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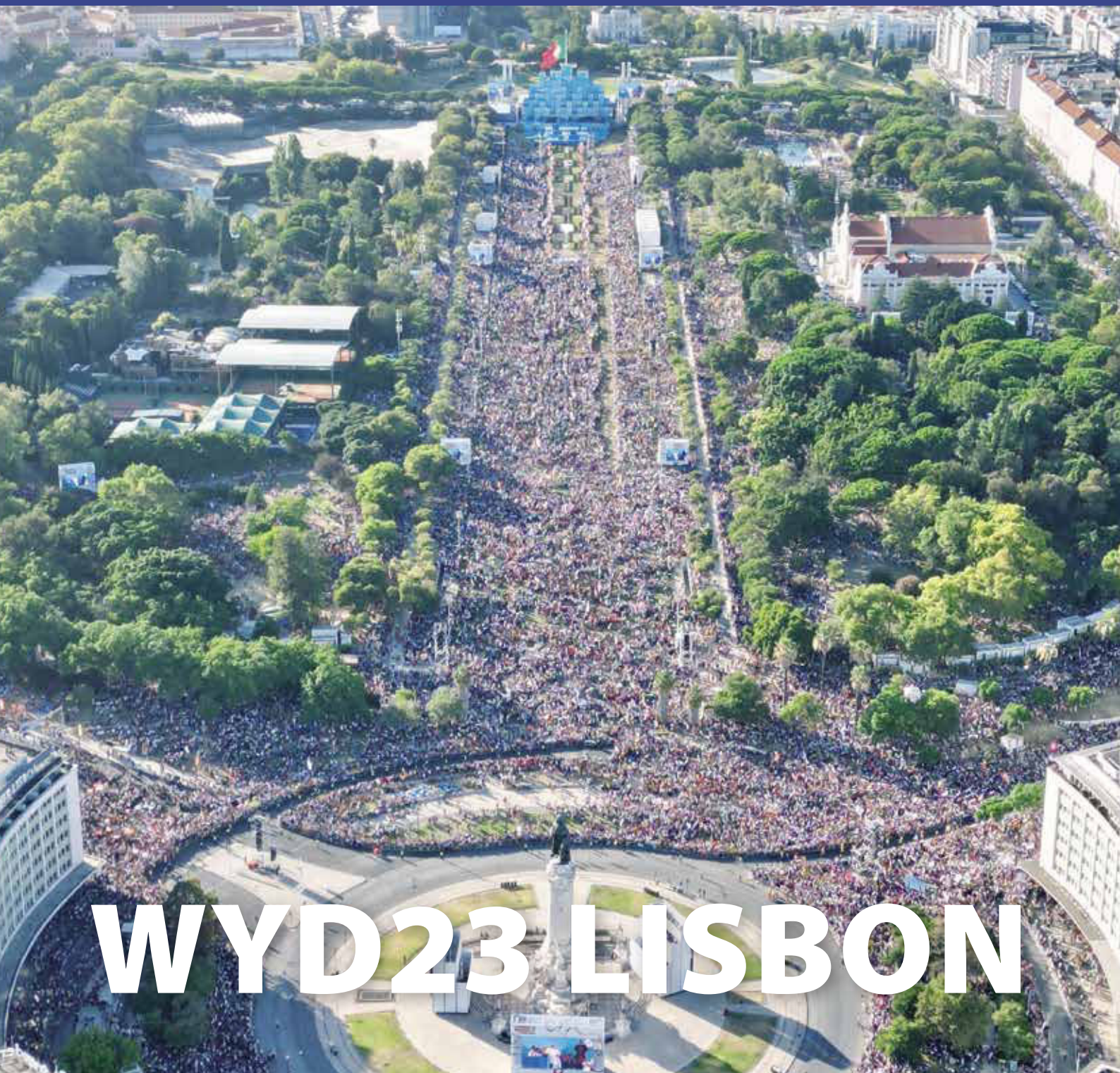
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WYD23 LISBON



A Magnificent Experience

The Diocese of Broken Bay **Magnify** pilgrimage to Italy and WYD23 in Lisbon, Portugal was always going to be an amazing experience.

Our group included a handful of “WYD veterans” (although each WYD brings new and different challenges), students and young people who had travelled previously but not on a pilgrimage, and some who had never been overseas.

Students, teachers, young adults, parish and Chancery leaders, priests, seminarians, religious and Bishop Anthony made up our enthusiastic group of 170. For Bishop Anthony this was his first WYD, and although he didn't quite know what to expect he was leading the majority of the group on a very special pilgrimage through Italy before flying to Lisbon, Portugal to join the rest of our pilgrims who flew directly to Lisbon from Sydney.

Fair to say our pilgrims were well prepared following four lengthy and incredibly detailed information sessions and a great deal of behind-the-scenes work by our coordinators and leaders.

Bags packed, lots of advice stored away on staying hydrated in an extremely hot and humid Europe and how to deal with massive crowds, plus our bright blue Magnify T-shirts to ensure we would stay together, at least

until we boarded the plane, this excited group was ready to go.

Everyone knew it would be a challenging and exciting time. But for many it was simply life-changing.

This special *Broken Bay News* insert follows our pilgrims to the churches and basilicas, homes and holy sites of many of our saints, in the towns and cities of Italy.

We were blessed to celebrate Mass in so many sacred and beautiful places – from the tiny and secluded 13th century Hermitage Chapel, in an oak wood in Assisi where St Francis would often retreat to pray, to the spiritual beauty of the largest papal basilica, St Peter's in Vatican City, Rome.

While Europe was crowded with other pilgrims and tourists, Lisbon was welcoming hundreds of thousands of young Catholics from around the world while also preparing for the arrival of Pope Francis.

And our pilgrims were about to step into the wonder of the universal Church.

Follow the Magnify pilgrimage through the sacred and iconic landmarks of Italy to the faith-filled exuberance of Lisbon, and on to Fatima for three days of retreat and reflection.

WYD MAGNIFY PILGRIMAGE

“Pilgrims – not tourists!”

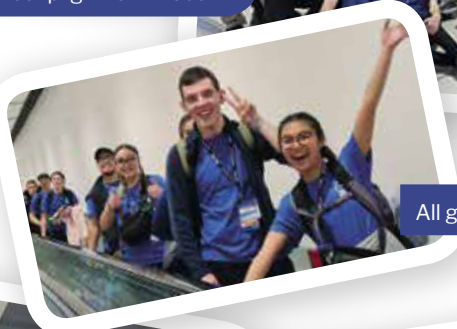
DEPARTURE



The Departure Gate: 21 July 2023. Green Bus, Red Bus, Yellow Bus pilgrims checked and ready to go. Will see our White Bus direct pilgrims in Lisbon.



ARRIVAL



All good so far!



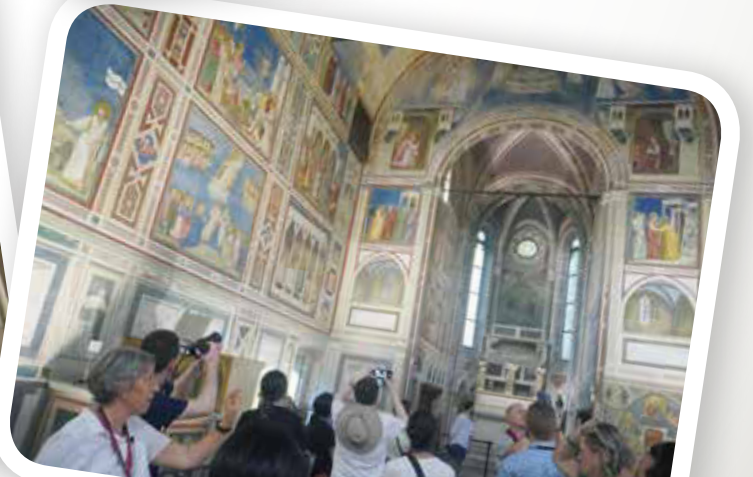
A very long flight but arrived safely at Venice airport – and with everyone's luggage. Bishop Anthony checking everyone okay and ready for our pilgrimage.



PADUA



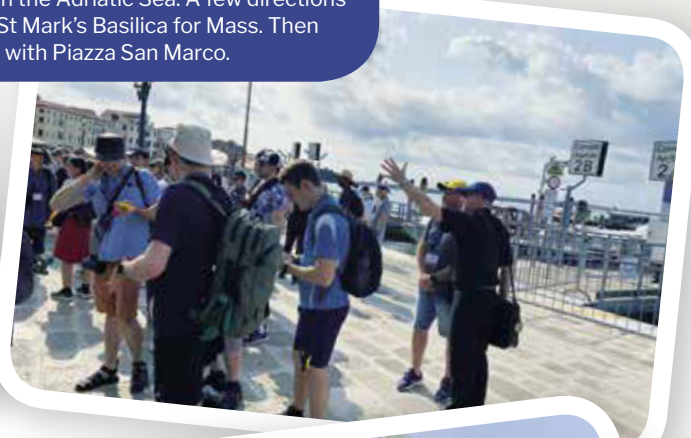
The Chapel of the Relics in the Basilica of St Anthony.



The Scrovegni Chapel in Padua with the extraordinary cycle of paintings by Giotto completed around 1305.

VENICE

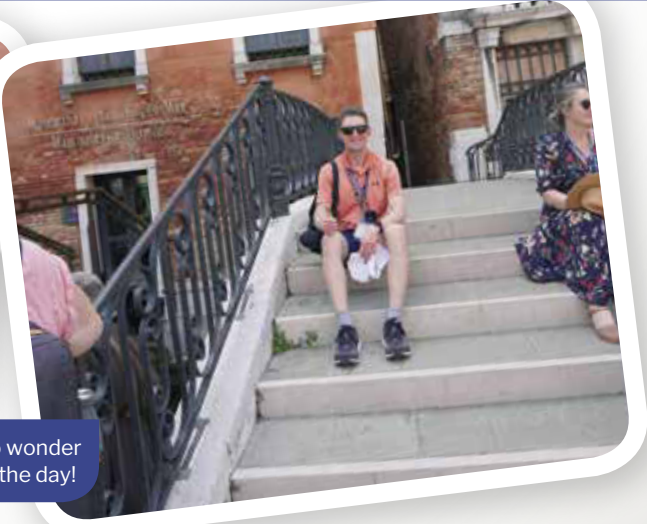
Best way to arrive in Venice – and the only way. Venice is built on more than 100 islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea. A few directions from the Bishop and we are off to St Mark's Basilica for Mass. Then a walking tour of Venice beginning with Piazza San Marco.



Just getting our bearings.



Before and after Mass at St Mark's Basilica, the episcopal seat of the Patriarch of Venice – often called the "Golden Casilica" because of the glittering mosaics and golden altarpiece. The multi-domed Basilica was built to guard St Mark the Evangelist's relics, believed to be stolen in Alexandria where he died a martyr and secretly returned to Venice in 828. The Patron Saint of Venice, St Mark is symbolised on many buildings as a winged lion.



There are more than 400 bridges in Venice – no wonder a rest is necessary every so often in the heat of the day!

BOLOGNA

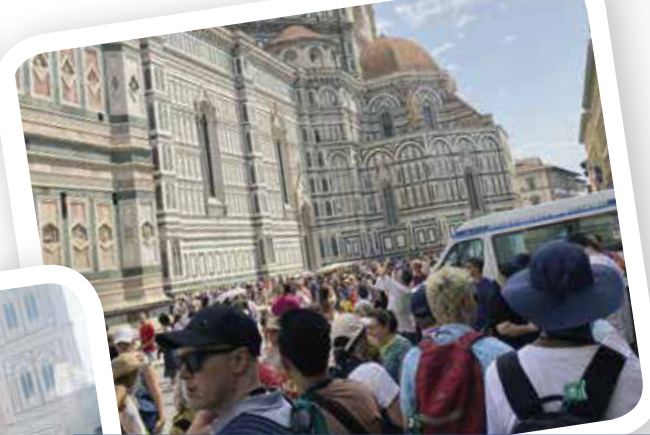


Mass in the Basilica of San Domenico. In 1221 St Dominic, founded the Order of Preachers here. When he died he was buried behind the altar. Soon after the church was expanded and the remains of St Dominic were moved in 1267 to their final resting place in a new shrine, decorated with the main episodes from the life of the saint.

FLORENCE



Often called the "Cradle of the Renaissance" and the capitol of Italy's Tuscany region, Florence is a treasure trove of sacred masterpieces and architectural marvels. It is home to the Uffizi Gallery which houses works by Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo and of course the Academy of Fine Arts featuring Michelangelo's statue of David.



The iconic Duomo or Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence Cathedral, was designed by Brunelleschi and is one of the greatest masterpieces of Gothic art and set the scene for the Italian Renaissance. It is one of the largest churches in the world. The first stone was laid in 1296 and consecrated in 1436 at completion of the dome. The external walls are covered in white, red and green marble with geometric figures and stylised flowers. Behind our pilgrims (left) it looks like a painting.



Also fortunate to celebrate Mass at the Church of Santa Croce on the Feast of St James the Great.



SIENA



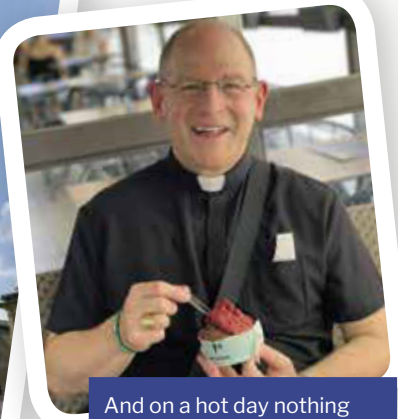
A beautiful medieval city surrounded by a 1,000-year old wall, Siena is the birthplace of saints Catherine and Bernadine.



The Basilica of San Domenico, also known as Basilica Cateriniana, was begun as a small church in 1226 but has been enlarged over the centuries. It also contains several relics of St Catherine of Siena which we were able to view following Mass.

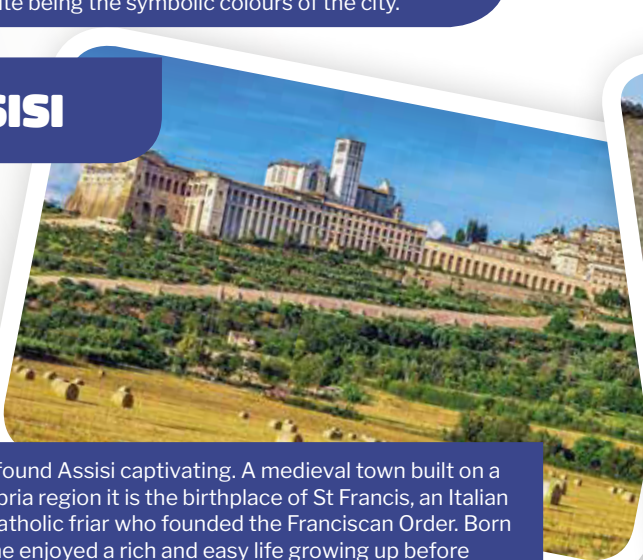


Walked the colourful narrow streets and laneways to the Basilica of San Francesco to view the miracle of the incorrupt Hosts that occurred in 1730 before visiting one of Italy's largest squares, Piazza del Campo, known for hosting the Paillo horserace. Also fortunate to visit the beautiful Siena Cathedral, dedicated to Holy Mary of the Assumption, which is decorated in white and dark marble – black and white being the symbolic colours of the city.



And on a hot day nothing better than a cool gelato.

ASSISI

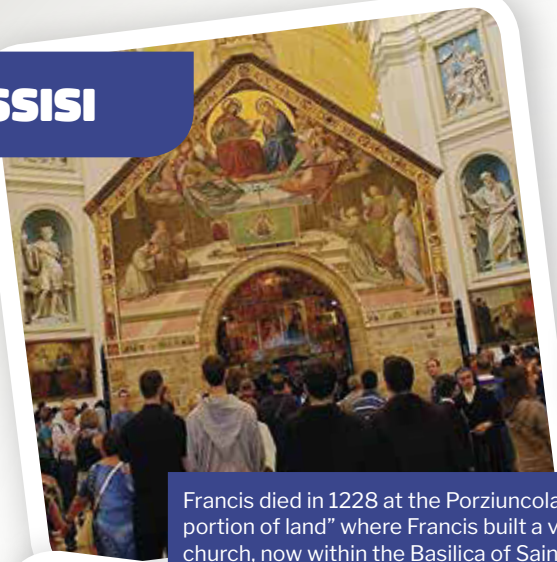


Our pilgrims found Assisi captivating. A medieval town built on a hill in the Umbria region it is the birthplace of St Francis, an Italian mystic and Catholic friar who founded the Franciscan Order. Born here in 1181 he enjoyed a rich and easy life growing up before devoting his life to God. St Francis dedicated his life to helping the poor and the sick and considered all nature as the mirror of God.



Francis also organised a second order for women known as the Poor Clares, led by St Clare of Assisi. They lived in the church and monastery of San Damiano in Assisi until her death in 1253.

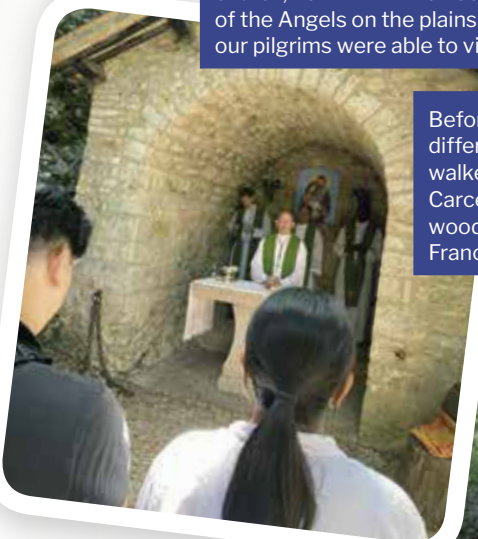
ASSISI



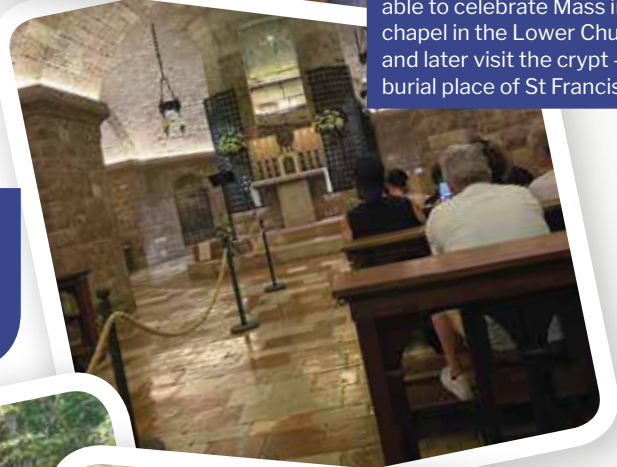
Francis died in 1228 at the Porziuncola, or "small portion of land" where Francis built a very small church, now within the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels on the plains of Assisi and where our pilgrims were able to visit and pray.



The Basilica of St Francis of Assisi comprises two churches – the Upper and the Lower Church. We were able to celebrate Mass in a chapel in the Lower Church, and later visit the crypt – the burial place of St Francis.



Before leaving Assisi a very different Mass experience. We walked to the Hermitage of Carceri or small chapel built in the woods around a grotto where St Francis would retreat to pray.

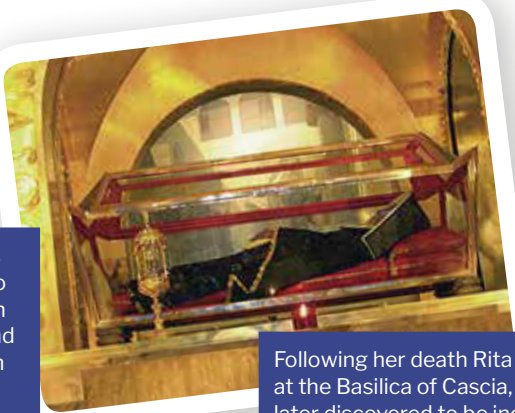


CASCIA

"The unmistakable highlight of my time in Italy was our stay in Assisi. It radiated a tangible aura of sanctity. It felt as though the legacies of St Francis and St Clare had imbued the area with a spirit of tranquility. Initially I believed I was having a uniquely personal experience; however I was delighted to find many fellow pilgrims shared the same sentiment," Fr Sam French



A small, remote and mountainous town in Perugia, Cascia is home to one of the most famous shrines in Italy. It is a centre of mysticism and spirituality related to the devotion of Santa Rita, born in 1381. When Rita's husband was killed and after the death of her two sons, she joined the Augustinian nuns in their Cascia monastery.



Following her death Rita was buried at the Basilica of Cascia, and was later discovered to be incorrupt. A woman of strength, faith and courage, St Rita is the Patroness of impossible causes.

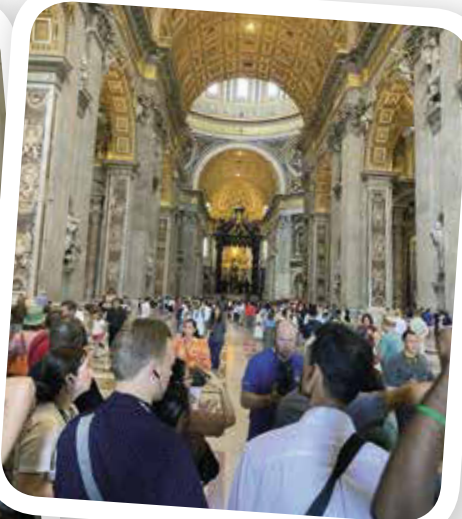
ROME



We have arrived in the Eternal City. Our pilgrimage brings us to one of the most sacred places in Christendom, St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. A city-state, the smallest country in the world and the centre of the Roman Catholic Church, millions of pilgrims visit here every year, all year round. There is just so much to see here and it can be daunting, especially for first timers. It was also one of the hottest days of the pilgrimage but not a minute was to be wasted.



First up the Vatican Museums and the immense collection of art, archeology and ethnology amassed by the popes from the 17th Century onwards. The museums are visited by more than 6 million people each year. There are more than 70,000 exhibits in an area of 42,000 metres which includes the Sistine Chapel and the magnificent paintings by Michelangelo which cover the vault and the wall on the altar.



Despite the crowds our pilgrims were able to spend time viewing Michelangelo's breathtaking Pieta – a marble sculpture of the Blessed Virgin Mary cradling Jesus at Mount Golgotha after His Descent from the Cross and representing the "Sixth Sorrow".



Pilgrims admiring the Baldacchino or large sculpted bronze canopy designed by Bernini over the high altar marking the place of St Peter's tomb below. The structure is nearly 10 stories high – but the dome above is nearly 140 metres!



A special time also for Seminarian Hien Vu when he met his sister, Sr Maria, in St Peter's Square after not seeing each other for five years. She was excited to learn Hien had just been told by the Bishop his Diaconal Ordination will take place in November.

ROME



The Colosseum is the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built. Begun between 70 and 72 CE it was built to entertain the people of Rome and could seat 50,000 spectators. However the “entertainment” included bloody gladiatorial battles, contests between men and animals and mock naval battles. It was also the site of the martyrdom of early Christians.



The Basilica of Mary Major, one of the Seven Pilgrim Churches of Rome and the largest Catholic Marian Church in Rome. We were incredibly fortunate to celebrate Mass in the Borghese Chapel of the basilica under the famous icon known as Salus Populi Romani or Salvation of the Roman People. According to tradition the icon was painted by St Luke the Evangelist using the wooden table of the Holy Family in Nazareth.



A very special celebration in one of the only four basilicas that hold the title major basilica. The others in Rome are St John Lateran, St Peter's and St Paul Outside-The-Walls.



St Paul Outside-The-Walls was built on the burial site of St Paul by Emperor Constantine. The site also includes a very ancient Benedictine Abbey and is where the Mass of Thanksgiving for the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first saint, was held on 18 October 2010.

ROME

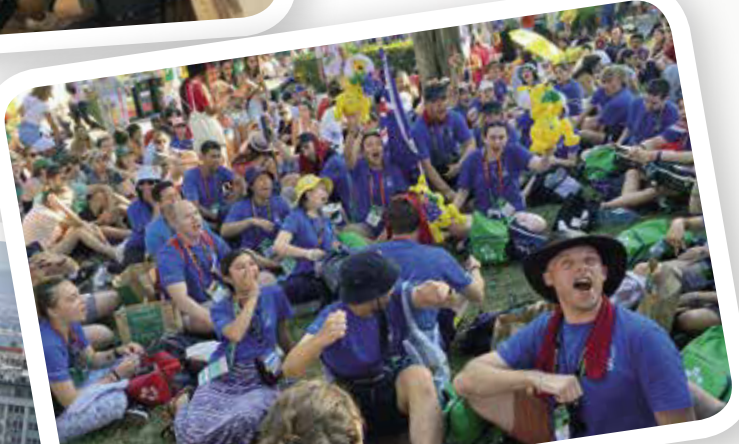


In the 5th Century under the Pontificate of Leo the Great, the Basilica became the home of a long series of medallions that have and will depict all the popes throughout history.

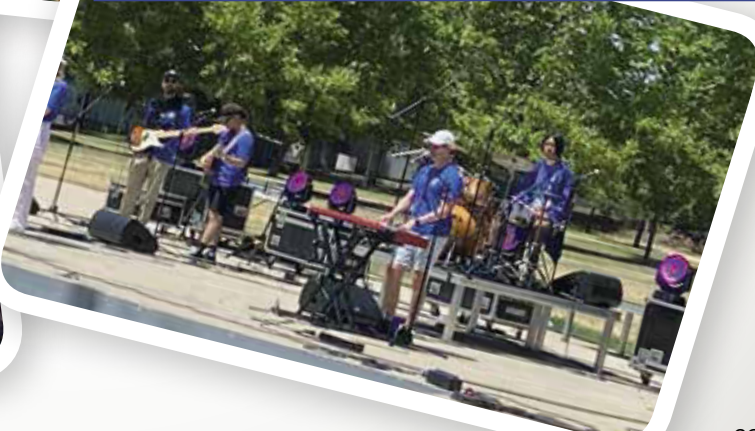


Bishop Anthony telling the pilgrims of the young Aboriginal boy Francis Xavier Conaci, who at just seven years of age travelled with another boy from New Norcia in Western Australia to Rome in 1949 to study for the priesthood and eventually return to Australia as a missionary. Francis was a good scholar however he became ill and died four years after arriving in Rome. He is buried beneath the basilica with a floor plaque marking his grave.

LISBON



All our pilgrim group arrive in Lisbon for WYD 2023. A vibrant expression of the universal Church and a celebration of youth from around the world, sharing culture, interests, ambitions, and faith as Christ's living witnesses. The traditional Australian Gathering when pilgrims from around Australia get together for prayer, reflection and music. The largest group of Aussies to ever come to Portugal and the park rocked when Broken Bay performed our official WYD song "Magnify" - inspired by the Magnificat and the WYD theme "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39)



LISBON



A moment of "street catechesis" from Bishop Anthony.



One of the young hosts of Lisbon excited to meet our Bishop and try on his zucchetto!



Young people pouring into Lisbon's Parque Eduardo VII for the Pope's official Welcome Ceremony. "In the Church, there is room for everyone. Everyone. In the Church, no one is left out or left over," he told the gathering to cheering and clapping.



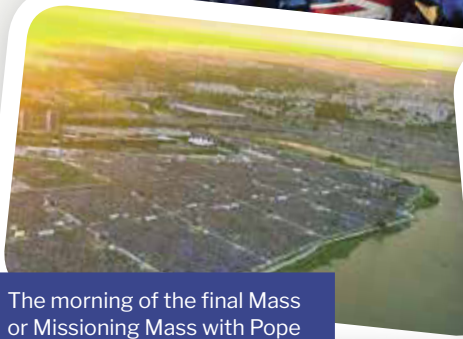
Day 5 was the day of the "Big Walk". Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims left Lisbon for a riverside park around 14 kms from the city in preparation for the Vigil and Adoration and the sleepout before the Final Mass. Hot and thirsty work. Some volunteered to leave early to, hopefully, reserve an area. Good intentions but people kept pouring in.



LISBON



"I will never forget the walk, the Vigil and the sleepout and the final Mass. At the Vigil, during Adoration, there was a period when hundreds of thousands of people were all silent together, worshipping Our Lord, and you could hear a pin drop" – Seminarian Shayne D'Cunha



The morning of the final Mass or Missioning Mass with Pope Francis. Incredibly pilgrims managed to sleep – some in very unusual places! By the time the Pope arrived more than 1.5 million people had gathered. At the end of the Mass Pope Francis announced the next WYD will be held in Seoul, South Korea in 2027.



FATIMA



After the exuberance, excitement, crowds, personal and religious experiences, three days in Fatima provided the opportunity to quietly reflect, pray and talk. A short drive from Lisbon, Fatima is home to the Sanctuary of Fatima where the Virgin Mary appeared before three shepherd children on the 13th day of each month from May through to October 1917. During the retreat our pilgrims were able to visit the small home where the children lived, walk and pray the Stations along the tranquil Way of the Cross surrounded by olive and holm trees and visit the Chapel of Calvary.



One of the most memorable times for the pilgrims was visiting the Basilica of the Rosary Our Lady of Fatima, the Church of the Holy Trinity and the Chapel of Apparitions for the Holy Rosary before joining the candlelit procession. Volunteers carry the statue of Our Lady of the Rosary with pilgrims following as they pray the Rosary in various languages and sing the Ave Maria around the large Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima site. The procession takes place every night from Easter to Advent.



Bishop Anthony – “What an experience for everyone of us. Our young people were extraordinary. I know they will achieve a great deal through the power of the Holy Spirit as they continue their faith journey.

“And to our priests and religious, seminarians, leaders and amazing teachers I thank you for everything you did before and during this incredible pilgrimage. I am deeply grateful.”

Kelly Paget, Chancellor and Pilgrimage Co-ordinator – “Of the nine WYDs I have now attended this is my best WYD experience to date. Our pilgrims have been amazing, leaders incredible, Bishop Anthony brilliant and Lisbon an amazing host. How blessed we have been, my soul is rejuvenated.”

Noah, Year 10, St Peter’s Catholic College – “This whole pilgrimage has for me been a way to explore myself and my faith, and to better myself so that I can go out and help others.”

Precious, Year 10, St Joseph’s Catholic College – “Going to WYD is not what I expected. Experiencing the first Mass with all the pilgrims from different backgrounds and cultures was one of the highlights. There were challenges but we found strength through each other, conversation and prayer. This made me realise that pilgrimage is not just about gelatos and Portuguese tarts – although they were good – it was also about the strong connections we made together as pilgrims.”

Patti Beattie, Director of Evangelisation – “WYD Portugal was a joy-filled experience for all who journeyed together on the Broken Bay pilgrimage. It was a privilege to walk alongside the young people of our Diocese to witness and share in their experiences. A highlight for me was the abundant joy that was present amongst the entire pilgrimage group, walking, praying, singing, and sharing the journey together. And also our time in Fatima - to be one in prayer with thousands of other pilgrims from all parts of the world was both moving and powerful.”

Hien Vu, Seminarian – “Walking through the crowds in the summer heat posed a real physical challenge for many of us. This experience exposed me to a sense of suffering. The motto we adopted right at the beginning truly motivated us to persevere – ‘we are pilgrims – not tourists’. What mattered most was that we walked through these challenges together. As I realised at the end of the journey, we have become more understanding of each other. We helped each other in every way possible, and developed a sense of resilience and perseverance.”

