

11
DAYS

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS • CHATSWOOD CATHOLIC PARISH

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

Every 25 years, the Church proclaims a Holy Year, a special gift of grace and mercy for all God's people. Not only is Italy a land of unforgettable charm and beauty, but it is also a land made rich in grace by its colourful history of holy men and women. In this dedicated Jubilee year, be inspired to encounter the pathways of some of the Church's greatest saints, from St Francis and St Clare in Assisi, to Sts Peter and Paul in Rome, the Eternal City, where we cross the threshold of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica and receive the Jubilee blessing.



Accompanied by
Fr David Ranson

DEPARTS MONDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2025 • 11 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

Rome - Jubilee (5 nights) • Assisi (3) • *Optional Medjugorje extension (5 nights)*



the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys



Roman Forum

MEAL CODE: (B) = Breakfast (D) = Dinner

Itinerary

DAY 1: MONDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2025 - DEPART FOR ITALY

DAY 2: TUESDAY 04 NOVEMBER - ARRIVE ROME

Welcome to **Rome**! Join fellow pilgrims this evening for a Welcome Dinner.

Rome overnight (D)

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 05 NOVEMBER - ROME: THE VATICAN

Commence our pilgrimage with a spectacular Mass at **St Peter's Basilica** before coming to the nearby **Vatican Museums**. Wander the spectacular chambers leading to the **Sistine Chapel** to view Michelangelo's masterpieces, including the magnificent fresco of the Last Judgment.

Continue through to the awe-inspiring St Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world for an informative exploration. Our guided tour will feature among other highlights Michelangelo's stunning **Pietà**, the **tomb of Pope St John Paul II**, the **great Confessional** and the **Crypt** containing the tombs of several Popes. Here we also have the opportunity to walk through the **Holy Door**, also known as the 'Door of Great Pardon', and obtain the special Jubilee Year plenary indulgence. The door's panels portray scenes of man's sin and his redemption through God's mercy.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 4: THURSDAY 06 NOVEMBER - ROME: MAJOR BASILICAS

Our pilgrimage today starts 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 and the home to the relics of Peter and Paul. Adjacent are the adjacent **Holy Stairs**, which were brought from Jerusalem to Rome in 326AD by St Helena.

The remainder of the day is free to explore Rome's incredible sights. Perhaps begin by tossing a coin into the **Trevi Fountain**, then make your way to **Piazza Navona** to soak up its vibrant atmosphere. Discover the awe-inspiring **Pantheon**, admire the Caravaggio paintings in the **Church of St Luigi dei Francesi**, or take in the view from the **Spanish Steps**. As you stroll, enjoy a gelato or sip a coffee at a sidewalk café, surrounded by the layers of history that fill this ancient city. Walking these streets truly feels like stepping through the pages of a living history book.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 5: FRIDAY 07 NOVEMBER - ROME: CHRISTIAN WITNESSES

The journey this morning 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 6: SATURDAY 08 NOVEMBER - ROME: CHRISTIAN MARTYRS

This morning, we enter the most visited attraction in Rome - the **Colosseum**. In 1749, Pope Benedict XIV declared the

Colosseum a sacred site, as it was a place where early Christians had been martyred. View also the **Circus Maximus** and the **Roman Forum** en route.

This afternoon we will explore the vibrant **Trastevere** district. Our first stop is the charming **Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere**, a historic church dating back to the 12th century. We celebrate Mass here and afterwards; we wander on to enjoy an enchanting evening filled with food and traditional music at a typical Italian trattoria.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 7: SUNDAY 09 NOVEMBER - ROME TO ASSISI

We depart Rome today and drive north to the city of **Assisi**. The journey takes us through the stunning **Umbrian** countryside to this pilgrimage centre, where St Francis tended to the poor and sick and founded the Franciscan Order.

Upon arrival in this medieval hillside town, the first stop will be the **Basilica of St Mary of the Angels**, located on the plain where St Francis spent much of his life. Here we will celebrate Mass and view the **Portiuncola**, the thornless rose bush, the cave where the saint returned for prayer, and the chapel where he died in 1226 can be seen. On Palm Sunday 1211, Francis received in this church Clare of Assisi and dedicated her to the Lord.

Assisi overnight (BD)

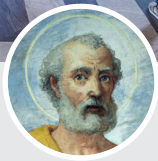
DAY 8: MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER - ASSISI

This morning, awake with the sound of chapel bells, cobblestone footsteps and the tangible spirit of St Francis preserved within the walls of this holy town.

We then make our way to the **Basilica of St Francis** for Mass and a guided exploration. The Basilica occupies the entire western end of the upper town.



St John Paul II



St Peter



St Paul



St Francis



St Clare



Bl Carlo



Construction began in 1228, just two years after the death of Francis and was finally completed in 1250. The Upper Basilica houses the famous fresco cycle of the life of St Francis, historically attributed to Giotto. Wander through the marvels of the **Upper Basilica** before our tour descends to the crypt of the **Lower Basilica** where Francis was laid in 1230 and where we will take some time to seek the intercession of this spiritual legend.

After lunch we make our way to the **Church of Santa Maria Maggiore - Sanctuary of the Spogliazione** where we are blessed with the opportunity to visit and pray at the tomb of **Blessed Carlo Acutis** – a young Catholic from Italy with a passionate devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and an aptitude for computer programming. From the ages of 12 to 14, he designed a website cataloguing Eucharistic miracles that have occurred around the world, which he launched in 2005. He died of leukemia a year later at the age of 15, offering his suffering for the pope and for the Church.

Our day concludes with a visit to the **Basilica of St Clare** where we will proceed to the side chapel and pray before the relocated **Holy Crucifix** from which God spoke to Francis “Go and repair my Church which as you see is in ruins”. Here too we can also take the stairway down to the crypt where the body of Clare is on display.

Assisi overnight (BD)

DAY 9: TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER - ASSISI

After breakfast we visit the tranquil **Church of San Damiano** and the actual chapel

where it all began for St Francis, when the voice of Christ spoke to him in the year 1205 (some may prefer to approach by foot down the hillside path in the spirit of St Francis). Adjacent to the chapel we find the first monastery of the Order of St Clare where Clare built her community in close friendship with Francis.

Continue by private taxis up to the **Hermitage** (Eremo delle Carceri), an oasis of peace and tranquillity in the woods built on the site of a simple cave where St Francis often withdrew to spend many hours in prayer. The cave and the Chapel of Our Lady are preserved in the Hermitage grounds, and we celebrate Mass here.

After our visit, we have a free afternoon to explore the charming town at our own leisure.

Assisi overnight (BD)

DAY 10: WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER - DEPART ASSISI

After breakfast, we are transferred to Rome airport for our homebound or ongoing flight connections. (B)

DAY 11: THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER - ARRIVE AUSTRALIA



PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

TOUR CODE	PV2588
STARTS	Monday, 03 November 2025
FINISHES	Thursday, 13 November 2025
AIR & LAND	AUD \$6890 (Twin Share) *
SINGLE ROOM	AUD \$995 Supplement
PREPAID TIPPING	AUD \$135 Per Person

* Costs are indicative and have been based on prices as at November 2024 and must remain subject to possible change in the event of significant exchange rate variations, tax increases or minimum group size (25) factors beyond Harvest's control. Refer to Harvest Booking Terms & Conditions for more details.

INCLUDED

AIRFARES: Return International Economy Class group airfare from Sydney.

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS: Based on quality religious houses and 3 star hotels (Rome: Villa Angeli and Assisi: Hotel San Pietro or similar) • Meals as specified in Itinerary.

TOURING & TRANSPORTATION: Deluxe air-conditioned touring coach • Professional English-speaking Tour Escort and local guides • Sightseeing and entrance fees.

OTHER: Fully escorted by priest chaplain • Daily Masses • Porterage (where available) • Harvest Travel Pack: backpack, travel wallet, pilgrim's journal and sunbrella.

NOT INCLUDED

Travel Insurance • Visits and entrances not listed • Passport and visa costs (if applicable) • Other meals not stated • Drinks with meals • Items of a personal nature • Prepaid Tipping



COMBINE WITH 5-NIGHT *Medjugorje* EXTENSION

DAY 10: WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER - ASSISI TO MEDJUGORJE

After breakfast, we are transferred to Rome airport for our flight connections to Croatia.

On arrival at Split airport, we will be met and transferred up to the apparition village of **Medjugorje** in Bosnia & Herzegovina. As our pilgrimage together begins, we prepare for a most extraordinary encounter of grace and peace over the following days.

Medjugorje overnight (BD)

DAYS 11-14: THU 13 NOV-SUN 16 NOV - THE MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE (BD daily)

"I have come to tell the world that God exists ... that peace is necessary for the salvation of the world. Mankind must be reconciled with God and with one another."

In September 2024, Pope Francis approved a Vatican report which highlights the abundant good fruits that have come from pilgrimages and spiritual experiences at Medjugorje. This recent Vatican report points to "abundant conversions, a frequent return to the sacraments (particularly, the Eucharist and reconciliation), many vocations to priestly, religious, and married life, a deepening of the life of faith, a more intense practice of prayer, many reconciliations between spouses, and the renewal of marriage and family life. The activities here will be evenly proportioned by our guide throughout the stay to allow time for rest and personal retreat. Each evening, we will be advised of the following day's agenda, as many events in Medjugorje are spontaneous.

Here are some of the highlights we hope to include:

- **The Hill of Apparitions** - Make the journey in prayer up to this sacred site where the first apparitions took place and Our Lady first told the children 'I have come to tell the world that God exists ... that peace is necessary for the salvation of the world'.
- **Climb Mt Krizevac** - The Mountain of the Cross dominates the landscape. Pray for

Stations of the Cross and ascend the grace-filled path, which rises to the breathtaking summit with its commanding 30-foot cement cross built in 1933.

- **Visit Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Retreat House** - commonly known as "the Castle", and hear the amazing testimony of Patrick Latta, a successful businessman and car dealer from Canada, who received a great grace of conversion through the messages of Our Lady. In 1993, he and his wife Nancy left everything behind and moved to Medjugorje during the height of the war.
- **Visit the Cenacolo Community** - 'Field of Life' is the name of the community that Sr Elvira has founded for young men who were once drug addicts. We will be touched to hear their miraculous testimonies of faith.
- **Visit the Oasis of Peace Community** - This is where the messages of Medjugorje are being fully lived. The community consists of people who are both celibate and married, priests and lay people from all over the world and it welcomes pilgrims with spiritual guidance and reflections, Liturgy of the Hours and 24-hour adoration in their very beautiful chapel.
- **Inspiring talks** - There is an enriching Franciscan talk most afternoons in English.
- **Share occasional group gatherings** - Optional and led by your Priest, for voluntary sharing, prayer or group rosary.
- **Enjoy personal free time daily** - All activities listed do remain optional.

MEDJUGORJE EVENING PRAYER PROGRAM (WINTER TIME)

5:00pm-8:00pm – Evening Prayer Program and Confession

5:00pm – Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

6:00pm – Holy Mass (in Croatian)

7:00-8:00pm – Blessings of objects, Prayer for

health of soul and body, Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

7:00-8:00pm – Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (**Mon/Tue/Thu/Sat**) or Veneration of the Holy Cross (**Fri**)

DAY 15: MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER - DEPART MEDJUGORJE

After celebrating our final Mass together this morning, we bid farewell to Medjugorje, as we make our way to Sarajevo airport for our homebound flight connections. (B)

DAY 15: TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER - ARRIVE HOME



STARTS	Wednesday, 12 November 2025
FINISHES	Tuesday, 18 November 2025
COST ADD-ON	\$1940 Per Person, Twin Share*
SINGLE ROOM	\$720 Supplement
PREPAID TIPS	\$90 Per Person

**Costs are indicative and based on prices as at November 2024 and must remain subject to possible change in the event of significant exchange rate variations, hotel changes or minimum group size (15) factors beyond Harvest's control. Refer to Harvest Terms & Conditions for more details.*

Includes: One-way Economy Class airfare Rome-Split Based on 3-star guesthouse standard (Hotel Gorjia or similar) • Meals as listed • Deluxe air-conditioned touring coach • Professional English-speaking local guide • Sightseeing as per itinerary • Fully escorted by priest chaplain • Daily Masses



BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES
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