



Vox Populi

20 July 2023

A group of Broken Bay pilgrims will soon be experiencing a journey of a lifetime. A joyful and faith filled experience as Christ's witnesses to His mission.

The group of 169 will join thousands of others from around the world in Lisbon, Portugal, for World Youth Day in the first week of August.

Comprising students, young adults, teachers, priests, religious, seminarians, and diocesan leaders, the majority of the pilgrims depart Friday evening, 21 July, for Venice, Italy, to begin their pilgrimage through Italy.

They will be led by Bishop Anthony to the holy sites of many of our saints- to their birthplaces, cathedrals, basilicas and holy resting places. While some have been to a number of WYDs, for many it is the first time they have been overseas or to Europe.

What an experience!

At the end of the month these pilgrims will be joined by another Broken Bay group in Lisbon and the Broken Bay WYD Magnify Pilgrimage will encounter an amazing experience.

There will be times of prayer and reflection and times of music and great celebration with young people from so many and varied cultures.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis will join this unique gathering, encouraging them to see the meeting with "hope" and that they "grow and acquire values they did not have before... values that will stay for life, and with that, it will convey the message that the Church has young people's strength".

For Bishop Anthony it is also his first WYD.

"I too am very excited about being part of this journey but also excited for our young people," he said before leaving.

"Our group is incredibly enthusiastic, really filled with the Holy Spirit for what will be a life changing experience for many.

"Please pray for all of us during the coming weeks, and ask our Blessed Mother to carry each one of us in her heart and that we return safely to our loved ones."

Many communities throughout Broken Bay have come together to support, fundraise and encourage our travellers. You are all part of the journey – and all part of the storytelling.

You can now journey with our pilgrims online by following our stories on following link:
<https://bbwyd.org.au/stories-from-the-road/>

Thank you all for your prayers and support!