

## ***What Jesus means to me?***

Good morning all, it is really so lovely to be here on such a special day in such a sacred space. Ms Donohue has asked me to briefly speak about Jesus in my life; about what he means to me, and how he has shaped the person I am today.

When this question was first proposed to me, it really led me to reflect. How can I describe my relationship with Jesus? What does He feel like, sound like and look like for me?

As I have grown older and have journeyed through my time here at OLSH College, I have learned so much about my spirituality and how I perceive my own faith.

I know that the image of Jesus can look different for everyone and can be interpreted differently across many faiths, religions and individuals. But I think that is the beauty that He brings! Jesus' story and values ignites an intimate and inspiring feeling in all of us as He directs us through our own unique journeys in life.

For me, Jesus is a guiding light, a spirit and a role model; he was a leader, a lover of everyone and above all, an inspiration. His story epitomises what it means to be human. Someone with the capacity to love, to be kind, forgive yet also make mistakes. That is why I know that I feel his presence most when I try to follow in his path, when I love and embrace God's creations. This also includes with myself; and this can be really difficult. To fully love and embrace your own being, including all your imperfections.

I know that when I have felt lost, down, or simply caught up in the chaos or stresses that life can bring at times, I always bring myself back and remind myself of the everlasting presence of Jesus; seeking his comfort. And as I have become more aware of my inner strength, my morals and aspirations in life, I have become closer to Him, appreciating even more the exceptional power of his unconditional love, which he has for each and every one of us!

That is why in these moments of doubt, I close my eyes and simply reflect upon how truly lucky we are to have the gift of life and each other! Most of the time, it is even the simple day-to-day moments; like when I see my beautiful family and friends, when we assist those in need or exchange a smile or greeting with a stranger. That is living out the story and message of Jesus, that is when I feel him most!

So during this advent season it is so important to celebrate this new beginning, the birth of Jesus! Yet it is also really important to allow time to listen to the quiet of our own hearts and to draw upon the beautiful meaning of Christmas.

**Mia Karvounaris**

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