



PYMBLE CATHOLIC PARISH

SACRED HEART & OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

Building a Christ-centred community of Love and Mercy

Pymble Parish is under the Pastoral care of the Salvatorian Fathers

CELEBRATING YEAR OF PRAYER



Someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals. Luke 3:16

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

As we wait in hopeful expectation for Your coming, open our hearts to Your love and peace. Help us prepare ourselves to receive You with joy, and guide us to be instruments of Your light and love in the world.

May this season of Advent draw us closer to You and to one another.

Amen.

Baptisms at Pymble Parish

Our upcoming Baptism Formation Classes will be held on:

Wednesday, 19 February 2025

7:30pm

at Sacred Heart Church

Bookings are essential, please contact the Parish office on 9144 2702 or via email on Office@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

A warm welcome to all our Parishioners and visitors who are participating in Mass with us this weekend.

Prayer for the Intercession of Blessed Francis Jordan

Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, you called Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan to be your apostle, to make God known and loved by all people everywhere, using all the means your love inspires. You filled him with universal apostolic zeal, with a deep trust in God's loving providence, with a profound spirit of prayer, with a sincere devotion to Mary, Mother of the Saviour, and with the courage to follow you, even into the mystery of the Cross.

Grant also to me the grace to proclaim the Gospel in this spirit, and make me an effective apostle in today's world.

Through the intercession of Blessed Francis Jordan, I pray to you for my special needs (include your personal intention). I make this prayer through you, my Saviour, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

www.sds.org.au

Parish Team

Pastoral care

Salvatorian Fathers

Parish Priest: Fr. Ireneusz Czech SDS

Email: fr.irek@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Youtube: [youtube.com/@IreneuszCzech](https://www.youtube.com/@IreneuszCzech)

Youtube QR code:



Parish Staff

Parish Secretary: Daniela Foote

Email: daniela@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Assistant Secretary: Claudia Chen

Email: claudia@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Sacramental & CCD Coordinator: Rebecca Lloyd-Jones

Email: rebecca@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Parish Mass Times

Sacred Heart

2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble NSW 2073

Weekdays:

Tuesday to Friday 9:00am

Rosary: Tuesday to Friday after morning Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday after morning Mass

Weekend:

Sunday: 9:30am and 6:00pm

Reconciliation:

Friday 8:45am

Sunday 5:30pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

64 Kendall St, West Pymble, NSW, 2073

Weekend:

Saturday: 9:00 am

Saturday: 5:00 pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 8:00 am (Quiet Mass)

Reconciliation:

Saturdays 9.30 am

Contact details

Address: 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble, NSW 2073

Postal address: PO BOX 231 Turramurra NSW 2074

Telephone: (02) 9144 2702

Email: office@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Website: www.pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Office hours: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 4pm &

Friday 8.30am to 1pm

For information about Weddings please contact Daniela in the Parish Office.

For information about the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist, please contact Rebecca at rebecca@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

SACRED HEART

Principal: Kerry Paxton

Telephone: (02) 7256 2142

www.shpdbb.catholic.edu.au

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

Principal: Jodi Jefferson

Telephone: (02) 7256 2101

www.olpsdbb.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Primary School Mini Vinnies at OLPS

OLPS has a thriving Mini Vinnies group who have dedicated weekly lunch times all year to helping those who are less fortunate than themselves. I want to thank all the students who came along for their dedication and hard work this year. Below are some reflections on their work from 3 of our leaders. Miss Anderson

At Mini Vinnies we cheer up others by making cards for the elderly, creating stickers for the meals we provide and sending decorating little messages for graduating Yr 12 students. We do this to see smiles on these people's faces. By doing this we are continuing the mission of the Church by giving and spreading love, joy and hope. We gather kids of all ages to come and help us create these magnificent creations. Before we start creating we say a prayer and ask the Lord to help us see the deepest needs of people. At our school, we show compassion and help everyone. - **By Rose**

In Term 3 Week 9 some aged care residents came to visit. This prompted us to think about how some elderly people are very lonely. We thought we could create some Christmas cards for them. Every spare minute I had I searched for lovely Christmas card ideas that students of all ages could make. Finally, I found them, a pretty card with 3D bauble baubles so I created instructions and Miss Anderson and other staff cut out the circles. Lucia, Rose and I instructed everybody to create these beautiful cards.

By Emily

We have worked very hard this year in Mini Vinnies. At the start of the year, we focused on making stickers for The Dish meals that our parents and teachers provide. As winter crept closer the Mini Vinnies team organised Snug-as-a-Bug Day, where students K-6 were able to have a small experience of the chilly conditions like those experiencing homelessness might suffer from night after night. On the day we were not allowed heaters and all the windows were open on a super cold day. Everyone enjoyed the fun activities, raised money for Vinnies and developed some empathy for those experiencing homelessness. Once Snug as a Bug day was over we were also visited by aged care residents, where we performed songs and much more. In Term 4 we started to create Christmas cards with paper baubles baubles Miss Anderson realised we had to make over a hundred cards. She had us working like elves in Santa's shop. ALL of this happened in the span of about seven months! - **By Lucia**



WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Sunday, 15 December

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00am Mass at OLPS (Quiet Mass)
 9:30am Family Mass at Sacred Heart
 6:00pm Mass at Sacred Heart

Tuesday, 17 December

9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer Group

Wednesday, 18 December

9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart
 11:30am OLPS End of Year Mass
 6:00pm Men's Fellowship

Thursday, 19 December

9:00am Healing Mass at Sacred Heart
 9:30am Morning Tea

Friday, 20 December

YOTS Collection

9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart followed by
 Adoration and Litany to the Sacred
 Heart of Jesus

Saturday, 21 December

Collect of St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor (Optional)

9:00am Mass at OLPS with morning prayer
 10:00am Christmas Mass Children's Choir Practice
 10:45am Christmas Mass Nativity Play Practice
 5:00pm Mass at OLPS

Sunday, 22 December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am Mass at OLPS (Quiet Mass)
 9:30am Mass at Sacred Heart
 6:00pm Mass at Sacred Heart

The Rosary is recited after all weekday Masses

PLANNED GIVING

The First Collection goes to the upkeep of the clergy, Salvatorian Regional Office and the Broken Bay Diocese sustentation funds.

The Second Collection goes towards maintaining our Churches and the upkeep of the Parish, supporting the ministries of our Parish (including our Sacramental programs and Catechist work), helping us continue our good works and loving outreach.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support.

First Collection



Second Collection



Parish Prayer Zone

Praying for others gets our focus off ourselves and onto the needs of those around us. As we "carry each other's burdens," we "will fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Praying for each other makes us stronger and helps us to grow our faith and Christian love.

Recently Deceased:

Wendy Berrill, Mathilde Perl, Leslie Cashman, Dr Murray John Littlejohn, Christopher Wilkinson, Molly Anstee, Marie Burt

Death Anniversaries:

Tony Awad, Peter O'Sullivan, José Antonio Sanchez, Silvya Gomez, Teresa Peralta, Franciszek Lucjan Skrodzki, Bernardino Castillo,

Prayers for the sick:

Josephine and Badih Hajje, Catherine Sanchez, Pamela Seaman, Joseph Hendryjanto, Margaret Browne, Danny Ung

Weekly prayer intention:

This week, we pray for hearts filled with joy as we prepare to welcome Jesus this Christmas. Amen.

If you would like the names of your relatives to be included in the prayer list (anniversary of deaths, recently deceased, illnesses, wedding celebration or anniversaries, birthdays, etc.) please contact the Parish Office by midday each Wednesday. Remember that due to privacy policy, names of the sick can only be put on the bulletin with permission of the immediate family. This list will be updated every month and we would appreciate if we are advised of any updates. Thank you.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Third Candle - The Candle of Joy

Priest: In the Third Week of Advent, we are called to respond to the gifts and graces we received in our baptism

"Does my life today fulfil the expectations and responsibilities of bearing the name of Christian?" What are we doing for the hungry, the oppressed, the sick, the lonely? Do we truly care about the needs of others? Do we accomplish cheerfully all that is expected of us in the work place or the classroom?

Meditation: "He will baptise you in the Holy Spirit and in fire." (Luke 3:16)

Light the pink candle.

Priest: Almighty and loving God, Your Son has taught us the way to live as Your children. We were blessed in our baptisms with special gifts and graces, and still there are times when we find it hard to be all that we should be. We ask for an increased awareness of the needs of others and for the courage to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. Please, God, help us to live in Your grace that all who know us will know You and Your love.

The Penitential Rite follows



Pymble Parish Christmas Fundraising Auction

Join in our online silent
auction supporting the
Pymble parish

Scan or click the QR code below
to review auction items and bid

Christmas Online Auction

**Start 1am
Sunday
8 December**



**End 11:45pm
Sunday
15 December**

tinyurl.com/4hz8tsmt

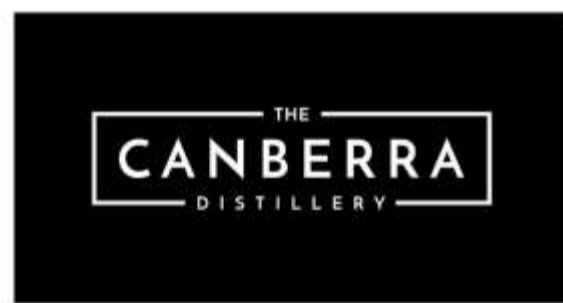
Items may be collected from the
Parish office during office hours

www.pymblecatholicparish.org.au | 02 9144 2702

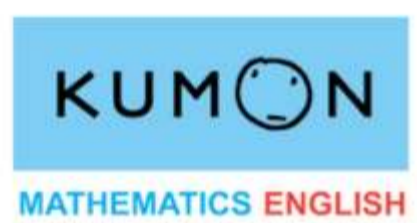
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the businesses who supported our silent auction. Your generosity helps make a difference in our community.



TUITION
CONFIDENCE
RESULTS



Genuine French-style market baskets imported from Morocco



Thank You to Our Catechists!

This year, we have been truly blessed by the dedication of our Catechists, who have generously shared their time and talents to nurture the faith of our students. To express our gratitude, we recently hosted a special afternoon tea in their honour.

It was also an opportunity to farewell Michele, our outgoing CCD Coordinator, whose leadership and passion have been an inspiration to us all. Michele, you will be greatly missed, and we wish you every blessing in the future.

Although Rebecca, our new CCD Coordinator, couldn't join us on the day, we are excited to welcome her to the role and look forward to her leadership and contributions in the coming year.

A special thank you to all our Catechists, including those who couldn't attend, for their continued support of this vital ministry.



Photo (left to right):
Roselle, Therese,
Margaret, Nina,
Fr Irek, Jo & Michele.

Your contributions bring faith alive in our community, and we are deeply grateful for everything you do!

We are still in need of more Catechists for next year. If you can help or would like to learn more, please contact the parish office. Your support can make a big difference!



Reminder: December frozen meal donations for the Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets program should be dropped off at the Parish office **between 9am and 10am on Friday, 20 December 2024**. At 10am sharp, the meals will be transported to Youth Off The Streets.

Collections are scheduled for the third Friday of each month except January. The program will return in 2025 with the first collection on Friday, 21 February 2025.

Thank you for your support during the year. We wish you and your family a happy Christmas and all of the very best for 2025.

Children's Liturgy - Sacred Heart Church

Children are welcome to join us at our Children's liturgy at Sacred Heart Church. Children's Liturgy is a great way to engage and nourish the children of our Parish with God's Word. Our final session at Sacred Heart will be at our **9:30am Mass on Sunday, 15 December**.



Thank you to all of our Children's Liturgy Leaders who have assisted us with leading the sessions over the past year. It is such a wonderful faith enriching experience for the children of our Parish.

Sacred Heart Year 6 Graduation Mass

On Wednesday the 12th of December, we celebrated the Year 6 students from Sacred Heart Catholic School at their Graduation Mass, celebrated by Father Irek. It was a beautiful occasion filled with gratitude and blessings.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Laura Munce for her exceptional preparation of the students, and to Mrs Kerry Paxton and families for their presence and support.

We wish all our graduates the very best as they embark on their Year 7 journey. May God bless you all.



Message from Fr. George Kolodziej

Annual Salvatorian Seminary Appeal 2024

On behalf of the Salvatorian Fathers, I would like to wholeheartedly thank you for all your prayers, and most kind donations towards our Salvatorian Seminary Appeal in 2024. Every amount donated helps contribute financially towards the 12 seminarians currently in formation in the Philippines. As the financial cost is quite substantial at \$14,000 for each seminarian annually, and with a vision to welcome another 3 candidates in 2025, we greatly appreciate your continued financial support, which is vital towards the formation of future vocations in Australia. May God bless you in abundance, Fr. George Kolodziej SDS, Superior of the Salvatorians, Australian Region.

Father Zachary Visits Pymble Parish

We were blessed to have Father Zachary Lewis OSPPE visit our parish this week. Father Zachary led a wonderful mission, giving talks, hearing confessions, and celebrating Mass. We are grateful for his time and spiritual guidance. We look forward to welcoming him back to Pymble Parish in the future.





Christmas: Pymble Parish

Pymble Catholic Parish Christmas Events

Saturday, 7 and Sunday, 8 December
Parish Mission
 Introductory talk at all Masses

Monday, 9 to Wednesday, 11 December
Parish Mission
 9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart
 Special homily and talk after Mass
 7:00pm Talk then Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and parish reconciliation

Thursday, 19 December
Healing Mass and Christmas Celebration for Seniors
 9:00am Mass Sacred Heart followed by Morning Tea

Tuesday, 24 December
Christmas Eve
Sacred Heart
 4:30pm Carols
 5:00pm Family Mass
 9:00pm Mass
 11:30pm Carols
 Midnight Mass
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
 4:30pm Carols
 5:00pm Family Mass

Wednesday, 25 December
Christmas Day
Sacred Heart
 7:45am Christmas Mass
 9:30am Christmas Mass
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
 8:00am Christmas Mass

Thursday, 26 December
Boxing Day Mass
 9:00am Sacred Heart

Wednesday, 1 January
Solemnity, Mary Holy Mother of God
 9:00am Sacred Heart

Pymble Catholic Parish
Sacred Heart Church
 2 Richard Porter Way Pymble NSW 2073
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church
 64 Kendall Street West Pymble NSW 2073



www.pymblecatholicparish.org.au



Pymble Catholic Parish

Christmas Break

Parish groups taking a break over the Christmas New Year period will resume as below

Office: Monday, 13 January 2025

RCIA: Tuesday, 14 January 2025
 Bible Study: Friday, 31 January 2025
 Charismatic Prayer Group: Tuesday, 4 February 2025
 Men's Fellowship: Wednesday, 5 February 2025
 Youth off the Streets: Friday, 21 February 2025

We wish everyone all the blessings of Christmas

Glow

not just a candle

Order your Christmas gifts now!

Hand crafted soy scented candles, melts and hampers for all occasions individually made with love.

Pick up from Sacred Heart Church



Contact Julie on glow.sydney@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/glow.syd
www.instagram.com/glow.sydney/

Supporting MID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Carols for Peace

FULL ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR
 of over 60 musicians

MARK VINCENT
 GARY PINTO
 Emelina Phillips
 Danny & Leila Abdullah



Supporting the suffering Church in Lebanon, the Holy Land & Ukraine

BOOK NOW!



ENTRY BY DONATION
 Bookings Essential - Tickets Strictly Limited
www.carolsforpeace.org

FRI 20 DEC | 5PM

SYDNEY TOWN HALL



Celebrate Christmas Eve with us!

Come join us for a beautiful celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.



Celebrate Christmas Eve at Pymble Parish with our 5:00 pm Family Mass, where the children will joyfully present the Nativity Story.
Sacred Heart & OLPS Church

Christmas Masses Volunteers

This festive season, immerse yourself in the joy of our Christmas Masses! We're seeking volunteers to contribute their time and talents to make this festive season extra special.

If you are interested and willing to help please put your name down on the volunteer sheets which are located at the back of the church.



Christmas Eve Fellowship Gathering

AT OLPS

Tuesday, 24th December
after the 5pm Family Mass



Please bring a plate to share

CHRISTMAS EVE

SAUSAGE SIZZLE & CAKE

Saturday, December 24

after the 5pm Family Mass
Sacred Heart Church

Enjoy a sausage sizzle and cake as we gather to share the spirit of Christmas with our parish family.

We'd love your help to make this event extra sweet! If you can donate a cake please either drop it off Monday the 23rd or before 4pm on the 24th to the crying room. We also need volunteers on the BBQ from 6 to 7pm.

Sausage sizzle: \$3.50
Cakes & Christmas treats from \$3
Christmas Flowers from \$5
EFTPOS facilities will be available

We can't wait to celebrate this special evening with you!



Join us for a festive evening of Port & Cake after the 9pm Christmas Eve Mass.



When: Immediately following the 9pm Christmas Eve Mass
Where: Sacred Heart Church Hall, Pymble

Let's celebrate the birth of our Lord together!

SAVE THE DATE

Pymble Parish Welcome
Cocktail Party

08 | 02 | 2025

AFTER THE 5 PM MASS AT OLPS

RSVP BY MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2025

SACRED HEART 2025 ROSTERS

Sacred Heart Church is Preparing the 2025 Volunteers Roster
We need your help to continue making our parish
vibrant and welcoming!

Current Volunteers

If you are currently on the 2024 roster and would like to continue in 2025, please let us know.

New Volunteers Welcome!

Interested in joining? We'd love to have you! There are many ways you can contribute:

- Readers
- Acolytes
- Altar Society
- Counters
- Children's Liturgy
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Music & Projector Team
- Welcome Ministers
- Wardens

How to Sign Up or Confirm

- Speak to one of our parish team members after Mass.
- Contact us via email at office@pymblecatholicparish.org.au
- Call the parish office at 02 9144 2702.

Let's work together to make 2025 a wonderful year
for Sacred Heart Church!

PASTORAL WORKS Broken Bay

Our parish quota for the 2024/2025 Pastoral Works Fund is \$36,919, and we are grateful to have already raised \$12,000!

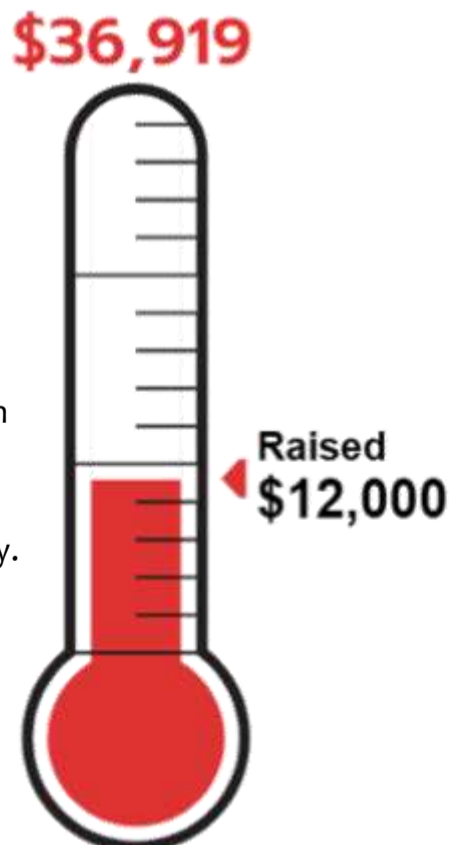
Our Quota 2024/2025

This fund supports

essential initiatives such as CatholicCare, chaplaincies, and faith education programs that serve our community.

While our next formal appeal is in May, we warmly invite parishioners to continue contributing in the coming months. Every donation helps us reach our goal.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity. Together, we can make a lasting difference!



SPEND TIME WITH OUR LORD Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

We are pleased to announce that the **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** continues at the Divine Mercy Chapel, located on the right side of our church at Sacred Heart.

This is a wonderful opportunity to spend quiet time in prayer and reflection before our Lord Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

If you would like to participate, please contact the Parish Office to be added to the roster. Up to four people can attend during each timeslot, and the available times are listed below.



Friday Roster for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

8am - 8:45am	Peter	4pm - 5pm	Paulette
10am - 11am	Lynette	5pm - 6pm	Cindy, Marie
11am - 12pm	Kate	6pm - 7pm	Eric
12pm - 1pm	Collette	7pm - 8pm	Elzbieta
1pm - 2pm	Gerry & Carmen	8pm - 9pm	Paul, Rod
2pm - 3pm			
3pm - 4pm	Jo		

"I encourage Christians to visit Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament regularly, for we are all called to abide in the presence of God."

- St. John Paul II

Please inform the Parish Office if you have recently changed your address, phone number or email. For Parishioners who give via credit card, please let us know if your credit card has expired or if you have changed your card. Thank you!

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.



Accompanied by
Fr Ireneusz Czech SDS

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)



The Library of Celsus, Ephesus

the genuine pilgrim experience

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journeys



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 Kallimarmaro 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 Icaria 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 →



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 from 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 • Portage 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

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Liturgy of the Word

Third Sunday of Advent

Year C

Entrance Antiphon [Philippians 4:4-5](#)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading [Zephaniah 3:14-18](#)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm [Is 12:2-6 R.v.6](#)

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water **(R.)**
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' **(R.)**
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One
of Israel. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Philippians 4:4-7](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation [Isaiah 61:1 \(Lk 4:18\)](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Luke 3:10-18](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.'

There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Gospel Reflection

Meditation: Why did thousands come out to hear John the Baptist preach? And what was so unusual about his message? When John the Baptist appeared on the public scene and began to prophesy the whole nation of Israel took notice. It had been many hundreds of years since a prophet had spoken out and performed signs in the land of Israel. John broke the long silence with the sudden announcement that the Messiah (God's Anointed One) was about to appear. God had long ago promised his people through the patriarchs of the old covenant (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob), and through the prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, etc.) and rulers of Israel (Moses, David), that he would send them a Redeemer who would save them from their sins, free them from oppression, fill them with the joy of his presence (Zephaniah 3:17), and bring them his everlasting kingdom of peace and righteousness.

John brought 'good news' to the people
The people recognized that John was an extraordinary man of God and a true prophet who spoke in God's name. They came out to hear the "good news" (Luke 3:18) which he preached to them. And they willingly submitted to his baptism of repentance at the River Jordan where he preached. John's task was to wake people up from spiritual sleep and indifference, and to turn them back to hear God's voice and obey his commandments. John wanted the people to be in a good place to receive the Messiah and follow him.

Luke mentions two groups in particular who came to John for spiritual renewal - tax collectors and Jewish soldiers who belonged to the Roman peace-keeping force. Both groups were regarded as being spiritually unfit and unclean by the Jewish authorities and were treated as outcasts. John welcomed them with open arms along with all the multitude of people who came to hear the "good news" and be baptized in the cleansing waters of the River Jordan.

John's message of repentance

John's message of renewal and repentance was very practical. He told the people three things: First, every follower of God must share what they possess (their personal goods and resources) with their neighbors, especially with those who lacked the basic necessities of life. John recognized that this was a key duty for every individual and an outward expression of the great commandment to love one's neighbor as oneself (Leviticus 19:18).

Second, John pointed out the sacred duty to give each and every person what is their due and to not take from them what rightfully belongs to them. God commands that each person be treated with respect and that honor be given where honor is due. John told the tax collectors that they must not coerce people to pay more tax money than what was rightfully due. (Tax collectors often made handsome profits for themselves by overcharging other people.) John instructed soldiers to not abuse their authority or power to compel people to give or do things for them beyond what was rightful and their due. (It was not uncommon for soldiers to abuse their position to force people to carry their heavy equipment for them or to rob them of their goods.) John did not tell them to leave their profession, but to be good, honest, and respectful soldiers.

And thirdly, John exhorted his listeners to be content with what they had and to avoid coveting (wrongfully desiring or acquiring) what belonged to others. John basically called the people to turn back to God and to walk in his way of love and righteousness.

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Please scan the QR Code to watch Father Irek's Homily



Pymble Parish Roster 21 & 22 December 2024

Sacred Heart (Pymble)	Sunday 9:30am	Sunday 6pm
Acolytes	E. Leahy	T McLeod
Altar Servers	A & T De Souza	W Rusak
Readers	R Pazniewski	L Menzies
Altar Society	21 December: Jo & Carmel	
Counters	22 December: P Ward / T Ryan / M Boland	

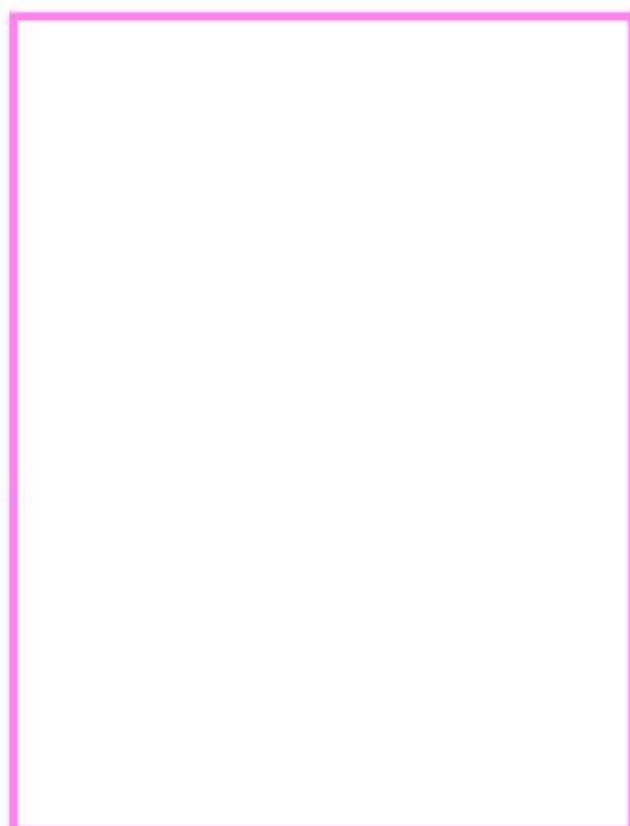
OLPS (West Pymble)	Saturday 5:00pm	Sunday 8:00am
Acolytes	J Pease	D DeSousa
Altar Servers	A Pease	E & M Rothemund
Readers	D Stephenson	M Walz
Altar Cloth	21 December:	

Children's Corner

Gaudete Sunday



The third Sunday in Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*; the Sunday of Joy! Draw a picture of something you can do to bring joy into the lives of others during this week of Advent.



John the Baptist had great respect for Jesus. He told people, "Someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandals." Write down in the shell how you can show your respect for Jesus.



Water is used in the sacrament of Baptism as a symbol of life and purity. Below there are clues to six hidden words that are all symbols used in Baptism and Mass.



G	F	A	Y	I	H	I	Q	K
F	T	M	W	J	O	Q	G	W
D	G	P	V	Z	Z	U	F	I
Z	G	W	A	T	E	R	I	N
Z	G	X	P	K	F	T	R	E
Q	E	S	L	U	Q	H	E	N
Q	D	K	C	R	O	S	S	X
Q	A	Q	K	U	G	H	M	B
N	C	A	N	D	L	E	B	J
B	H	B	R	E	A	D	D	Q

John, the son of Zechariah baptized people in the River Jordan to prepare them for the arrival of God's chosen one, Jesus. Draw John baptizing one of the people in the river.



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The Pymble Parish weekend Mass schedule is:

Saturday

9:00am at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

5:00pm at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Sunday

8:00am at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

9:30am at Sacred Heart

6:00pm at Sacred Heart



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