



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

June 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 Kevin Redmond Straight to **The Hearts**

As you are reading this, it is June and 2026 is almost half over, I cannot believe how quickly this year seems to be going. It appears that there are so many things going wrong in this world and almost every day a new chapter can be written about the latest in a long line of problems.

During the Sixth Sunday of Easter, the Second Reading was from the First Letter of St Peter 3:15-18. The opening sentence always gets me, "Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have."

There can appear to be a disconnect between what is happening in our world, problem after problem and our faith where St Peter calls us to witness to our hope. Are we forced to accept that people of faith are naive or looking at the world through rose coloured glasses? I do not think so!

The hope that St Peter challenges us to answer for, is born from experience. I know for myself, and my prayer for each of us, is that we know that we are better with God in our lives than when we try and go it alone? As people of faith, we can know the profound peace and wholeness that the presence of God brings and how with God, all things are possible.

So many elements of the problems of our world, are because people fall into the trap of thinking that life is a zero sum game. Someone wins and someone else loses. It amazes me how other people seem to be winning and the good guys, or us or simply "me and my family" are losing. This causes a great deal of anxiety, distrust and anger.

There are many different ways that we can divide people, many different criteria that we can use. And it is perfectly understandable that we prefer what we know, what we grew up with. I believe it is perfectly legitimate to think that my mum and dad were the best cooks and others do not do as good a job.

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From the Desk of Fr Kevin Redmond Straight to The Hearts

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The problem is that we often then take a further step, not only is something better than something else. The way I want things done is the right and good way and the way that someone else does it is wrong and perhaps even evil. For once we start thinking about good and bad, then the good needs to be preserved and protected and the evil needs to be removed and even destroyed.

Our way of life in Australia is being challenged like never before because the multicultural nature of our society is being questioned. Those values that have previously identified Australian are being challenged. Being a 'mate' is only for those that think like me. Giving everyone a fair go is only for those who haven't jumped the queue and helping out is only when there is something in it for me.

Faced with all these challenges and problems it can feel like we are running and running ever faster and longer and not getting anywhere and this will exacerbate the frustration and the anger. But the alternative that you and I have as people of faith is summed up for us in that line from St Peter, 'are we ready to give an answer for the hope inside us? For the awareness of hope changes everything. For life is no longer a zero sum game but we recognise that when a person wins, we all win and when someone loses we all lose. The other is no longer a problem or somehow evil or up to no good. They are potentially an ally and can provide help that others may not be able to.

And hope allows us to know how blessed or rich we are. I am not talking financially but in all those intangibles that make life worth living. I think I have said this before, but my favourite hashtag is "first-world problems" because it challenges me to know that the challenges that I face are not really all that bad. Please do not misunderstand me, the challenges here in 21st century Australia are real but not all problems are equal. Yes, it is a challenge with the traffic and I am not sure how people go through peak hour traffic twice a day and remain sane, and I only do it occasionally. When the power went out and when the message came, that if your power was not back on, it would be another night without power, I was so close to booking myself into a hotel. And to be brutally honest, in that moment I was not even thinking what Fr's Floyd and Lauro were going to do.

But in other parts of the world, when the electricity can go out at anytime, when access to clean water and education is not guaranteed, when the mother/baby mortality rates are so high then being stuck in traffic or being uncomfortable at night need to be put into perspective.

What hope does is allows us to be grateful. To recognise the good things we have and when others do something for us. For while in our world so many things have a price or have been commodified, still there are elements of our life that cannot be and I would suggest it is those things that enrich our lives the most.

For ultimately, the hope that is inside us, is born from the realisation of all that God has done for us. And as God has been generous to us, then we are invited to be generous to others and our world. Each of us knows how hard we work to develop our talents and gifts, the 'price' we have paid but we are also invited to know that what we have is a gift and we have done nothing to deserve the blessings we receive.

It is a hard realisation to know that some people have a blessed life and others seem to have a very difficult life. But what our hope tells us is that the success or difficulty in our lives does not take away who we are. Each person is a child of God, with inherent dignity and value and must be respected. That hope invites us to recognise the graces we have received and to take up the challenge to be generous for what we have has been given to us freely and so we are to give freely

We need to be really careful when anyone tries to tell us who to blame for the difficulties or challenges we are facing because that makes it harder to see God in ourselves and others. Our generous God is found in our lives and in the midst of the difficulties, challenges and messiness of life, not only when things are going well. Let us pray that as we recognise the hope that is inside us, we may strive to be generous

Be assured of my prayers for you, your loved ones and those who love you.

Kevin Redmond sm

Pentecost celebration at St Andrew's parish – May 24, 2026



The altar is beautifully decorated.



Some parishioners came in their cultural costumes.



A big Thank You to all HJM members. 5 baskets of goodies for the Offertory.



The piazza has also been decorated. Lots of food to share.



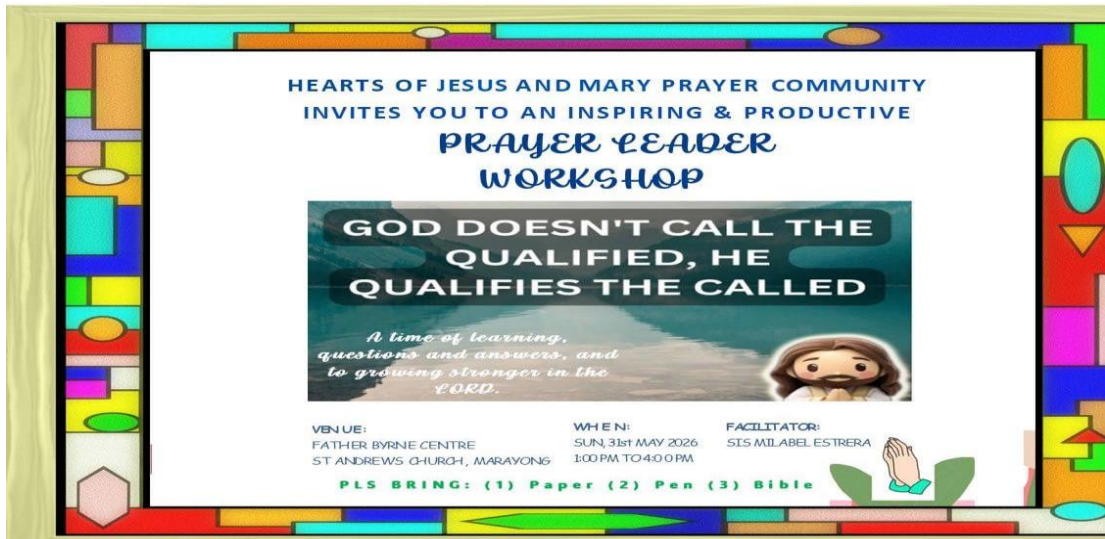
The Service Ministry at full steam.



Sis Jeannie participated in the Prayers of the Faithful in a beautiful *Patadyong*.

The Prayer Leader Workshop - May 31, 2026

Facilitator – Sis Milabel Estrera



Fr Ambrose giving a short talk at the prayer meeting on May 23, 2026.



Members visiting the sick and the elderly – June 2, 2026.



From the Core Group

The last Core Group meeting was held on 15 May 2026. The next meeting will be on 19 June 2026.

Apostolate Ministry – There are 2 more visitations by Bible Cell Facilitators to other Bible Cells before the end of the year. The ministry is planning a retreat on November 7 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre.

Growth Ministry – The Growth in the Spirit Seminar will be held on September 19 at Fr Byrne Centre. The speakers are currently being discerned.

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

Praise and Worship Ministry – The 2026 prayer leader roster and schedules for Teaching, Sharing and Healing is now complete. The Prayer Leader workshop was held on May 31.

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

Service Ministry – maintains roster on church cleaning after the 1st Friday mass of each month and manage fellowship after prayer meetings and at morning tea on every 5th Sunday of the month.

Pastoral Team – continues to give updates on forthcoming FBC redevelopment and on the establishment of the new Parish Pastoral Council.

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



Bible Cell: Blessed Trinity

Message: Be My witness for I am with you always till the end of time.

Action: Share an experience where you were God's witness.

Bible Cell: St. John Paul II

Message: Receive the Holy Spirit.

Action: What gifts of the Holy Spirit do you have, that you shared with the community?

Bible Cell: Our Lady of Fatima

Message: Christ is always with us.

Action: Share a recent important event/incident where you felt most that Christ was with you.

Bible Cell: St. Mary MacKillop

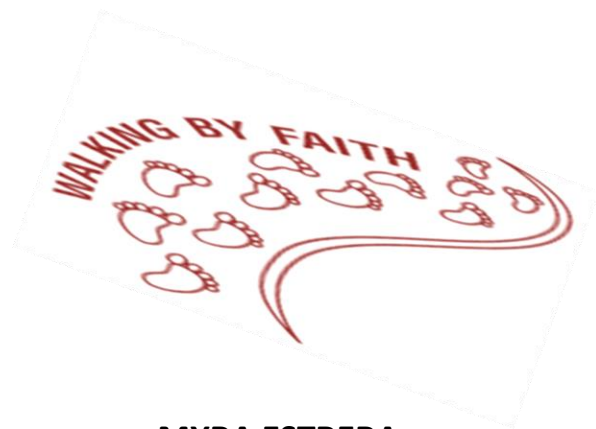
Message: Believe that I am with you always: yes, to the end of time.

Action: Share an experience when people see the Lord in you.

Bible Cell: Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Message: I am with you always, till the end of time.

Action: Share an experience when you trust and believe that God is with us.



MYRA ESTRERA



Sis Myra is one of the pioneers in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (HJM) prayer community. Her husband, Bro Cezar, is also a pioneer and a member of the Pastoral Team. Given that both have musical inclination and talent, HJM's Music Ministry has been blessed with their presence as they share their gifts.

For as long as people can remember, Sis Myra has been a valued member of the Music Ministry where she provides coaching to the singers. As such, it is just so fitting that she serves as its Head Servant. In previous years, she held the Head Servant position in the Praise and Worship Ministry responsible for the conduct of prayer meetings.

Both Sis Myra and Bro Cezar are members of the St. John Paul II Bible Cell (previously its facilitators).

The Estrera marital union has been blessed with three beautiful daughters, namely: Mitchie, Justinne and Jennifer and six gorgeous grandkids whose names are Raffy, Layla, Isaiah, Amelia, Jonah and including Elijah.

ERNA SOW



Sis Erna has been a member of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (HJM) Prayer Community Group since she arrived in Australia in 2004. She graduated LSS in 2005.

She currently heads the Finance division of Service Ministry.

She's been a part of the bible cell group since its implementation and is currently an active member of St John Paul 11.

She is a devoted mother to her two grown up daughters Kim and Faith and a loving Nana to her 2 grandsons Atlas & Cy.

She shares a Bible verse below reminding us to maintain a grateful heart, even in difficult circumstances, and to acknowledge God's goodness and provision in our lives. Bible Verse: Colossians 3:15 "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace and be thankful."

Upcoming Events:

HJM PRAYER MEETING, SAT, 13 JUNE 2026

PLACE: FR BYRNE CENTRE
TIME: 6.30PM to 8.00PM
LEADER: SIS MYRA ESTRERA

HJM CORE MEETING, FRI, 19 JUNE 2026

PLACE: MS TEAMS
TIME: 7.30PM to 8.30PM

HJM PRAYER MEETING, SAT, 27 JUNE 2026

PLACE: FR BYRNE CENTRE
TIME: 6.30PM to 8.00PM
LEADER: SIS ERNA SOW

1st FRIDAY MASS, 3 JULY 2026

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

June

Happy birthday and God's blessings to the ff:

Mila Alforque June 1
Gloria Ferrer June 3
Rita Vella June 9
Efren Atienza June 18
Jennifer Clark June 22

Anniversaries

Elmer and Anna Nifas June 5
Edgar and Jeannie Reyes June 8
Adrian and Malou Van Asten June 10
Ed and Nora Sayo June 11
Romy and Nenet Gapud June 16
Jun and Gloria Gabriela June 20
Merlin and Mila Alforque June 21
Sonny and Cheryl Dequina June 27

July

Socorro Amos July 3
Nestor Policarpio July 11
Elsa Cruz July 13
Lita Basco July 15
Doris Ursua July 25
Ryan Barbadillo July 28

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

Account No:

1079 7414