



# Heart to Heart

A monthly publication of **HJM** hearts of Jesus and Mary  
prayer community  
marayong australia



## Hearts of Jesus and Mary (HJM) Prayer Community

October 2024

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To be a group of people who are journeying together in faith, guided by the Spirit of God, growing and learning from each other, and whose life, as a whole, follows the footsteps of the Master Himself...that is, a life of prayer and active, loving service to others.

## From the Desk of Fr Floyd Straight to **The Hearts**

### Mysteries of the Hidden God

We are so familiar with prayer and understanding that God is present in our lives. However, it can easily take a turn when we find ourselves in difficult situations. Once we experience challenges in our life, prayer can easily become dry, and our understanding of God, who is present in our life, easily slips away. This is because our human view of God keeps changing with the experiences we face. Instead of allowing God to lead us to the truth, we in turn want to control God and how He should respond to our needs. That is why most of the time we are disappointed because things do not often go our way.

St. John of the Cross addresses this subject by helping us to recognize the mysteries of the hidden God. He wants us to know that the "Trinity is hidden by his essence and his presence in the innermost being of the soul. An individual who wants to find him should leave all things through affection and will, enter within themselves in deepest recollection, and let all things be as though not." (Strength in Darkness, 11). What St. John of the Cross encourages us is to be attentive to the presence of God in our hearts. The only way to seek him is to look inwardly in our hearts.

God becomes questionable in our lives when we face challenges because we focus on the challenges rather than the possibilities of seeking God. Our attention is always focused on our external experiences. To fully understand how God works in our lives, we need to have a special moment with him. The moment in which we will connect with him. If we do not create that space externally because of distractions, then we must create that space internally. It is through the depths of our hearts that we can escape the external distractions.

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## From the Desk of Fr Floyd Straight to **The Hearts**

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However, when we seek God within our hearts, let us not isolate our external experiences. God speaks to us in diverse ways. He uses people, situations we face, and our experiences. But it is through faith that we can see God from that perspective. Seeking God in the silence of our hearts allows us to discern how God is present in our lives and how He is working in us. When we do a lot of talking, we do not have time to listen. This idea can be found in the Book of Kings. In 1 Kings 19:11–13, it tells us that God was not present in the wind, nor the earthquake and the fire, but in the sheer silence.

Silence is known to be the language of God. It is through the silence that we come to at least grasp the mysteries of God in our lives. We are encouraged to develop an attitude of seeking God within our hearts. Surely, our external experiences teach lessons. But to understand these lessons, we need to hear what God wants us to do. It takes faith and trust in God. Faith helps us to transcend beyond our normal way of seeking things to the level of new perspective. That is seeing things the way that leads us close to God.

Silence allows us to go deeper into ourselves. It helps us to know our way of being. Through silence, we can listen to ourselves. But most importantly, to listen to God. Our daily activities do not provide much of the sacred space that connects us with God. All it does is pull us away from being attentive to God's voice speaking deep within our hearts. Let us strive to develop the attitude of seeking God in silence. Develop a routine in our daily schedules that is available for God. Spend sometimes every day to create silence in our hearts so that we can have time to listen to God speaking in our silence of hearts.

Fr Floyd

### ***From the Core Group***

***Last Core Group meeting was held on 20 September 2024. The next one will be on 18 October 2024.***

**Apostolate Ministry** – The Bible cell regrouping will take place on October 26.

**Growth Ministry** – The Growth in the Spirit Seminar is scheduled on October 19, 2024. The flyers will be prepared and invitation will be extended to the parishioners.

**Music Ministry** – The ministry continues to provide music service during masses and prayer meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday on the month.

**Praise and Worship Ministry** – The ministry is looking for volunteer prayer leaders for 2025.

**Prayers and Intercessory Ministry** – The nightly prayers on Mondays through Thursdays are still continuing.

**Service Ministry** – The next church cleaning is on October 4 after the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday mass. The ministry continues to provide Fellowship service at end of every prayer meeting.

**Pastoral Team** – The proposed changes to HJM operational structure, the discernment process and Bible cell regrouping process have all been discussed. The HJM Christmas and Anniversary celebration will be on December 7 from 6pm at Fr Byrne Centre. Members are requested to bring food and drinks to share.

Dates to note:

October 26 – Discernment for Pastoral Team and Ministry Heads and Deputy Heads; Bible Cell Regrouping.

December 7 – HJM Anniversary and Christmas celebration

***Please send any feedback to the Pastoral Team or corresponding ministry.***

# An Overview of the Growth in the Spirit Seminar

The Growth in the Spirit Seminar (GSS) comes after the Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS). It is offered to those who had the LSS who seek to mature and grow spiritually. Nevertheless, it is not inclusive because anyone who seeks to establish relationship with Christ is welcomed.

The teachings of the LSS introduces one to establish commitment to Christ; a life led by the Holy Spirit.

The GSS leads one to a deeper journey to know more about God and become the person that God has created him with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The GSS offers a series of teaching sessions, four at the most for HJM Prayer Community since it is only for a day. These teachings are often delivered by invited priests and lay speakers. Resources are taken from scripture readings, explanations of the spiritual and personal gifts of the Holy Ghost Spirit, and the speakers' personal experiences related to their topics. Speakers are advised to deliver their teachings for half an hour. Each teaching is followed by discussion/facilitation (15 minutes) among participants grouped for the purpose. There may be songs in between teachings when time allows.

Topics on talks are focused on :

1. Growing Spiritually is developing a relationship with God (Ephesians 2:10) with the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 12:8-11)
  - Establish a relationship with God.
  - Maintain relationship with God with our Prayer Life. (Rom. 8:26)
  - Celebrating the Holy Eucharist and the sacraments
2. Desire, want, and thirst for the Holy Spirit to encounter Christ (Gal.5:16)
  - God longs to give us spiritual growth to see us flourish in his love and joy.
  - Spiritual Gifts ( Charisms) 1Cor 12:4-11
  - Personal Gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 11:2-3)
  - Ask and pray at every opportunity in the Holy Spirit (Matt.7:7-9)
3. Church Leadership and Being Fishers of Men (Matthew 20:25-28) with Guidance of the Holy Spirit.
  - Practice of faith in the church, community and the parish
  - Service is sharing God's love through us to others
  - Using your Charisms to edify the church
4. Enriching my Spirituality in my Prayer Life (Rom. 8:26-27). The Holy Spirit leads us through our prayers and sustains the love of God.
  - Honestly assessing one's obedience and submission to God's will.
  - Examination of conscience and reconciliation (spiritual self examination)
  - Meditation, reflection and gratitude

The Saturday Vigil Mass in St. Andrew the Apostle Marayong will conclude the day.

From Sis Josie Durante

HJM Growth Ministry

## Sharing the good news!

### **Bible Cell: Blessed Trinity**

**Message:** Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me.

**Action:** Share an experience where you have shown compassion to the "little ones".

### **Bible Cell: St. John Paul II**

**Message:** Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit even on unexpected ways.

**Action:** Share an experience when you felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

### **Bible Cell: Our Lady of Fatima**

**Message:** The good works we do is a reflection of God's love, mercy and generosity.

**Action:** Share an experience on how your good works reflected God's love.

### **Bible Cell: St. Mary MacKillop**

**Message:** Remain faithful in me through your good works.

**Action:** Share an experience of your good works extended to your family and others.

The following Bible cell were not able to meet for September: **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**



**JOSEFINA (JOSIE) DURANTE**

Sis Josie is one of the most committed members of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (HJM) prayer community. She completed a two-day Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS), Class 12 in 1996 followed by her husband Bro Romy in Class 13 and who is also an active HJM member.

Currently, Sis Josie is the Head Servant of the Growth Ministry. In previous years, she was a member of the Pastoral Team and thereafter held the Head Servant position of the Prayers and Intercessory Ministry.

Sis Josie and Bro Romy are the facilitators of the Our Lady of Fatima Bible Cell. Her favourite Bible verse is found in the Book of Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

Sis Josie has given a number of talks in the LSS the latest of which was on the 'Gifts of the Holy Spirit'.

Sis Josie and Bro Romy have been blessed with three children and six grandchildren.



**MYRA ESTRERA**

Sis Myra has been a committed member of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (HJM) prayer community since its inception. Her husband, Bro Cezar, is an equally committed member of the Prayer Community.

Sis Myra is currently the Head Servant of HJM Music Ministry. She has always represented HJM in the Parish Music Committee.

Sis Myra's dedication to the community and leadership have been admired and serve as inspiration to the members of the Music Ministry.

Both Sis Myra and Bro Cezar are the facilitators of the John Paul II Bible Cell.

The Estrera marital union has been blessed with three beautiful daughters and 5 gorgeous grandkids.

## Upcoming Events:

### HJM PRAISE AND WORSHIP, SAT, 12 OCTOBER 2024

PLACE: FR BYRNE CENTRE  
TIME: 6.30PM to 7.30PM  
LEADER: Sis Josie Durante

### HJM CORE MEETING, FRI, 18 OCTOBER 2024

PLACE: Skype – HJM Core Group  
TIME: 7.30PM to 10.00PM

### HJM PRAISE AND WORSHIP, SAT, 26 OCTOBER 2024

PLACE: FR BYRNE CENTRE  
TIME: 6.30PM to 7.30PM  
LEADER: Sis Myra Estrera

### 1<sup>st</sup> FRIDAY MASS, 1 NOVEMBER 2024

PLACE: ST ANDREW'S CHURCH  
TIME: 7.00 PM  
**(FOLLOWED BY CHURCH CLEANING)**



# October

*Happy birthday and God's blessings to the ff:*

Pilarly Balgos	Oct 12
Annie Jose	Oct 16
Tet Caddac	Oct 17
Glen D'Silva	Oct 25

### *Anniversaries*

Joseph and Tet Caddac	Oct 2
Ding and Dory Rivera	Oct 3
Paulo and Ghie Emperado	Oct 12
Norie and Merlie Domingo	Oct 18

# November

Soc Penafiel	Nov 1
Iodine Carreno	Nov 8
Dora D'Lima	Nov 9
Len Limgguangco	Nov 20
Mel Bustamante	Nov 28
Lorie Atienza	Nov 30



Please send feedback to the EDITORIAL TEAM as follows:

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If you would like to be a part of the HJM's **PLAN GIVING PROGRAM** to support our future community outreach activities, kindly make your donations to the following account:

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