopeful words. Help us to sense your Spirit drawing us toward your tomorrow, even if it takes us away from comfortable patterns and from our own pet projects.

*Response:*

*I know the plans I have for you, to give you a future with hope.*

## Closing Prayer



Teach us to plan for a reality rooted in the gospel. Like humble servants of resources not our own, may we be able to bring out of our hopes and experiences things both old and new, in service of the people of today.

*Response:*

*I know the plans I have for you, to give you a future with hope.*

## Closing Prayer



As we build our plans, help us to remember that we are just servants of a community in which we are privileged to serve. Open us up to the Spirit and to the task of building your reign in the hearts of all people. Enliven our hope in your vision of a better world.

*Response:*

*I know the plans I have for you, to give you a future with hope.*

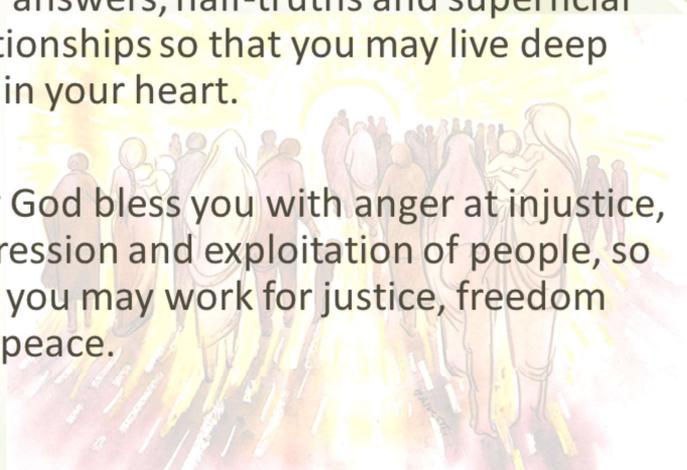
## Final blessing



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May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.



## Final blessing



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May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to the poor and suffering.

## Final blessing



And may you be blessed always with the sense of our God's abundant presence in your life.

Amen.

