



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

January 2025

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.



A big **THANK YOU** to all who donated to and participated in the success of our 2024 Christmas and 33rd Anniversary celebration.

*Please continue to support our HJM prayer community.
May the loving Lord bless us all.*

From the Desk of Fr Kevin Redmond Straight to **The Hearts**

As we begin a new year there is the possibility of reflecting on our hopes and dreams for the new year 2025.

This year, like many others, has its many challenges, things like the conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine, Myanmar, not to mention the conflicts that unfortunately take place within families and between couples; there is climate change; cost of living pressures; Donald Trump's second term as the President of the USA; emerging diseases and so much more.

But it is not all doom and gloom, for the Church, 2025 marks another Jubilee Year, and the theme is for us to be Pilgrims of Hope. This hope is not the kind of hope that is deceptive or false but we are invited to really 'see' the hope that Jesus Christ brings us.

We can know that God loves us and invites us to love one another, so that others may know that we are disciples of Jesus. But this kind of love is not the 'easy' kind of love so often promoted in our world and society. This love must be an active choice on our part, because the love Jesus challenges us to live out is not about us and how others make me feel but it comes down to how much I love others.

What this means practically is that this love asks us not to focus on the hurts and pain that can occur in any relationship but to focus on how best can I help the other to reach their full potential, how can I assist them to become their best selves?

While perhaps we can flippantly say that we should be optimists or that the glass is half full. What this active choice implies is that we are striving to see the good in the other and in the situations that we find ourselves in. We know that God is always present, but do we have the grace to encounter God in all that we experience?

One of the challenges is that, it seems to me, to be way to easy to take the step from saying that I don't like this person or this culture or action to saying that what I don't like must be evil or from the Evil One. In the midst of conflict zones, it is very dangerous to effectively say that no one on the other side of the conflict is 'innocent'. What this allows is that everyone can be considered a legitimate target. But we have seen the devastating effects of such a thought process, almost nightly on the News from the Middle East.

The major problem is that it becomes almost impossible to 'love' someone who is considered evil. While it is perhaps attractive to paint the world in such black and white terms, rarely in life are things set up in such terms.

The love that we are talking about is obviously very counter-cultural but it does become important to recognise what the commandment of Jesus is not saying. For Jesus asks us to love, to love everyone, even those who are trying to hurt or even kill us. Jesus does not ask us to be friends with everyone. For friendship implies commonality or a shared goal perhaps. Love, on the other hand, asks us to encounter God and God's gifts through the other. We are invited to recognise that the love that we are called to have for others, is not saying that we have to like them or spend time with them but can we help them to become the best versions of themselves. How readily do we pray for those who oppose us or who disagree with us?

In our world today, it seems very easy to be able to dismiss others, if they disagree with us or think differently and so we set up little communities of like minded individuals but these closed groups are never open to challenge. These silos are then open to manipulation and those assumptions made about others are never challenged.

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From the Desk of Fr Kevin Redmond Straight to **The Hearts**

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There has been a long standing theological maxim of hating the sin, but loving the sinner. I fear that people are hesitant to love in the way that Jesus asks us to, because they think that this love implies some sort of agreement with the actions of the others. I believe that this misunderstanding can be overcome by looking at the actions of Jesus in the Gospel. How many times does Jesus offer forgiveness for sin or cures someone but then concludes by saying “do not sin again” or “sin no more”. It becomes important to recognise the reality of how our lives work. Because we are in time, everything is a process for us. It is possible for us to develop and grow, to deepen our understanding and learn to approach things from different perspectives. But we have to be allowed to grow and develop and we need to be allowed to stuff up. Not because stuffing up is what we intend but so that we can learn from our mistakes and do better next time.

The problem of considering people as evil, as was mentioned earlier, is that we close off the possibility that they can learn from their mistakes, that they can improve or draw closer to God. The love that we are invited to practice as Pilgrims of Hope is to be hope filled, for ourselves and for others that we might be able to change, that we can develop and can draw closer to God.

Another implication of this genuine love that we are challenged to live out is recognise that it is not enough to offer God’s love and truth to someone once. This kind of love, wants the best for someone and so we know that they will be happier, more satisfied, more fulfilled with God in their lives than they are without those graces God so generously shares with his disciples, with those who love Him.

This means that it does not matter that someone has rejected the Good News or is opposed to having any conversations about the divine in our lives and world. Our love for them, invites us to continue to invite them into that loving relationship God desires with each one of us. And in part it does not matter whether they have rejected us once or a thousand times, because the next time, might be the time that they may be receptive.

The other element of the commandment of love, is to recognise what that implies for us in terms of how we communicate with others about God’s love. There will be ‘facts’ that need to be discussed but love is so much more than pieces of information. Love is a recognition of how God’s love transforms our approach to life and our relationships. I believe it starts from the difference we have experienced in becoming a disciple a believer in God. Do we have the courage to share honestly the difference we have experienced through our relationship with God and the Church? People cannot argue about how someone feels about something, it is just the way they do. But it takes courage to open ourselves up like that with such a personal sharing.

As we begin 2025, we are being invited to recognise how we are to be Pilgrims of Hope. We have to recognise, firstly, the hope that we experience and then have the courage to invite others to share the truth of God’s love for each one of us and our world. We are being challenged to reject the ‘easy’ option of hate or at least we should acknowledge what unites us rather than what divides us. For God’s invitation to love transforms our approach to living our lives as disciples. May we have the courage to love as Jesus calls us to.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and all those you love and who love you.

Kevin Redmond sm

Celebrating our 2024 achievements:

- ❖ Pilgrimage at Mt Schoenstatt.
- ❖ Pentecost celebration coordinated by HJM.
- ❖ A very successful Growth in the Spirit Seminar.
- ❖ Spirit-filled celebration of the Feast of Christ the King.
- ❖ Participation at the celebration of the Feast of St Andrew.
- ❖ Successful and fun-filled HJM Christmas/33rd Anniversary celebration.
- ❖ Regular Teachings, Healing Prayers and Sharing at Praise and Worship meetings.
- ❖ Dedicated music service at masses and Praise and Worship meetings.
- ❖ Volunteer prayer leaders.
- ❖ Continuous prayers and intercession with Divine Mercy and Holy Rosary.
- ❖ Commitment and support from the Bible Cell Facilitators.
- ❖ Well-organised fellowship after prayer meetings.
- ❖ Regular publication of Heart to Heart newsletter.
- ❖ HJM Growth and Formation sessions.
- ❖ Discernment of new HJM leaders.
- ❖ Bible Cell regrouping.
- ❖ Strong financial status due to the support of our members.

Looking forward to 2025

- ❖ CCR Holy Spirit Mission conference on February 22 at St Mary's Memorial Hall.
- ❖ Lenten Pilgrimage in March.
- ❖ Pentecost celebration in May.
- ❖ Life in the Spirit Seminar.
- ❖ Celebration of Feast of Christ the King in November.
- ❖ Celebration of Feast of St Andrew in November.
- ❖ HJM Christmas/34th Anniversary celebration in December.
- ❖ Our Music service to the masses and other church activities.
- ❖ Our Praise and Worship every second and fourth Saturdays of the month.
- ❖ Our nightly Divine Mercy and Holy Rosary prayers.
- ❖ Our regular Bible cell meetings.
- ❖ More Teachings, more Sharing, more Healing prayers.
- ❖ Our church cleaning service every first Friday of the month after the 7pm mass.
- ❖ Continued support to other parish groups.

Some possibilities:

- ❖ Bible cell facilitators meeting
- ❖ Workshop for prayer leaders
- ❖ Healing mass
- ❖ Lenten discussion
- ❖ Reach-out activity



DAVID BUSTAMANTE



MERCY AQUINO

Bro David Bustamante attended the Life in the Spirit Seminar in 2006 and he has been a member of Hearts of Jesus and Mary Prayer Community since.

Bro David is the devoted husband of Sis Mel. They have been blessed with two children, Kris and Daniel.

Together they attend the Praise and Worship regularly. Bro David also attends the nightly Novena prayers and has been a member of Prayer Warriors group.

Sis Mercy Aquino is one of the pioneers of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (HJM) prayer community. She is currently the Head Servant of the Prayers and Intercessory Ministry.

Sis Mercy is a member of the St John Paul II Bible Cell. She also currently serves at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Seven Hills and Mary Queen of the Family Parish in Blacktown both as a reader and a Minister of Communion.

From the Core Group

The last Core Group meeting was held on 15 November 2024. The next one will be on 17 January 2025.

Apostolate Ministry – will schedule an All Bible Cell facilitators’ meeting.

Growth Ministry – will conduct Teaching sessions and Life in the Spirit Seminar

Music Ministry – will continue to provide music service during mass and praise and worship meetings and support parish music service requests.

Praise and Worship Ministry – plan to conduct a workshop on Praise and Worship with CCR input and to encourage more attendance at prayer meetings.

Prayers and Intercessory Ministry – continue the nightly prayers.

Service Ministry – maintain roster on church cleaning after the 1st Friday mass of each month and manage fellowship after prayer meetings.

Pastoral Team – lead the HJM in undertaking the planned activities.

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



Bible Cell: Our Lady of Fatima

Message: The darkening of the moon and the sun represent our sufferings and tribulations into experiences that turn us to God to prepare us for the glorious day of His second coming.

Action: Share how your sufferings and tribulations brought you closer to our Lord and made you a better person.

Bible Cell: Blessed Trinity

Message: Nil.

Action: Nil.

Bible Cell: St. John Paul II

Message: Nil.

Action: Nil.

Bible Cell: Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Message: If you have faith, listen to My voice.

Action: Share an experience when you have listened to the voice of God.

Bible Cell: St. Mary MacKillop

Message: Heaven and earth will pass away but My voice will not pass away.

Action: How are you preparing yourself for Jesus’ second coming?

Upcoming Events:

HJM PRAYER MEETING, SAT, 11 JANUARY 2025

PLACE: FR BYRNE CENTRE
TIME: 6.30PM to 7.30PM
LEADER: BRO DAVID BUSTAMANTE

HJM PRAYER MEETING, SAT, 24 JANUARY 2025

PLACE: FR BYRNE CENTRE
TIME: 6.30PM to 7.30PM
LEADER: SIS MERCY AQUINO

HJM CORE MEETING, 17 JANUARY 2025

PLACE: FR BYRNE CENTRE
TIME: 7.30PM to 10.30PM

1st FRIDAY MASS, 7 FEBRUARY 2025

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

Happy birthday and God's blessings to the ff:

Myra Estrera	Jan 3	Nene Sayo	Jan 11
Mercy Aquino	Jan 4	Ghing Gamban	Jan 13
Val D'Lima	Jan 4	Anna Nifas	Jan 16
Boy Emperado	Jan 5	Ed Danao	Jan 21
Emma Perez	Jan 8	Erna Sow	Jan 29
Myrna Hitchcock	Jan 9		

Anniversaries

Cezar and Myra Estrera Jan 7
David and Mel Bustamante Jan 17

February

Dids Velasco	Feb 2
Virgie Salom	Feb 7
Julieta Clark	Feb 7
Oscar Viola	Feb 8
Leighton Farrell	Feb 12
Monica Desira	Feb 18
Cezar Estrera	Feb 21
Fe Hernandez	Feb 24

Please send feedback to the
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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:

Account Name:

Hearts of Jesus & Mary

BSB:

062 703

Account No:

1079 7414