

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

9TH FEBRUARY 2025—5TH 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— 9th February 2025

Jesus demonstrated his unfamiliarity with the culture of fishermen on three counts. While the crowd was large, a fishing boat was hardly an appropriate choice for a podium from which to teach. What's more, in asking Peter to move into the deep and let down his nets, he proved that he knew nothing about the way in which fishermen plied their trade. They invariably used two boats in tandem with one net stretched between them. They then manoeuvred their boats to encircle the fish before dragging their catch into the nearest boat. Moreover, no experienced fisherman would dream of paying out his nets for a catch in broad daylight, Fishing was a night-time occupation. Daytime was for preparations. Still, Peter complied with Jesus' suggestion, humouring him rather than anticipating a catch of any worth. The huge, unexpected catch struck him immediately as miraculous, making him conclude that he was in the presence of holiness. The only response he could think of was to declare his unworthiness.

Without agreeing with Peter or uttering even a single word of criticism, Jesus invited Peter and his companions to a very different kind of fishing: enticing people to experience the in-breaking presence of God in the world. That's a deep-water venture if ever there was one! The disciples' experience on the lake that day led them to trust Jesus. Can we trust Jesus enough to embark on a similar venture?

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.

Pilgrimages

There are some wonderful pilgrimages being offered by the diocese and other companies throughout the year. Please see our notice board for more information or register for our e-bulletin through the parish office.

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



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.

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

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.

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

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
anitabowden@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

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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

PLANNED GIVING

The parish planned giving program is an opportunity for parishioners to support parish finances at regular intervals. If you're interested in making a regular offering feel free to use the following details:

To support the Priests:

Acc name: SOLT Australia Incorporated
BSB: 062 195

Acc no: 1022 9389

To the support the running & upkeep of the Parish:

Acc name: Wyong Catholic Parish
BSB: 062 784

Acc no: 100 001 942

We appreciate all offerings and support gifted to our Parish!



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES

RECONCILIATION – Year 4

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

Parent Information Night St John Fisher – 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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Year 4

Parent Information Night – Mon. 19th May

Parent Information Night St John Fisher – Tues. 20th May

Presentation Mass St Cecilia's – Sat. 24th May

Presentation Night St John Fisher – Sun. 25th May

First Holy Communion Ceremony @ St Cecilia's – Fri. 27th June

First Holy Communion Ceremony @ St John Fisher – Fri. 27th June

CONFIRMATION – Year 3

Parent Information Night St Cecilia's – Mon. 30th June

Parent Information Night St John Fisher – Tues. 1st July

Presentation Mass St Cecilia's 5pm – Sat. 26th July

Presentation Night St John Fisher 5pm – Sun. 27th July

Confirmation Ceremony – Sat. 16th August

If you would like to join the Sacramental Program please come along to the Information Night for that sacrament. If you have any questions please contact our sacramental coordinator, Christine on wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au or 02 4352 1011



We warmly welcome the children who are to be baptized this fortnight into our Parish Community. May the grace of the Lord Jesus bless them and their families.



PRAYER

We pray for all those contemplating or preparing to receive their Sacraments this year. May the Holy Spirit be ever present in their lives today as every other day and guide them to the love and life of Christ.

Let us also call to mind all those who are suffering, our family, friends and strangers. May God's love and light, heal and console them in mind, body and spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Main Liturgical Feasts:

February

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

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.



Property Transfer Professionals

ARLENE BARNETT Licensed Conveyancer - JP

02 4353 1340 48A Pacific Hwy Wyong

propertytransfer@bigpond.com

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

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: 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

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 - 9 February 2025

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading - Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out one to another in this way, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth.' The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said: 'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'

I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 137:1-5, 7-8

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

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

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you - believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 4:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people.

Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 5:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

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](https://www.bbjubilee.com.au).

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.

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?

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



ORLANDO TRAVEL | POLISH INCOMING TOUR OPERATOR
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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

PO Box 6087

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