

# Challenge Five



**A 2020 Lutheran school will be a school**

## **WITH A HEART**

*caring for the inner needs of students in their struggles with social, psychological and emotional challenges*

**And be faith informed by**

## ***Deus crucifixus***

the mystery that the God who became flesh and suffered on the cross continues to suffer with those who struggle with despair

## **1. Exploring the Mystery**

This is one of the most profound mysteries of our faith – God crucified! Explore! Describe situations where the amazing force of this mystery came home to you. Have you also experienced the amazing truth that the God who suffered in Jesus Christ continues to suffer—especially with those in great pain?

## **2. Facing the Challenge**

Discuss the dimensions of this challenge. What is your experience of students who are suffering depression or some other emotional or psychological pain? How have you understood the darkness of soul and spirit that many experience in modern society?

Have you found that these students often hide their hurt or self-harm? Do they tend to avoid counsellors and chaplains? Why?

### ***Conduct a group audit.***

Share examples of how students with these problems have been supported in various ways by a teacher, their student friends or others.

## **3. Planning a Vision and a Strategy**

In the light of the DVD presentation and your own experiences, what is your vision of how the school should support students who experience social, emotional and psychological pain? Share your visions with each other! What strategies would you employ to enable this vision to come true?

## **4. Resources**

Beyond Blue Program – [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au) In Adelaide contact John Anuz, 8226 1779.  
<http://www.michaelcarr-gregg.com.au/> The web site of psychologist, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, a founding member of the National Coalition Against Bullying and an official ambassador for the National Depression Initiative beyondblue as well as Mindmatters.  
<http://cms.curriculum.edu.au/mindmatters//index.htm> A resource and professional development program to support Australian secondary schools in promoting and protecting the social and emotional wellbeing of members of school communities.