



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

July 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.

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

Last Sunday, June 29, the Church celebrated the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. That we celebrated the feast day and not the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time is an indication of how important this particular feast day is for the Church.

Each year, as we celebrate Saints Peter and Paul we can recognise how the Church is truly one, holy, catholic and apostolic, as the Creed says, but that we are not all the same. In a beautiful image St Paul (1 Cor 12) talks about the Church as one body and just as a body is made up of different parts, so is the Church.

St Peter represents the structures of the Church, the Papacy, Bishops, Dioceses, the rules and regulations that are so essential for us to function. We can recognise that as Christians have become divided into many churches and many communities the Catholic Church is big and united, it has many structures and ways of doing things. It can be seen as antiquated and stifling by its critiques. For many of our Christian brothers and sisters, the Catholics are one of the groups destined for hell. But for me, I see those elements not as drawbacks or things to change but as strengths and gifts from God. Being united with and under the Pope means that the Church is slow to change but our unity is preserved. We are not blown about by the latest fads or crazes. The different cultures from around the world are held together not by force but by what is essential and what unites us. Europeans do not see the world exactly as Australians do and those from Africa or South America see the world again in different ways. In the Gospel passage for the Solemnity, Jesus declares to Peter, that "you are the rock on which I will build my Church."

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I admit I am not a builder, but foundations are important and it does not matter, in one sense, how beautiful the building is above ground, if the foundations are not strong, the building will not last. St Peter, the Papacy and the structures give the Church the strong foundation because Peter was able through God's grace to grasp the truth of Jesus and the hope that the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour gives us.

Strong foundations help the structure to survive regardless of what is thrown at it or the challenges it experiences. This is important because our faith is not a fairytale. There will be challenges and difficulties and I believe that the structures and the shape that our faith gives to our lives are so important in those challenging times. It is not that the faith gives us easy answers but the theology, liturgy and prayers of the community give us strength to see the future, even if in our grief and sadness we want to stop the world.

St Peter, the first Pope, is rightly celebrated, not because he was perfect. How many times did Peter struggle or misunderstand or not fully grasp the situation? But we celebrate St Peter because he remained faithful, he remained open to the promptings of God and allowed himself to be challenged and changed by God and didn't try and change or force God to suit himself, as for example Judas Iscariot did. Throughout the history of the Church, we have had good Popes and some that have not been so good but we pray so often for the Pope because the Papacy is so important for us. We pray in part that the Pope, like St Peter will be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, see the signs of the times and strive to present the faith to the world in ways that are relevant to it and yet remain faithful to the Church's history and traditions.

When we think of St Paul, we encounter another critical element in the Church. That the Church is missionary, we are called to "go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15). Our faith, is truly universal, that in all cultures and every place in our world Jesus can be encountered. We can recognise that for our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters will only encounter God in a certain language and in a certain culture.

For one of the first major disagreements in the Church was the discussion of whether believers in Jesus needed to follow Jewish traditions or not. We hear in the Acts of the Apostles about what is called the first Council, meeting in Jerusalem, and the decision was made that the Gentiles did not need to follow Jewish traditions to be true disciples of Jesus.

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

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We know the story of St Paul well, how when we first heard of him, he was persecuting believers but after his conversion on the way to Damascus he became the Apostle to the Gentiles and the great missionary.

St Paul stressed that in his missionary journeys he only went to places that no one had visited before, he was the first to proclaim Jesus to them.

The Solemnity of Peter and Paul, challenge us to recognise the need to be open to God's promptings as Peter was and to be willing to be a witness to the truth before all people, just as Paul was, regardless of what it costs us.

But for the vast majority of us, we are not as free as Peter and Paul were to devote ourselves completely to Jesus. We have families, jobs, friends and a life here that makes it impossible to leave and go to the other side of the world. That is why it is important, I believe, to think about what it means to be missionary in our world today?

Yes, there are missionaries who leave their homeland and go to different parts of the world to proclaim Jesus. We have a number of priests and religious born overseas currently working in our Diocese and in our country. But for most of us, that is not possible, does that mean that we cannot be missionary? I believe that we are still missionary when we are able to witness to the truth of Jesus in our lives and world. If your family and friends are like mine, they have heard of Jesus, they may be able to point out where the local Church or Catholic School is but that does not mean that they have encountered Jesus.

Our faith is not just a set of rules or regulations, important as they can be. It is a relationship – God loves us and wants to draw us close. Jesus came to reveal the truth of God to us and so we are being drawn into the mystery of God in our day to day lives. Us witnessing to Jesus, is showing others by our words and deeds, the difference that faith makes in our lives. I hope and pray for each of us, that we can recognise that we are 'better', more fulfilled, have more meaning, peace and purpose with God in our lives than without. Yes, there are lots of things to learn about our faith, but knowledge is not as important as the heart. We are witnesses when we are able to be vulnerable and share from our hearts how the faith challenges and changes us.

Let us pray through the intercession of Saints Peter and Paul for our Church and for our world. These two important saints remind us that it is not about being right but about being open to God that is most important.

Kevin Redmond sm

From the Core Group

The last Core Group meeting was held on 20 June 2025. The next one will be on 18 July 2025.

Apostolate Ministry – will visit each of the 5 Bible cells meetings from June 2025. The Bible Cell Facilitators facilitation/visitation will be in October 2025 and February and June 2026.

Growth Ministry – The ministry members discernment has commenced on June 14 and will continue on succeeding prayer meeting. The ministry is preparing for the Life in the Spirit Seminar which will be held on August 30 and 31 at St Andrew's school hall.

Music Ministry – The ministry provided music service to the following events:

June 21, 22, 28, 29 – First Holy Communion

June 22 – Corpus Christi. Ministry will lead the music at Benediction.

June 27 – Solemnity of the Sacred Heart – 7pm mass

June 28 – Feast of Immaculate Heart of Mary – 9am mass

Praise and Worship Ministry – is now looking for volunteer prayer leaders for 2026. With some short notices of cancellations, the ministry is organising some backup plans. With the Exposition / Adoration at 6-630pm every Saturday, the ministry will present on next prayer meeting on possible effects on prayer meetings.

Prayers and Intercessory Ministry – continues to pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy on Mondays to Thursdays.

Service Ministry – continues to manage fellowship after prayer meetings and church cleaning. The roster to include only 2 Bible cells for Fellowship has commenced. Morning tea was served on the 5th Sunday of the month.

Pastoral Team – The Parish celebration of the Feast of Pentecost on June 7 at the school hall was very successful with participation from all the parish groups. An evaluation meeting will be held to get feedback - what went well, what can be improved, new concepts, etc -- to inform the planning and implementation for next year's celebration.

From the Parish Pastoral Council meeting – notes for HJM: Fr Kevin Redmond is the new Dean for the Blacktown Deanery. The construction within the school will commence next year. FBC may be converted to an Early Learning Centre, a new FBC may be constructed to serve as meeting rooms. **Please send any feedback to the Pastoral Team or corresponding ministry.**



Bible Cell: Blessed Trinity

Message: Trust and believe, God will provide and save us.

Action: Share an experience when you have trusted God's providence.

Bible Cell: Our Lady of Fatima

Message: Our mission on earth relies on our faith and hope in God's love, mercy and grace to attain His blessings.

Action: How did you apply faith and hope in fulfilling your mission commitment?

Bible Cell: Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Message: Be a blessing to others.

Action: Share an experience when you shared your blessings.

Bible Cell: St. John Paul II

Message: Have faith and absolute trust in the power of GOD.

Action: How did you overcome times when your faith and trust got tested.

Bible Cell: St. Mary MacKillop

Message: NIL.

Action: NIL.



ST JOHN PAUL II BIBLE CELL

The St. John Paul II Bible Cell (SJP II BC) was initially established in 2012 as Blessed John Paul II BC. It was renamed to SJP II BC following the canonization of St. John Paul II in April 2014. Cezar and Myra Estrera facilitated the cell from its inception until March 2025, when Efren and Lorie Atienza took over.

SJP II BC comprises Efren and Lorie Atienza, Cezar and Myra Estrera, Doris Ursua and Nandor Toth, Cheryl Dequina, Mercy Aquino, Erna Sow, Agnes Rupac, and Julietta Clark.

The HJM prayer community is fortunate to have SJP II BC as a means for individuals to grow and develop their spiritual lives alongside others. As St. John Paul II said, "the more ready you are to give yourself to God and to others, the more you discover the authentic meaning of life." May SJP II BC continue its mission with the intercession, grace, guidance, and protection of St. John Paul II.



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP BIBLE CELL

The Our Lady of Perpetual Help Bible Cell (OLOPH) was founded in 2007, and is currently facilitated by Noel and Jackie Tolentino.

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, 12 JULY 2025

PLACE: FR BYRNE CENTRE
TIME: 6.30PM to 7.30PM
LEADER: ST JOHN PAUL II BIBLE CELL

HJM PRAYER MEETING, SAT, 26 JULY 2025

PLACE: FR BYRNE CENTRE
TIME: 6.30PM to 7.30PM
LEADER: OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP BIBLE CELL

HJM CORE MEETING, 18 JULY 2025

PLACE: MS TEAMS
TIME: 7.30PM to 8.30PM

1st FRIDAY MASS, 1 AUGUST 2025

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



Happy birthday and God's blessings to the ff:

Socorro Amos	July 3
Lucy Fernando	July 6
Nestor Policarpio	July 11
Elsa Cruz	July 13
Lita Basco	July 15
Doris Ursua	July 25
Jun Gabriela	July 26
Ryan Barbadillo	July 28

Anniversaries

Sam and Siony Singh July 6



Dolette Enriquez	Aug 10
David Bustamante	Aug 10
Remy Aquino	Aug 15
Shonee Attwood	Aug 15
Colin Attwood	Aug 17
Agnes Rupac	Aug 20
Ding Rivera	Aug 20
Mirza Alata	Aug 29
Linda Aguas	Aug 30
Merlin Alforque	Aug 30
Josefina Durante	Aug 31

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:

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BSB:

062 703

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