

# 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*

**2ND FEBRUARY 2025—THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD**

**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 for the Presentation of our Lord— 2.2.25

Today's Gospel is our story because it parallels the story of how our parents took us to be initiated into the Christian community. Moreover, at baptisms we have attended, we have prayed that the child being baptised will be healthy, free from harm, grow in faith and not be a cause of grief, harm or shame in later life to family, friends or strangers.

We have all met Anna in the elderly women who are the glue of our parish communities and who have held firm to their faith when those they trusted have faltered and failed. We have also met Simeon—men who have grown old gracefully, who beam with delight at the sight of infants being brought into the faith community by proud and loving parents; men who have wrestled with questions and struggled with doubts but have still stayed faithful to God. These characters stand as beacons of hope, trust and courage for us all.

Let us pray today that, like them, we will remain true to the God who loved us into life, especially when we struggle to reflect that love to others. Doing that will lead us to the day when, with Simeon, we can pray: 'Now, God, I am ready to go home to you in peace.'

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



## RCIA

Our Rite of Christian Initiation Program will return this year on **Saturday 1st February 2025 at 3pm** in the parish hall. If you're interested in learning about the Catholic faith feel free to join or share with loved ones. Please keep these candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive their sacraments.

## Anointing of the Sick

**Friday: 7th February**

**First Friday of the Month**

**St Cecilia's** During 8.00am & 11.30am Mass  
**St John Fisher** During 9.15am Mass

**CatholicCare**  
Diocese of Broken Bay

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



**EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST NOW**  
P: 1800 324 924  
E: [info@catholiccaresdbb.org.au](mailto:info@catholiccaresdbb.org.au)  
W: [www.catholiccaresdbb.org.au](http://www.catholiccaresdbb.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.*

## Pilgrimages

There are some wonderful pilgrimages being offered by the diocese and other companies. Please see our notice board for more information.

## 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:  
[wyoungparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:wyoungparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

## 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 because we would love to hear from you!

**Phone:** 02 4352 1011 **Email:** [wyoungparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:wyoungparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

## St Barnabas Church Yarramalong

Mass will be celebrated at St Barnabas Church, Yarramalong

**Sunday 2nd February at 11.15am.**

All are welcome.

## Floral Arrangements

We are seeking volunteers who are willing to help with the floral arrangements in the church. There will be a monthly roster so there will be some rotation. If you are interested or would like further information please contact:  
Biddy Smith on (02) 4393 6033

## 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.

## Volunteer Help Needed

### Cleaners for St John Fisher Mass Centre.

Four of our cleaners have resigned because of ill health or leaving the district, new volunteers are needed.

A cleaning session requires no longer than 1 hour and all equipment needed is supplied.

Please contact **the Parish Office on 43521011**, if you are able to volunteer.

Thank you!

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

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



Ph: 02 4351 8004  
Ph: 02 4392 8777

## BOWDEN FAMILY FUNERALS

All Areas ~ Australian Owned

Anita Bowden - Director  
[anita.bowden@cci.net.au](mailto:anita.bowden@cci.net.au)



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



Ensuring your loved ones are cared for with the respect & dignity you would wish. Flexible arrangements to suit your needs. Professional assistance and caring advice.

Phone. 1800 558 004, Mob. 0408 251 927, Fax. 02 4351 8005

## Adam Dewey

Plumber, Drainer & Gas Fitter

**0423 123 823**

[ajcoastalplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:ajcoastalplumbing@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/ajcoastalplumbing](https://www.facebook.com/ajcoastalplumbing)

Lic No. 235651C ABN 48 478 409 487

Committed to quality plumbing solutions at affordable prices



## 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, Tumbi Umbi—Sunday 5:00pm**



### PRAYER

We pray for all the teachers, children and school staff returning to school. We pray that they begin this new year with clear minds and hearts. May their efforts be received by our Lord and in turn may they receive the graces from the Holy Spirit so that they can continue to learn and spread knowledge and wisdom with love and joy.

We pray this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### Main Liturgical Feasts:

#### February

**1st Feb**— Saturday Mass of the Virgin Mary

**2nd Feb**—THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

**3rd Feb**—St Blaise, St Ansgar

**5th Feb**— Saint Agatha

**6th Feb**—Saints Paul Miki and Companions

**8th Feb**—Saint Jerome Emiliani, Saint Josephine

Bakhita, Saturday Mass of the Virgin Mary

**10th Feb**—Saint Scholastica

**11th Feb**— Our Lady of Lourdes

**14th Feb**—Saints Cyril and Methodius

**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

### JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025



#### What is a Jubilee?

According to Judaic tradition, the fields would lie fallow for a 'Sabbath Year' after 6 years of labour. Every seventh Sabbath year was followed by a Jubilee (50 years), during which slaves were released, commercial debts were cancelled, and property was returned to its original owners. This became a year of honouring God. In the Catholic Tradition, Jubilees are now celebrated every 25 years. Jubilees are a year of pilgrimage, thanksgiving, and repentance – it is a year for seeking and giving forgiveness.

For more information please visit: [bbjubilee.com.au](http://bbjubilee.com.au)

#### 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.

*Franciscus*

### Safeguarding Message

A culture of Safeguarding values COMMITMENT...."Speak out and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy." - see Proverbs 31:9

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.

You can contact the Parish Office on 02 4352 1011 or [wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au) or see back of Bulletin for the priests Mobile numbers.



### Property Transfer Professionals

ARLENE BARNETT Licensed Conveyancer - JP

02 4353 1340 48A Pacific Hwy Wyong

[propertytransfer@bigpond.com](mailto:propertytransfer@bigpond.com)

[www.conveyancersnsw.net.au](http://www.conveyancersnsw.net.au)

Specialising in: Land & Business Sale or Purchase  
Mortgages & Commercial Leases, Retirement Villages

### HomeCaring Wyong

Lifestyle and health solutions

Home Care and NDIS packages tailored for you.

Cruz Calero-Mena 0455 505 292

Email: [cruz@homecaring.com.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

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

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish](http://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:** Fr Michael O'Toole, Peter Vaughan, Manfred Merl, Ian Hughes

**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](http://www.tuggerahphysio.com.au)

### Safeguarding Message

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# Presentation of the Lord Mass - 2 February 2025

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading - Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm - Ps 23:7-10

R. Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

### Second Reading - Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation - Luke 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel.

Alleluia!

### Gospel - Luke 2:22-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and he blessed God; and he said :

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised;  
because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# DIOCESAN LITURGIES IN 2025

## JUBILEE YEAR - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

**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](mailto: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.

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.

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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?

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Take a photo of this completed form and email to [info@catholiccareddb.org.au](mailto:info@catholiccareddb.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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## Caritas Australia's Lebanon Crisis Appeal

Lebanon is currently facing a dire crisis, and the need for your support has never been greater.

Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability, leaving countless families without access to basic needs like food, water, and medical care. Our Caritas Australia partners on the ground are doing everything they can, **but they desperately need your help.**

Please show your *love for Lebanon* and donate today to help supply essential items such as food, shelter, and medical aid, as well as long-term support to rebuild communities.

**Donate today:** [www.caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://www.caritas.org.au/lebanon)



## LEBANON CRISIS APPEAL

Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability.

Please help provide families with food, water, and medical care.

**DONATE NOW**

[caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://caritas.org.au/lebanon)

**1800 024 413**



Photo: Caritas Lebanon

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](mailto: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](mailto:philpilgrimage2025@gmail.com)

- Ditas Naguit: 0405 999 510

Rene Balboa: 0413 558 836

Orlando  
TRAVEL



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



**ORLANDO TRAVEL** | POLISH INCOMING TOUR OPERATOR  
UL. KS. J. POPIELUSZKI 2B, 32-050 SKAWINA

+48 575 136 046 ORLANDO@ORLANDO.COM.PL

ORLANDO.COM.PL

# 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](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au)

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 **Cenchreea**, 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

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#### 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:

<b>Immigration Advice and Rights Centre</b>	<b>02 8234 0777</b>
<b>Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association</b>	<b>1800 656 463</b>
<b>Legal Aid NSW</b>	<b>1300 888 529</b> (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](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au)

[www.bbcatholic.org.au](http://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**