



Vox Populi

09 October 2025

This past week marked the final days of two Diocesan pilgrimages where many of our families, friends and colleagues travelled to sacred sites in this Holy Jubilee Year seeking personal and spiritual growth.

A Diocesan group travelled from the hilltop town of Assisi, the birthplace of St Francis and now the final resting place of St Carlo Acutis, our first millennial saint, to Orvieto and onto Rome to pass through the Holy Door of the four Papal Basilicas with their prayers and petitions.

A second group of leaders with Catholic Schools Broken Bay began their pilgrimage in Poland. Accompanied by Bishop Anthony they visited the Monastery in Czestochowa, Jasna Gora with the miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary or Black Madonna, the house where St John Paul II lived when he was Archbishop of Krakow, and one of the most confronting places in human history – the Nazi death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

From Poland they journeyed to Rome, walking in the footsteps of the great apostles, Saints Peter and Paul. They too passed through the Holy Door of Saint John Lateran, Saint Mary Major, and St Peter's in the Vatican.

Our two pilgrim groups came together for Mass at the beautiful Basilica of St Paul Outside-the-Walls, united in prayer and celebrated in joy and peace.

So much for these pilgrims to reflect upon during their journey home.

However a journey like this is not just about the destinations. It is the transformation that occurs during the pilgrimage leading to a closer, personal relationship with God.

While the destinations hold particular and memorable significance, often linked to saints or miracles, it is the inner spiritual journey through prayer and meditation that brings about transformation.

Pray for all our pilgrims that their spiritual journey continues as they return to our homes and workplaces – as they surely prayed for us these past days.