Imagine a world where there is ‘Life for All’. What would it take to bring this world into being? What can I do to make it happen? Come join some amazing people on a quest to ‘reach out, give life’ – to family, community, nation.

**The Stories**

*Indigenous Peoples of the World*, claim their rights. Through song, dance and drama the audience feels what it’s like to be part of a marginalised group of people, the world’s Indigenous peoples.

Their struggles are painful and demand great courage. We also glimpse, in these communities, the work of the Church as a sign of hope.

**UN Conventions support the rights of Indigenous Peoples:**


Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

*United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007*

Sets out the individual and group rights of Indigenous peoples, to their culture, identity, language, employment, health, and education.

... but still they are denied. Take a moment, enter their world.

**The Freedom Ride**

Linked to the History curriculum, we take the Freedom Ride from the sixties to now.

We ride with historical figures like Charlie Perkins, who took this action over 40 years ago to stop apartheid in Australia.

We re-enact historic moments and we explore what progress has been made for Indigenous Australians since then.

**Bougainville, Papua New Guinea**

In 1972 a huge mine was opened in Bougainville. It was an important source of income for Papua New Guinea (PNG), but the effects on the local people’s culture and environment were disastrous. Negotiations failed and civil war broke out in 1988.

Brother Pat Howley, an Australian who worked in PNG for many years, leads us through this story and explains how it was the women who made the difference. They established a peace initiative that led to the final ceasefire. The Peace Foundation Melanesia continues its important work today.
Setting:
The students sit on the floor in a spiral labyrinth formation within the space. The storytelling and the action will take place on this labyrinth.

Target Audience:
Sessions will be designated either primary or secondary. In the primary audience we target upper primary. It is recommended that those students selected to attend, be mature and open to being challenged on difficult issues.

It is also recommended that teachers make time to prepare students with regards to the issues that will be explored.

Outcomes:
Those present will:

- Feel empathy with the characters, have a desire to stand in solidarity with those they’ve heard and a desire to take action;
- Have a better understanding of what it takes to bring a ‘fullness of life’ to communities around the world, especially those communities they met in the course of the storytelling;
- Increase their understanding of global issues and how local actions have global impact;
- Realise that bringing life in its fullest sense starts on the personal level and ripples out through the family, religious and cultural groups, local communities, national and international levels and impacts on the ecological domain.

The Debrief:
Teachers will be given debriefing sheets and asked to debrief their students.

The issues raised will be explored and discussed.

Students will be encouraged to think about how they can be people who bring life to our world.

Book a year group or your whole school to experience Village Space. All you need is a hall or double classroom.

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11,000 students, teachers and adults took part in Catholic Mission’s Village Space in 2011.

“This is the ‘Church in action’. This was such a simple and engaging way of finding out what is happening (around the world) and our role in it.”
—Year 10 teacher, Yass, NSW

“Your passion, commitment and love will change the world!”
—Year 8 teacher, Melbourne, VIC