



# 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 2026

### 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 Lauro Arcede Straight to **The Hearts**

### When the world is anxious, Christians are called to hope

At the very moment I sat down to write this reflection, I saw the news that nearly 200 people had been placed under medical observation in Russia's Irkutsk region in eastern Siberia over suspected exposure to plague on 4 October 2026. The report could cause a little panic, especially remembering that COVID-19 seemingly began with an event of this sort. It seems that our world is experiencing a particularly unsettled moment. It is not simply a world of "bad news"; it is a world undergoing profound political, technological, social and ecological transformation. For us believers, this makes the Gospel not less relevant, but more urgent.

Looking at the news, wars and armed conflicts continue to dominate the global situation, particularly in Ukraine, Gaza and the wider Middle East, as well as Sudan and several other regions. An overwhelming number of people are in need of humanitarian assistance, and possibly millions of people continue to be forcibly displaced.

Even more disturbing is the weakening of trust between nations. Pope Leo has recently spoken about this crisis of multilateralism and the threat of returning to a world where power and dominance replace dialogue and human solidarity.

For us Christians, this is significant because peace is not just a political project; it is a Gospel responsibility. Jesus says, "*Blessed are the peacemakers.*" We cannot pray for peace while cultivating hatred, resentment or division in our own families, communities and workplaces.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the Desk of Fr Lauro Arcede Straight to The Hearts

(Continued from page 1)

Behind the statistics of refugees are individual human beings: parents, children, elderly people and families who have lost their homes, livelihoods and security. Many people around the world are displaced, while most of us complain that we do not have a nice home or that we want to move to another place to have a more spacious dwelling. Immigration laws in the countries where we live are becoming stricter, sometimes for good reasons, but also at the expense of those who are vulnerable because of a First World concern called the housing crisis. This situation should touch our conscience deeply. The question Jesus asks in Matthew 25 is not, “*What nationality are you?*” but, “*Did you welcome me?*” We cannot be indifferent to migrants, refugees, the poor and those pushed to the margins.

We have just concluded the celebration of the Season of Creation. I wonder if that season was able to awaken our conscience to be more attentive, exacting and deliberate in the choices we make. The environmental situation is equally serious. In the news, it was reported that August 2026 was the hottest month ever recorded. For us believers and stewards of God’s creation, creation is not simply “the environment.” Creation is God’s gift. We are not owners without responsibility; we are stewards. This connects strongly with *Laudato Si’* and our Catholic understanding of integral ecology: care for the earth cannot be separated from care for the poor, the vulnerable and future generations.

Perhaps one of the most significant issue now is artificial intelligence. AI is transforming education, employment, communication, medicine, warfare and even how people understand truth. There is a so-called global AI race, which is risky and perhaps even catastrophic. Pope Leo XIV has made this a major concern. His 2026 encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, argues that technology must remain at the service of the human person rather than becoming an instrument of domination, exclusion or death. A human person is never merely data, productivity or economic value. Every person possesses God-given dignity. The challenge for us, therefore, is not simply to ask, “*What can AI do?*” but also, “*What would we allow it to do, and what kind of human beings are we becoming by using it?*”

So, what does all this mean for us as people of faith and disciples of Christ?

From the perspective of a Marist religious, here are just a few suggestions:

First, pray, a prayer that changes our hearts and sends us back into the world with courage. Pope Leo XIV has recently called Catholics to pray the Rosary, particularly for peace, and to accompany our prayer with acts of mercy. During the month of October, we are encouraged especially to pray the Rosary. It is a mental prayer that helps us place our minds and our consciousness in the mysteries of salvation: the life, suffering and death, and glorious resurrection of the Lord.

Second, the world does not need more people who deepen divisions. It needs authentic Christians who can forgive, reconcile, listen and build bridges. We need to be agents of dialogue and peace.

Third, whether a person is unborn, elderly, disabled, poor, displaced, imprisoned, technologically displaced from work, or simply different from us, every human person bears a dignity given by God. Let us live conscious of the dignity of the human person.

Fourth, our faith needs to be the basis of our choices in how we consume, travel, waste, purchase and live. Caring for our common home is part of Christian discipleship.

Perhaps most important of all, we are called to be people of hope. Our trust in God needs to manifest itself in the way we look at our lives, others and our world, and in the meaning we give to our experiences.

Our Christian response to a troubled world cannot be fear, pessimism or withdrawal. The Gospel gives us something different: hope.

The world may be anxious about its future, but Christians believe that history and everything ultimately belong to God. Christ has not abandoned his creation. The Cross has not been defeated by the darkness of the world, and the Resurrection reminds us that evil, suffering and death do not have the final word.

So perhaps the question for Catholics today is not simply, “*What is happening to our world?*” but rather:

“*What is God asking me to do in the world?*”

—Fr. Lauro Arcede sm

## **From the Core Group**

**The last Core Group meeting was held on 13 September 2026. The next meeting will be on 16 October 2026.**

**Apostolate Ministry** – There is 1 more visitation by Bible Cell Facilitators to other Bible Cells before the end of the year. Bible Cell facilitators met on September 5 to prepare for Bible Cell Regrouping in October. The ministry is planning a retreat for the prayer community on November 7. Details are as follows:

Topic – Contemplative hearts like Mary's

Venue – Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville; Members to arrange carpooling.

Cost - \$30 per person; Fee includes facilities, tea and coffee. Bring own meal.

Retreat starts around 8:30am and concludes with mass at 4pm.

**Growth Ministry** – A successful Growth in the Spirit Seminar was held on September 19 at Fr Byrne Centre. The opening remarks was done by Fr Kevin. Talks were given by Fr Lauro, Bro Gerry and Fr Ambrose with Outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

**Music Ministry** – continues to provide music service during mass and praise and worship meetings and supports parish music service requests. The Ministry led the music service on 8th September for Feast of Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary and on the 15th September for the First Holy Communion.

**Praise and Worship Ministry** – The 2026 prayer leader roster and schedules for Teaching, Sharing and Healing are now complete. The Ministry is looking for backup prayer leaders and 2027 prayer leaders.

**Prayers and Intercessory Ministry** – continues the nightly prayers on Mondays through Thursdays.

**Service Ministry** – maintains roster on church cleaning after the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass of each month and manages fellowship after prayer meetings and at morning tea after the 10:30am Mass on every 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

**Pastoral Team** – continues to give updates on forthcoming FBC redevelopment and on the establishment of the new Parish Pastoral Council. Planning is underway for the celebration of Christmas and 35<sup>th</sup> HJM Anniversary.

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

## **SHARING**



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

**Message:** My grace is sufficient for you.

**Action:** Share an experience when you asked for God's grace.

Message from the Bible Cell Facilitators meeting on September 5, 2026

When The Time Is Right I.  
The Lord Will Make It  
Happen

Isaiah 60:22





## **JACKIE TOLENTINO**



Sis Jackie Tolentino is an active member of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (HJM) prayer community and has been with the group for many years now after completing a Life in the Spirit Seminar many years ago.

Married to Bro Noel Tolentino, HJM is so blessed to have them as both are dedicated and hardworking members of the prayer community. They have been blessed with 2 children, Catherine and Anthony.

Sis Jackie worked side by side with Bro Noel, as Bible Facilitators for Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLOPH) Bible Cell since its inception in 2007, a very important role they took on to serve the community. Members of HJM are grateful to Sis Jackie for her continuous commitment.



## **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Bible Cell (OLOPH)**

The Our Lady of Perpetual Help Bible Cell (OLOPH) is one of the five bible cells within the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (HJM) prayer community.

Established in 2007, it has been facilitated by Noel and Jackie Tolentino since its inception. Over the years, many HJM members, including the late Nanay Martha and Ladybyrd Aquino, have been part of OLOPH.

Currently, the OLOPH Bible Cell includes Noel and Jackie Tolentino, Oscar and Esther Viola, Dave and Mel Bustamante, Freddie Lorenzo and Mirza Alata, Doris Barrios, Fe Hernandez, and Virgie Salom.

The HJM prayer community is blessed to have OLOPH as a way for individuals to nurture and enhance their spiritual lives together. May Our Lady of Perpetual Help intercede for us as we continue our ministry, seeking the Mercy of Jesus that saves and frees.

## Upcoming Events:

### HJM PRAYER MEETING, SAT, 10 OCTOBER 2026

**PLACE:** FR BYRNE CENTRE  
**TIME:** 6.30PM to 8.00PM  
**LEADER:** SIS JACKIE TOLENTINO

### HJM CORE MEETING, FRI, 16 OCTOBER 2026

**PLACE:** MS TEAMS  
**TIME:** 7.30PM to 8.30PM

### HJM PRAYER MEETING, SAT, 24 OCTOBER 2026

**PLACE:** FR BYRNE CENTRE  
**TIME:** 6.30PM to 8.00PM  
**LEADER:** OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP  
 BIBLE CELL

### 1<sup>st</sup> FRIDAY MASS, 6 NOVEMBER 2026

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

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### October

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

|                |        |                          |        |
|----------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| Angelina Webb  | Oct 1  | <i>Anniversaries</i>     |        |
| Pilarly Balgos | Oct 12 | Joseph and Tet Cacdac    | Oct 2  |
| Annie Jose     | Oct 16 | Ding and Dory Rivera     | Oct 3  |
| Tet Cacdac     | Oct 17 | 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:



**Editor-in-Chief**  
 HJM Pastoral Team  
[hjmpastoral@gmail.com](mailto:hjmpastoral@gmail.com)

**Layout and Design**  
 Eva Velez  
[evavelez55@gmail.com](mailto:evavelez55@gmail.com)

### Regular Contributors

Fr Kevin Redmond, Fr Floyd Gatana, Fr Lauro Arcede  
 Parish Priest and Asst Parish Priests  
 St Andrew the Apostle Parish  
 Tel: 9622 0817  
[saapm@bigpond.com](mailto:saapm@bigpond.com)



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