

WELCOME

VISION *The Wyong Catholic Parish is a welcoming, caring dynamic community*

MISSION STATEMENT *We will live and proclaim the message of the Gospel :
Engage, Participate, Reach out and Transform*

16TH FEBRUARY 2025—SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

WYONG CATHOLIC PARISH

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH, ST JOHN FISHER MASS CTR & ST PETER'S CHAPEL

**Under the Pastoral Care of the
Society of Our Lady of The Most Holy Trinity (SOLT)**

REFLECTION— 16th February 2025

There is something about the place in which today's Gospel reading is set. Jesus had just prayed all night long in the hills before appointing the twelve who were to be his apostles. He then brought them down to level ground where a crowd of his disciples and a larger crowd of people full of self-interest awaited him. By creating a scene where all those gathered were rubbing shoulders with one another Luke was pointing out that this was Jesus really saying to the assembly: 'Pay close attention, for we are all in this together.'

By listing blessings and woes in four pairs, Jesus was very likely reminding his audience that they had probably found themselves in the tension of experiencing the blessings and woes one on top of the other, hoping for the blessing of comfort in the midst hardship and struggle of all kinds followed almost immediately by the realisation that they had at times contributed to others' hardship or failed to comfort them when they were doing it tough.

Haven't we all seen ourselves, from time to time, as a mixture of saint and sinner?

If we step back for a moment from the text, we might be able to see that the greatest beatitude for us is Jesus himself. He continues to be God's blessing to the weak (all of us) in a world that reserves its admiration for the wealthy, the powerful and the famous. That's a world he invites us to change.

Reproduced from God's Word 2025: Daily Reflections, Published by St Pauls Publications, Strathfield.





**WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
OUR NEW ACCREDITATION FOR
HOME CARE PACKAGES**



EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST NOW
P: 1800 324 924
E: info@catholiccaredbb.org.au
W: www.catholiccaredbb.org.au

CatholicCare is our social care agency in the Diocese of Broken Bay. We have been supporting the Northern Sydney, Northern Beaches and Central Coast communities for 35 years.

We understand many seniors prefer to stay at home as they age. The Government's funding for Home Care Packages can help you live independently at home for longer.

We want to know if our Home Care Packages are of interest to you, or a loved one and want to prioritise the needs of our parishioners before we promote to the general public.

As a Catholic organisation we want the seniors we support to know they are truly cherished and valued and we're confident our services will be very well received.

There's no obligation to partner with us. We may contact you to discuss your needs, but you're welcome to opt-out at anytime.

CATHOLIC CARE

HOME CARE PACKAGES – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Please feel to take a form should you wish to express your interest. They will be kept at the back pew upon exiting the Church.

Parish Bulletin

E-BULLETIN If you would like to have the bulletin emailed to you, please send an email with "e-bulletin" as the subject to:
wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au

AGE TO AGE

Our parish, to survive and flourish, must increase the numbers of people who are active participants.

In this Jubilee year, the Holy Father has called on us to be Pilgrims of Hope as he knows 'in the heart of each person is the expectation of good things to come, despite not knowing what the future may bring.'

The success of 'Age to Age' is to be our Hope and Challenge.

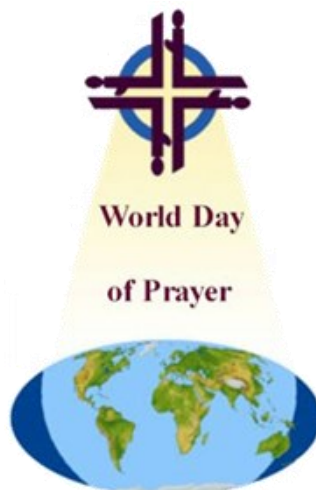
The program is designed to provide:

- opportunities to support youth development and well-being,
 - strong connections between youth, parents and parish,
 - establishment of active areas to achieve this connection,
 - understanding which will be carried into adult life
- Many parishioner volunteers are needed to take up this challenge. We know you will help.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can come to know how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, Ecumenical expression.



This year the World Day of Prayer is being hosted in this area by Wyong Catholic Parish. It will be held on **Friday, 7th March 2025 at 10am in St Cecilia's Church, Wyong** followed by morning tea. This year the Country of focus is The Cook Islands with the theme being 'I made you wonderful'.

Please join us for this international ecumenical prayer service. If you can help with morning tea please contact Christine (0427 251 450) or Noela (0401 201 134). *Kia Orana!* – a greeting that means 'May you live long and may you live well. May you shine like the sun. May you dance with the waves.'

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—YOU'RE INVITED !

All children are invited to attend the children's Liturgy at our weekend masses. Children's Liturgy is when the children leave the congregation to celebrate and reflect on the Sunday Gospel reading in an age appropriate way. The children are led through prayers, songs and readings that are adapted to their level of understanding. (Please ensure there is a parent/guardian for children under 5yrs old; all parents/guardians welcome).

Attending Mass together is a part of being a Catholic Family, while Children's Liturgy allows children to enter the celebration more fully by catering to their needs.

Please see below the weekend masses with Children's Liturgy:

St Cecilia's Church, Wyong—Sunday 9.30am

St John Fisher Mass Centre, Tumby Umbi—Sunday 5:00pm



365 Pacific Highway
North Wyong NSW 2259
PO Box 786
Wyong NSW 2259



Ph: 02 4351 8004
Ph: 02 4392 8777

BOWDEN FAMILY FUNERALS

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Anita Bowden - Director
anitabowden@cci.net.au



*We do not think of it as a job...
it is an Irish honour.*



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PARISH CALENDAR

- Shrove Tuesday 4th March—Palm burning & Sausage Sizzle 6pm @St Cecilia's
- Ash Wednesday 5th March - St Cecilia: 8am & 6pm. St John Fisher: 8am
- World Day of Prayer 7th March—Liturgy to be held at 10am @St Cecilia's

Palm Burning Ceremony Tues 4th March 6pm

Palm Burning Ceremony (please bring your old palms) followed by BBQ dinner (please bring dessert to share) to be held at St Cecilia's Church and Parish Hall/Verandah RSVP by 2nd March to Kerry on 024388 2938 for catering.

Main Liturgical Feasts: February

15th Feb—Saturday Mass of the Virgin Mary
17th Feb—The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
21st Feb—Saint Peter Damian
22nd Feb—The Chair of St Peter
27th Feb—Saint Gregory of Narek

200 Club 2025

With parishioner support, the 200 club will run from July to 19 December. The money raised helps the parish immensely. Our greatest need currently is to increase family participation. We know this will be a slow and ever-ongoing process.

To achieve this, we need to provide:

- opportunities to support youth development and well-being.
- a strong connection between youth, parents and parish.
- a program designed to establish active areas to make this connection.
- an understanding achieved by youth which will be carried into adult life.

Volunteers Needed

We have a few different departments in our parish that could use extra hands. If you are interested in supporting your parish here at Wyong using your skills and some of your time then please contact the parish office, we would love to hear from you!

Phone: 02 4352 1011

Email: wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au

RECONCILIATION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025

RECONCILIATION – Year 4

Parent Info. Night St Cecilia's Hall – Mon. 24th February, 7pm

Parent Info. Night St John Fisher Mass Centre – Tues. 25th February, 7pm

Presentation Mass St Cecilia's – Sat. 1st March

Presentation Night St John Fisher - Sun. 2nd March

Reconciliation Sacrament St Cecilia's – Mon. 7th April

Reconciliation Sacrament St John Fisher – Tues. 8th April

If you would like to enroll into the Reconciliation Program please come along to the Information Night. If you have any questions please contact our sacramental coordinator, Christine on

wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au or 02 4352 1011



St Francis of Assisi

"FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE"



First Fruits Offering 2025

God calls us to be generous with all our gifts, while stewardship means giving back to God in gratitude for all He has given us.

Our Pope has been calling on us to be a missionary Church, to renew our faith, become better stewards of what we own, and care deeply for each other.

Over this and next weekend, our Priests and members of different Parish Committees will speak on the First Fruits Offering, focusing on Planned Giving Renewal. At Masses this weekend, you will be given an envelope and copies of other printed material. Pray for God's guidance to help you discern your offering. Once you have read the material and considered your financial position, join our program by considering regular giving. Your support and contribution will help our Parish increase its income and ensure its survival and growth in the long term. Our Wyong Parish is grateful for your offering. God bless you!



Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



Property Transfer Professionals

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Email: cruz@homecaring.com.au

MASS TIMES

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH

23 Byron St Wyong

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass Times

Sat Vigil 5.00pm Sun 7.30am & 9.30am

Weekday Mass

Mon-Sat: 8.00am, Monday 9.15am (School Term)

Reconciliation/Confession Saturday morning after the 8am Mass & Saturday at 4.30pm

ST JOHN FISHER MASS CENTRE

Hicks Lane Tumbi Umbi

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass Times

Sat Vigil 5.00 pm Sun: 8.30am & 5pm

Weekday Mass

Mon, Wed, Thurs 8:00am Tue & Fri: 9.15am

Reconciliation/Confession Saturday at 4.30pm

EMERGENCY PRIEST CONTACT

Fr Raul Ph: 0450 115 099

Fr Alex Ph: 0432 947 245

Fr Teody Ph: 0414 494 823

PARISH OFFICE 23 Byron Street Wyong

Phone: 02 4352 1011 Po Box 385 Wyong 2259

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest **Fr Raul Balute**, SOLT Ph: 0450 115 099

Email: raul.balute@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest **Fr Alex Barnedo**, SOLT Ph: 0432 947 245

Assistant Priest **Fr Teody Medina**, SOLT Ph: 0414 494 823

Parish Secretaries **Margaret Vandenberg & Christine Sassine**

PARISH EMAIL: wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au

PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/wyong/>

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish

Children's Liturgy at the following Masses

St Cecilia's 5:00pm Mass Saturday

St Cecilia's 9.30am Mass Sunday

St John Fisher 5pm Mass Sunday

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

Mass St Barnabas, Yarramalong

1st Sun of month 11.15am

Filipino Mass St Cecilia's Church

3rd Sun of the month 12pm

Anointing of the Sick

First Friday of the Month

St Cecilia's During 8.00am & 11.30am Mass

St John Fisher During 9.15am Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

St Cecilia's Daily 7am-8am

St John Fisher 1st Fri 8.45 - 9.15am

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday—**St Cecilia's** &

Wednesday—**St John Fisher** (after the 8am Mass)

Devotion to the Divine Mercy

St Cecilia's Fri after the 8am Mass

St John Fisher Fri after the 9:15am Mass

Prayer groups

St Cecilia's Rosary Group Tues after 8am mass followed by Divine Mercy

St Cecilia's Legion of Mary 9am Wed

Meetings

St Cecilia's Choir practice every Tues night 5pm to 6pm

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

PPC Secretary: Kerry Bugden

Ph: 02 4388 2938

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer: The most valuable gift you can give someone.

SICK: Finn McConnon, Irene Dainty, Rod & Pauline Cornwell, Michael McDermott, Michele Bolton, Jeanine Doueihi, Lisa Glanville, Jackson Ticehurst, Margaret McDermott, Dave Rodney, Danae Roe

RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Vaughan, Manfred Merl, Ian Hughes, Philomena Pannell

ANNIVERSARY FEBRUARY: Bill Cullinan, John Kiernan, Rosie Attard, Natividad Dieta, Rita Muscat, Rod McCarthy, Victor Gibbs, Frank Costa



TUGGERAH SPORTS & SPINAL PHYSIOTHERAPY

Ricky Li

Registered NDIS provider

Phone 4355 4445

www.tuggerahphysio.com.au

Safeguarding Message

Wyong parish is committed to safeguarding. All children, young persons and vulnerable adults have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you have a concern about the safety of anyone in the parish, please raise your concern with Fr Raul, Fr Alex or Fr Teody. The contact details are on the back to the Bulletin.

Sunday Mass - 16 February 2025

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading - Jeremiah 17:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.

He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope.

He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream:

when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green;

it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 1:1-4

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - Luke 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 6:17, 20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



29 DEC, 2024	Mass for Diocesan Opening of Jubilee Year 9:30AM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA	31 MAY, 2025	Mass for Patronal Feast of Broken Bay Mary, Star of the Sea 9:30AM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA
2 FEB, 2025	Mass for Religious 9:30AM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA	1 JUN, 2025	Mass for Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and elderly 9:30AM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA
9 MAR, 2025	Rite of Election 2:00PM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA	8 JUN, 2025	Adult Confirmations 9:30AM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA
30 MAR, 2025	Mass for Missionaries of Mercy 9:30AM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA	19 NOV, 2025	Red Wednesday Mass 7:30PM OUR LADY OF THE DOLOURS CHATSWOOD
15 APR, 2025	Chrism Mass 7:30PM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA	22 NOV, 2025	Feast of Christ the King 2025 WYD & ACYF Pilgrim Blessing 5:00PM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA
25 APR, 2025	ANZAC Day Mass 9:30AM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA	28 DEC, 2025	Mass for Diocesan Closing of Jubilee Year 9:30AM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL WAITARA



BBJUBILEE.COM.AU



Liturgical Formation Series

Throughout the year we will be hosting a number of formation opportunities for those interested and engaged in Liturgical Ministries. Please see date claimers below:

- Saturday 15 March – The Art of Celebrating Holy Week
- Saturday 10 May – Back to Basics
- Saturday 16 August – RCIA – Practical Foundations | Liturgical Fundamentals | Ongoing Formation
- Saturday 25 October – Rekindle Our Wonder

Sunday of the Word of God | 9 February 2025

Sunday of the Word of God is a day devoted to the **celebration**, **study**, and **spreading** of the Word of God. In Australia, Sunday of the Word of God will be celebrated on 9 February 2025. Pope Francis impresses that the relationship between the Risen Lord, a community of believers, and sacred Scripture is essential to who we are as Christians.

Resources, including details about the Broken Bay Bible Offer can be found on our [website](#).

MISSION BROKEN BAY

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Leader Formation



*Know the Mission;
Live the Mission*

Join us for a transformative training course focused on Catholic values, leadership, and personal growth. Our program offers engaging sessions, discussions, and activities to inspire and guide young individuals in their faith journey.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a repeat session



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

Saturday

15 February 2025

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Registrations from 9:30am

Hosted by Pymble Parish

2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble

RSVP: mission@bbcatholic.org.au

Lunch and snacks provided

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW ACCREDITATION FOR **HOME CARE PACKAGES**

CatholicCare is our social care agency in the Diocese of Broken Bay and we have been supporting the Northern Sydney, Northern Beaches and Central Coast communities for 35 years.

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There's no obligation to partner with CatholicCare. We may contact you to discuss your needs, but you're welcome to opt-out at anytime.

Name _____

Suburb _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Do you currently have Home Care Package funding from the Government?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Do you need help applying for a Home Care Package?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Is there any other feedback you'd like to provide?

Take a photo of this completed form and email to info@catholiccaredbb.org.au or text a photo of the form to 0481 602 046. Thank you.

**The Legion of Mary invites you to,
Our Lady of Lourds Celebration
Saturday 15th February
At our Lady Star of the Sea Parish
165 Serpentine Rd. Terrigal NSW 2260**

About Our Lady of Lourdes

The statue within the rock cave at Massabielle in Lourdes, where Saint Bernadette Soubirous witnessed the Blessed Virgin Mary

Location [Lourdes, France](#)

Date Apparition 11 February to 16 July 1858

Witness [Saint Bernadette Soubirous](#)

Type [Marian apparition](#)

Approval [Pope Pius IX](#)
(decree of approval of 1 February 1876)

Shrine [Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, Lourdes, France](#)

Patronage [Lourdes, France](#), [Quezon City, Tagaytay, Daegu, South Korea, Tennessee, Diocese of Lancaster, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong](#), bodily ills, sick people, asthmatics, protection from diseases

Feast Day [11 February](#)



Program For

Saturday 15th of February

Start, 1.30: pm: Prayer and Rosary at the Grotto.

2.00 pm: Afternoon Tea and Movie on our Lady of Lourdes.

4.30 pm: Concluding Prayers.



The Catholic agency
for international aid
and development

Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal

We urgently need your support.

The ceasefire means more aid can assist people in Gaza, but the need is immense and the recovery long.

Gaza's people cannot recover alone. They need the support of the global community to survive and rebuild.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

A ceasefire means more aid can assist people affected in Gaza.
Your support is urgently needed.



DONATE NOW

www.caritas.org.au/gaza
1800 024 413



Photo: Caritas Jerusalem

Father Ireneusz Czech's Jubilee Year 2025 Homilies Book

We are pleased to announce that hard copies of "Proclaiming the Truth Without Fear" by Fr. Ireneusz Czech, a collection of brief and simple homilies for Liturgical Cycle C, are now available for purchase!

Price: \$50 per copy

All proceeds will go to support Salvatorian seminarians from East Timor in the Salvatorian Australian Region, studying in the Philippines.

Support this important cause and get your copy today from:

*Sacred Heart Church Piety Store,
OLPS Sacristy, or the Pymble Parish
Office - 9144 2702*



Kindle Version
available via this link
tinyurl.com/yck25ape
or QR Code:



Magi Pilgrimages

Magi Pilgrimages would like to invite you for a 16-day Pilgrimage of Hope (22/04/25 to 07/05/25).

This pilgrimage features Fatima, Valladolid, Lourdes, Nice, Turin, Padua, Assisi, Rotondo, and Rome for an all-inclusive early bird price of \$8990+tips.

The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides.

For enquiries & bookings: Call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or Email us pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

Magi Pilgrimages Australia is organising the following Jubilee Pilgrimages 2025.

- 1.Streams of Mercy (May),
2. Italy & Poland (May),
3. Marian Shrines (June),
4. Shrines of our Lady (August),
5. Pilgrimage of Hope (October).

The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest +

English speaking professional guides.

For itineraries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or email us pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

Holy Heritage: A Pilgrimage to the Philippines! 16 February to 24 February 2025

All are welcome to join our pilgrimage and immerse yourselves in a spiritual journey through the rich and vibrant culture of the Philippines! Explore renowned churches and sacred sites, guided by our chaplain, Fr David Ranson!

The Philippines was under the Spanish Regime for 333 years, a period that greatly influenced the culture and religion of the Filipino people. The Philippines has the biggest population of Catholics in Asia, with 79%, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority's 2020 Census.

Inspired by this nation, its people, and our own catholic faith, we are organising a pilgrimage tour to the Philippines, centred on visiting renowned places, churches and Minor Basilicas:

Places to Visit:

- Manila: Manila Cathedral, San Agustin, Intramuros/Rizal Park, Binondo Church, Quiapo (optional), Baclaran Church (optional)
- Iloilo: Jaro Church, Molo Church
- Guimaras: Tappist Monastery, Holy Family Hills, Mango Farm, Guisi Lighthouse, Pit Stop Café-Mango Pizza, Beach
- Cebu: Sto Nino, Cebu City Tour, Magellan Cross, Simala Church (optional)
- Bohol: Bohol Churches, Baclayon Church, Lobok River Cruise, Tagbilaran, Chocolate Hills, Tarsier Sanctuary, Blood Compact Shrine
- Bulacan: Barasoain Church
- Manaoag, La Union: Our Lady of Manaoag
- Vigan: Calle Crisologo, Bantay Church Bell Tower

Batac: Sites of Batac

***Note: Itinerary may be subject to change

Price: AU\$3,500 (subject to change depending on number of participants)

To Reserve Your Place: We require a Deposit of 10% or \$350 (refundable)

Please pay to:

Our Lady of Dolours

BSB No. : 062784

Account Number: 100001609

Reference: Philippine Pilgrimage

Inclusions:

- Domestic flights
- Land and water transportation

Hotels with breakfast

Exclusions:

- Plane fares from Sydney to Manila and back

Optional tours before and after the pilgrimage tour

For inquiries:

Email: philpilgrimage2025@gmail.com

- Ditas Naguit: 0405 999 510

Rene Balboa: 0413 558 836



PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND AND ITALY | 16 DAYS

POLAND & ITALY

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

DATE: 16 – 31 MAY 2025

PRICE: 8350 AUD/person + TIPS (GROUP 21 PERSONS)

FLIGHT: SYDNEY – DUBAI – WARSAW/ROME – DUBAI – SYDNEY (EMIRATES)

ROUTE: WARSAW – ZELAZOWA WOLA (CHOPIN) – JASNA GORA (CZESTOCHOWA) – AUSCHWITZ – KRAKOW – WIELICZKA SALT MINE – LAGIEWNIKI (SHRINE FAUSTYNA & JOHN PAUL II) – ZAKOPANE – WADOWICE – ROME – VATICAN – BOLSENA – ORVIETO – ASSISI



INFORMATION:

FR GREG SKULSKI SDS ■ THE SHRINE OF SAINT JOHN PAUL II
E-MAIL: JPIL.CENTRE@BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU



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PYMBLE CATHOLIC PARISH

19
DAYS

St Paul & Rome Jubilee Pilgrimage

Every 25 years, the Church declares a Holy Year, a profound gift of grace and mercy for all believers. In this dedicated Jubilee year, experience the journeys of renowned saints, from St Paul and his companions who ardently spread God's word, to St Peter in Rome. Enter the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica and receive the Jubilee blessing in the Eternal City.

DEPARTS TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025 • 19 DAYS / 15 NIGHTS

Athens (2 nights) • Acropolis • Ancient Corinth • Kalambaka (2) • Meteora • Berea
• Thessaloniki • Kavala (2) • Ancient Philippi • Patmos (2) • Samos (1) • Kusadasi (2)
• Ephesus • Rome - Jubilee (4 nights)



Accompanied by
Fr Ireneusz Czech SDS



The Library of Celsus, Ephesus

the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys



Athens



Meteora

SYMBOLS: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner

Itinerary

DAY 1: TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025 – DEPART FOR GREECE

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 14 MAY – ARRIVE ATHENS

Athens today is the thriving capital of Greece, but, more importantly, we have entered into the world of the New Testament where St Paul and his companions established the first Christian communities throughout his four missionary journeys.

On arrival in **Athens** we will be met and transferred to our centrally located hotel.
Athens overnight (D)

DAY 3: THURSDAY 15 MAY – ATHENS AND ANCIENT CORINTH

Theme: The Athenians & The Corinthians

When St Paul first came to Athens it was predominantly a city which worshipped pagan gods. St Paul was taken before the city council at the Areopagus Hill, a rough outcrop of limestone rock from which he preached the Gospel message to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:16-21).

We begin our pilgrimage with a tour of **Christian Athens** including the **Acropolis**, the **Areopagus** where St Paul delivered his famous sermon about the identity of "the Unknown God" (Acts 17:15-34). View the Ancient Agora and the **Plaka** (Old Greece) and explore the **Parthenon**.

Also see the **Kallimármaro Stadium**, dating back to 330BC and restored for the first modern Olympic Games held here in 1896.

Journey out to **Ancient Corinth** this afternoon where the apostle Paul lived for almost two years, teaching the people the

Word of God and converting many. Visit the ancient ruins and see the site where he preached the Gospel from the **Rostrum**. See the **Peirene fountain**, and the 6th century BC **Temple of Apollo** before an outdoor Mass in this stunning pilgrimage setting. Finally, we come to **Cenchreae**, the ancient port from where St Paul said farewell to the believers and departed for Ephesus (Acts 18:18).

Athens overnight (BD)

DAY 4: FRIDAY 16 MAY – ATHENS TO KALAMBAKA

This morning we begin our day at the fascinating **Acropolis Museum**, built to house every artefact found on the rock of the acropolis and the surrounding slopes. We continue north today to **Meteora** and to the small town of **Kalambaka** built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks.

Kalambaka overnight (BD)

DAY 5: SATURDAY 17 MAY – METEORA

Theme: The Monastics

We spend some time today marvelling at this unique phenomenon of nature – 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their Monastic community of **Meteora**. We will visit some of these living monasteries and view the extraordinary collection of priceless religious frescoes and other treasures that will make this a remarkable visit.

Enjoy some free time this afternoon.

Kalambaka overnight (BD)

DAY 6: SUNDAY 18 MAY – KALAMBAKA TO KAVALA

Theme: The Bereans & The Thessalonians

Today we journey north by coach to **Berea** (modern Veria). The "**Bema**" - an impressive monument to Paul - is believed

to incorporate the steps from the original synagogue from which he preached the gospel to the Jews, who welcomed the word of God and began to study the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-12).

Continue on to **Thessaloniki**, Greece's second city, founded in 315 BC, and where St Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD and wrote the two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. It was here that he established the first Christian Church in Europe.

Our visit will include the ramparts of the city, the triumphal **Arch of Galerius**, as well as the **Rotunda** where we can see pieces of the pulpit from which Paul preached. View the **Roman Agora** where he also preached. Nearby we shall visit **St Demetrios' Church** dedicated to a Roman soldier who converted to Christianity and was later martyred. View its valuable mosaics and frescoes before descending into the crypt where we find the remains of some ancient Roman baths and streets.

Continue east along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul to the port city of **Kavala** (ancient Neapolis), once named "Christoupolis" after being the first European city to accept Christianity. It was here that St Paul, St Timothy and St Silas first landed from Troas (Acts 16:11), one of the great moments in the history of Christianity in Europe.

Kavala overnight (BD)

DAY 7: MONDAY 19 MAY – PHILIPPI

Theme: The Philippians

Arise and journey along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul to nearby **Philippi**, named after Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. It was here that St Paul won his first European convert, a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira (Acts 16:12-40).

Visit the **Baptistry of Lydia** for a beautiful outdoor Mass on the **River Zygaktis**



House of the Virgin Mary



and renew our Baptismal vows. Visit the **marketplace** (where St Paul and St Silas were brought before the rulers) and the **cistern** which tradition identifies as the place where St Paul was imprisoned. In the **ancient theatre** we will hear the story of Paul's arrest, imprisonment, and miraculous release.

Remainder of the afternoon at leisure to rest back at our hotel.

Kavala overnight (BD)

DAY 8: TUESDAY 20 MAY - KAVALA TO PATMOS

Today we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Athens. On arrival we will be transferred directly to the Athenian port of Piraeus to embark our boat transfer to the Dodecanese Island of **Patmos**, where St John the Beloved wrote the Book of Revelation.

Island of Patmos overnight (BD)

DAY 9: WEDNESDAY 21 MAY - PATMOS DAY

Theme: The Patmosians

Lying between the islands of Leros and Ikaria is the 'ascetic shaped' Patmos, called the 'Jerusalem of the Aegean' due to the overwhelming atmosphere of the island during the great celebrations of Christianity.

We begin our day with a walking tour of the main square of the village of **Chora**. This is the traditional settlement and capital of Patmos, where the narrow streets were designed to ward off pirates over the centuries. Ascend to the **Monastery of St John the Beloved**, a huge fortress-like building dating from the 11th century, for a visit and celebration of Mass.

Our exploration of this living monastery will culminate with time in the actual **Cave of Revelation** where God chose to reveal to St John the mysteries of the last book of the Bible – the Apocalypse.

The cave is now at the foot of the monastery, which houses priceless icons and

manuscripts, sacred relics, and vestments embroidered with silver or gold threads and bejeweled with precious stones.

Later continue to the active **Convent of Evangelismos (Annunciation)** built by the hieromonk Nikiphoros who was cured from the plague after praying to St Luke the Evangelist. Visit the **Convent of Zoodochos Pigi** with icons dating from the 16th to the 18th century. Finally, we will enjoy a short scenic tour of the island.

Island of Patmos overnight (BD)

DAY 10: THURSDAY 22 MAY - PATMOS TO SAMOS

Today, we depart Patmos by ferry and make our way to the picturesque island of **Samos**, nestled in the heart of the Aegean Sea. Renowned for its lush landscapes, pristine waters, and rich ancient heritage, it is a destination of both natural beauty and spiritual significance.

Island of Samos overnight (BD)

DAY 11: FRIDAY 23 MAY - SAMOS TO KUSADASI

Depart Samos by ferry to **Kusadasi**, doorway to **Ephesus** and the **Churches of Revelation**.

On arrival in Kusadasi we will be met and transferred by coach to our centrally located hotel.

Kusadasi overnight (BD)

DAY 12: SATURDAY 24 MAY - EPHEBUS

Theme: The Ephesians

We travel directly to **Ephesus** this morning, the most famous of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev 2:1-7) where St Paul spent more than two years in the course of his third missionary journey. It was to the Christian community of Ephesus that St Paul wrote his greatest and most challenging letter (the epistle to the Ephesians) and also succeeded in converting many away from

worship of the god Artemis.

Our visit today will include the ruins where St Paul lived and preached. See the **prison of St Paul**; walk through the ancient marble streets founded in the 10th century BC and see this most 'complete' Roman city providing us with an excellent window into Imperial Rome. Pass the **Temple of Hadrian**, the **Library of Celsus**, the enormous **amphitheatre** (Acts 19:29-31), and finally come to the ruins of the **Christian Basilica** where the Third Ecumenical Council took place in 431AD, and where Our Lady was proclaimed "Mother of God". We ascend the hill to the **House of the Virgin Mary** where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life. We celebrate our group Mass here in one of the chapels. Finally, we visit the restored remains of the 6th century **Basilica of St John at Celcuk** where a small church was originally built over the tomb of St John the Evangelist.

Kusadasi overnight (BD)

DAY 13: SUNDAY 25 MAY - FLY TURKEY TO ROME*

This morning, we set out towards **Izmir**, once the site of ancient **Smyrna**, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev 2:8-11). This was home to a lively Christian community under the pastoral care of its bishop – the saintly **Polycarp**. After Mass, we are transferred to Izmir airport for our flight to **Rome**, the Eternal City, rich in the traditions of our Church, and the focus of many Jubilee Holy Year activities.

Upon arrival in Rome, we will be met and transferred to our accommodation.

Rome overnight (BD)

The Jubilee Year is a time for the faithful to renew their commitment and strengthen their relationship with God. It is also a time for

CONTINUED →



Rome



Vatican Museums

Catholics to come together as a community and to celebrate their faith. The 2025 Jubilee Year is sure to be a memorable and meaningful event for people around the world, to be blessed and refreshed for the mission that lies before us.

*Please note the itinerary in Rome is dependent upon the Jubilee circumstances and activities and may be subject to change.

DAY 14: MONDAY 26 MAY - ROME - CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025*

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to **St Peter's Basilica** for Mass. Then we visit the **Vatican Museums**, home to one of the world's greatest art collections, and Michelangelo's breathtaking **Sistine Chapel**. Then, we are back at **St Peter's Basilica** for a guided tour of the largest church in Christendom, built over his tomb, where we can spend a few moments to pray at the **tomb of late Pope John Paul II**.

This afternoon enjoy a walking tour of the historical centre of Rome. See some of the most famous sites in the Eternal City - **the Pantheon** (outside), **the Spanish Steps**, **Trevi Fountain**, **Piazza Navona**, **Piazza Venezia**, **the Colosseum** (outside).

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 15: TUESDAY 27 MAY - ROME JUBILEE*

The journey this afternoon will take us to the majestic **Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls**. Originally consecrated in 324, the saint's tomb is visible now under the Papal Altar. We will celebrate Mass here as a special tribute to the Church's greatest evangelist.

Continue then along the ancient **Appian Way**, the oldest road from Roman times to

the **ancient Catacombs** for a memorable guided tour to marvel at these underground burial tunnels for Christians and Hebrews. Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 16: WEDNESDAY 28 MAY - ROME JUBILEE*

We will return to the Vatican and join with pilgrims from around the world for a memorable **General Audience with Pope Francis** (subject to the Pope's presence in Rome).

We continue on this afternoon with Mass and a visit of the impressive **St Mary Major Basilica**, followed by the **Basilica of St John in Lateran**, the first papal residence. Adjacent are the **Holy Stairs**, which were brought from Jerusalem to Rome in 326AD by St Helena. From here we visit the **Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme** with its extraordinary collection of relics from the Holy Land.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 17: THURSDAY 29 MAY - DEPART ROME

Enjoy free time until your transfer to the airport. (B)

DAY 18: FRIDAY 30 MAY - IN TRANSIT

DAY 19: SATURDAY 31 MAY - ARRIVE HOME



PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

TOUR CODE	PV25118
STARTS	Tuesday, 13 May 2025
FINISHES	Saturday, 31 May 2025
AIR & LAND	AUD \$9490 (Twin Share) *
SINGLE ROOM	AUD \$2260 Supplement
PREPAID TIPS	AUD \$240 Per Person

* Costs have been based on prices as at November 2024 and must remain subject to possible change in the event of significant exchange rate variations, airfare or tax increases or minimum group size factors beyond Harvest's control. Refer to Harvest Booking Terms & Conditions for more details.

INCLUDED

AIRFARES: Return Economy Class group airfare from Sydney • One-way Economy Class group airfare Izmir-Istanbul-Rome

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS: Based on reputable local 3-4 star superior hotels or quality religious houses as applicable • Meals as specified in itinerary

TOURING & TRANSPORTATION: Deluxe Air Conditioned Coach touring • Professional Local Guides • Sightseeing and Entrance Fees

OTHER: Fully Escorted by Priest Chaplain • Porterage at hotels (where available) • Harvest Backpack, Pilgrim Journal and Travel Wallet

NOT INCLUDED

Other meals not listed • Passport and Visa Costs (if applicable) • Items of a personal nature including phone calls, laundry, beverages, etc. • Travel insurance • Prepaid Tipping



BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

harvestjourneys.com/pv25118

AU Free-Call: 1800 819 156

NZ Free-Call: 0800 819 156

info@harvestjourneys.com

Harvest Journeys

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Alexandria BC

NSW 2015

Australia



harvest
journeys

Key Telephone Numbers

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE: 000

Call the Police for immediate assistance.

1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 732

A national 24-hour 7 day a week service, for advice or support in relation to sexual assault and domestic violence. The service also connects victims to the nearest help according to their location.

FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Call 131 450 for an interpreter. Ask them to ring 1800 RESPECT for you.

CATHOLICCARE BROKEN BAY

CatholicCare provides a range of services to assist women and children experiencing domestic violence

Central Coast: 1800 324 924	Northern Beaches: 1800 324 924
Naremburn: 1800 324 924	Waitara: 1800 324 924

MEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE: 1300 766 491

A national 24-hour 7 day a week anonymous and confidential counselling, information and referral service to help men stop using violent and controlling behaviour.

FOR FEMALE MIGRANTS UNDER A TEMPORARY VISA

Migrants are especially vulnerable to abuse because they are in unfamiliar territory without knowledge of the laws and emergency services they can access.

If you are experiencing domestic violence, you can take out an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) against your partner.

Under the Migration Act you can apply for permanent residency due to domestic violence.

Ring any of the following numbers:

Immigration Advice and Rights Centre	02 8234 0777
Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association	1800 656 463
Legal Aid NSW	1300 888 529 (business hours)

PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE ARE SERIOUS INDICTABLE OFFENCES UNDER THE NSW CRIMES ACT 1900. It is an offence to fail to report knowledge or belief of a serious indictable offence. If in doubt, call 000.

This parish resource has been developed by the Diocese of Broken Bay's Catholic Life & Faith Formation Team in consultation with the Safeguarding Office (Chancery) and CatholicCare Broken Bay. This booklet is part of a Parish Kit which assists parishes to respond to those experiencing domestic violence or those who are seeking help for their violent behaviour. The kit is available for download www.bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au



**CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY**

SAFEGUARDING is everyone's responsibility



Everyone must
practice **A DUTY OF
CARE**. We are called to
step up and speak out.

Need to be listening &
watching to understand
if there are any
concerns and take them
seriously



Tell one of our
designated persons in
authority

- Fr Raúl 0450 115 099
- Maureen Roast 0435 245 849
- Anne Hooley 0428 149 793

Contact will be made
with Diocesan
Safeguarding Office



Our Community is
SAFE