

Patrick Power
Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of
Canberra and
Goulburn



GPO Box 3089
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6248 8082 (h)
(02) 6201 9800 (w)
Fax: (02) 6248 8839 (h)
(02) 6257 7410 (w)

KAIROS

As someone who has not participated in a Kairos program, I wish to express my great admiration for all that it seeks to achieve. For the 21 years I have been a bishop I have visited prisons often enough to observe the pain and the loss of freedom and dignity endured by the inmates. Clearly, they have "committed the crime and are doing the time". There is very little sympathy towards them from those "outside" and about the only interest taken is that of a hostile media, and politicians and people often ignorant of all the issues involved. It is only when people in prison are seen as real human beings that some insight is gained into what they are experiencing. KAIROS enables the prisoners to see themselves as worthwhile and lovable in the eyes of God and the people around them. It does not try to whitewash their crimes but enables them to see that forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus' teaching. It helps them to make the best of the difficult conditions in which they find themselves and helps them to see that there is hope for the future. Hopefully, too, it enables them to connect better with family and friends, allowing them to be more supportive. In a society which can be cruel and unforgiving, I appeal to all who read this, to reflect on the blessings of your own life, to acknowledge your own failings, and to do what you can to bring some comfort to those less fortunate than yourselves.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pat Power".

(Bishop) Pat Power
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