

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

8TH DECEMBER 2024—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

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 8.12.2024

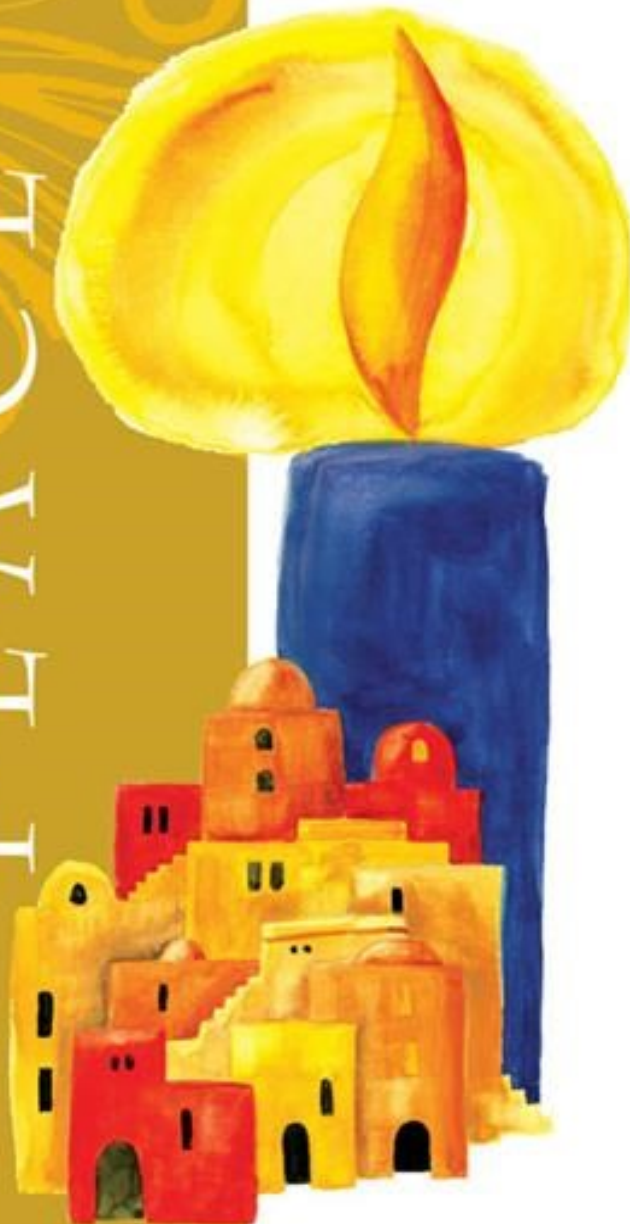
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

The awesome, austere and somewhat formidable figure of John the Baptist appears in our readings today, exhorting us to make straight the path for the Lord. In reflecting upon our own lives, we may often find that the paths which we have travelled (and are still travelling) are very far from straight, but complex, circuitous and indirect. This is an almost inescapable reality in our contemporary world.

In listening to the Baptist's words, it is opportune to ask ourselves, 'How could I make the path of my own life a little straighter? What are the unnecessary complexities which I could easily let go of?' Simplicity is in itself a beautiful and desirable thing. Paradoxically, it is both very difficult to achieve, and yet ready at hand as soon as we desire it. A good first step in drawing near to it is to meditate upon the supreme simplicity of God.

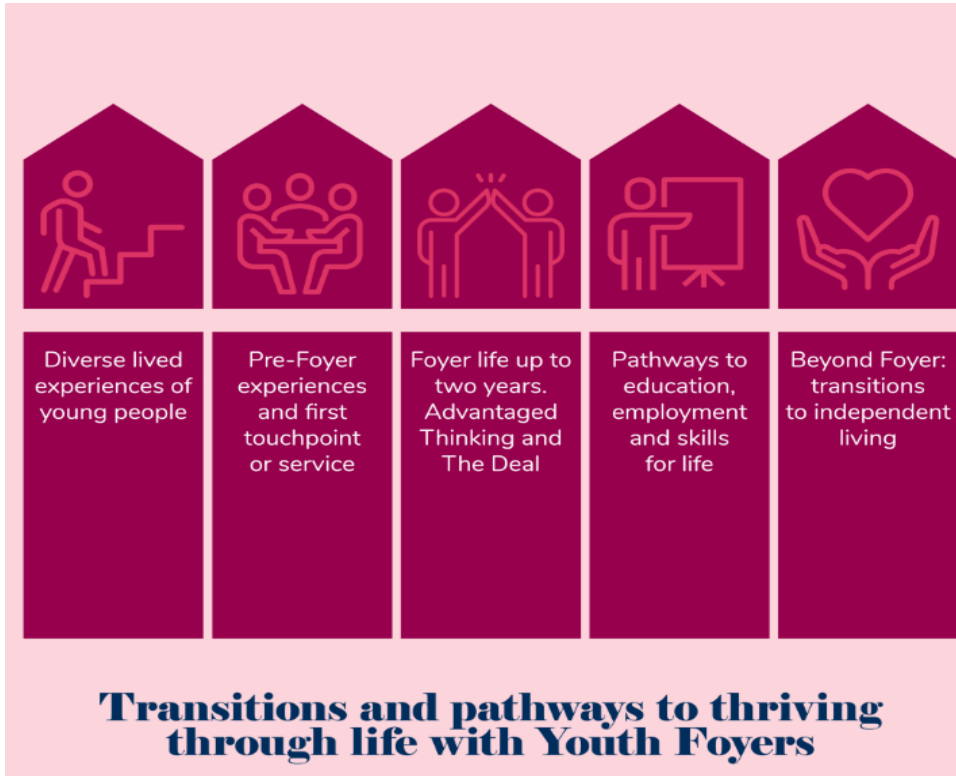
*Reproduced from God's Word 2024: Daily Reflections, Published by
St Pauls Publications, Strathfield.*

P.E.A.C.E



PARISH CONSULTATION REPORT

- Fr Raul opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed all attendees.
- Joe Cesca Chair of the Finance Committee presented the financial position of the Parish. Losses between \$20,000 and \$40,000 have been sustained over the past 3 years. The stewardship responsibility of all Parishioners to the future of Wyong Parish means that a solution to change these losses must be found.
- Tim Curran, Executive Director of CatholicCare gave detailed information on the **Youth Foyer** concept. This offers 16–22-year-olds who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness a safe place to live for up to 2 years integrating housing, education, employment, and life skills.



Detailed information on foyers can be found at:
www.foyers.org.au/foyersinaustralia

- Options to be considered include, **a)** no action, **b)** sale of carpark, which then could provide funds for parking, new buildings, and surplus funds for future needs.
- Restraints to be resolved, **a)** heritage listing of the presbytery could mean only a refurbishment possible, **b)** number of car spaces.
- A majority vote approved ongoing investigation to determine costings and definite direction.
- All Parishioners who have questions, clarification needs or a different proposal are asked to speak with our Priests, members of the Finance Committee, PPC or provide a written statement to the parish office via email at wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au or phone on 4352 1011.
- In conclusion, much work has still to be done. The continuing prayers of all Parishioners are a must to ensure the best solution is achieved.

PASTORAL WORKS FUNDRAISER

THANK YOU kindly for your generous support with our Parish fundraiser.
 -A total of **\$1314.00** was raised, with the stall raising \$900 and the raffle raising \$414.
 -The winner of the raffle draw donated their prize to We Care Connect.
 -Special thanks to Carolyn McNamee for cooked goodies.

Marie Dyer & Rae Bof.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

1st form of the Rite of Reconciliation:

St John Fisher Mass Ctr

- Saturday 14th Dec Following 5pm Mass
- Sunday 15th Dec following 5pm Mass

2nd form of the Rite of Reconciliation:

St Cecilia's Church

- Wednesday 18th Dec 6pm

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

We warmly invite children to take part in the cherished

Christmas Eve Mass on the 24th of December at 5:00 pm.

This beautiful celebration offers a wonderful opportunity for our children to participate in the joy and reverence of Christmas.



Should your child wish to participate, please contact the Parish Office on 4352 1011 or Jo Helm at

joanne.helm@dbb.catholic.edu.au

We look forward to coming together as a community and celebrating the birth of Christ in a way that brings joy, warmth, and faith to all.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Closed 23rd December 2024

Reopening 14th January 2025

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



Ph: 02 4351 8004
 Ph: 02 4392 8777

BOWDEN FAMILY FUNERALS

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anitabowden@cci.net.au



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ALL PARISHIONERS
AND FAMILIES
WELCOME

Parish Christmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner will commence at 6pm with a meal (barbecue, meats, salads and sweets) followed by Christmas carols.

FRIDAY | 6:00PM | **20** | DECEMBER 2024

St John Fisher Hall Hicks Lane,
Tumbi Umbi

RSVP BY: 13 DECEMBER
MARGARET VANDENBERG 4352 1011
KERRY BUGDEN 4388 2938

Christmas Cards & Columban Calendars

Christmas Cards & Columban Art Calendars will be available for purchase at the back of the Church.

Both are \$10 each, proceeds go to St Vincent De Paul.

PIETY STALL

The piety stall is open on the 2nd and last Sunday of each month, between the hours of 10:15am – 10:45am

Main Liturgical Feasts: **December**

St. Ambrose (December 7), **Immaculate Conception** (December 8), **St. Juan Diego** (December 9), **St. Damascus** (December 11), **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (December 12), **St. John of the Cross** (December 14), **St. Peter Canisius** (December 21) and **St. John of Kanty** (December 23), **St. Stephen** (December 26), the **Holy Innocents** (December 28), **St. Thomas Becket** (December 29) and **St. Sylvester I** (December 31).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT

Weekly Prizes are \$50 – 1st & \$20 – 2nd
Monthly Prizes are \$150 – 1st & \$50 – 2nd and will be last weekend of the month.

200 Club Update 2024

| DATE | Type | 1 ST | | 2 nd | |
|----------------|--------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 7/8th December | Weekly | 198 | Serge Yardin | 164 | Benjamin Serrano |



Property Transfer Professionals
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Email: cruz@homecaring.com.au



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

Advent 2024



To help people prepare for the Birth of Our Lord, the Diocese of Broken Bay has developed a booklet called "A Journey of Hope" for parish groups and families to guide them through the season.

The booklet features Gospel readings, prayers, reflections and personal stories, to encourage people to enter more deeply into prayer and reflection.

"As we embark together on this holy Season of Advent – a time of preparation, anticipation, and hope at the coming birth of the child Jesus – we are reminded of the immense joy that awaits us," said Bishop Anthony.

Please feel free to take a booklet home!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We would like to ask our wonderful community to volunteer some of your time on Sunday to assist Maria with Children's Liturgy. We are looking at rostering you once a month or more if you'd like. On these days you will be back in time for the Eucharistic ceremony and fulfill your Sunday Mass obligations.

Please email the office to register or for more information wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.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**

Youth Co-Ordinator **Gabbi Scherer**

Email: gabbi.scherer@bbcatholic.org.au

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 Doueichi, Lisa Glanville, Jackson Ticehurst, Margaret McDermott, Dave Rodney, Danae Roe

RECENTLY DECEASED: Julia McDermott, Nelly De Guzman Eco, Hondrio Aguila, Maria Esther Attard, Fr Michael O'Toole, Peter Vaughan, Manfred Merl

ANNIVERSARY DECEMBER: Bill Martin, Larry George Hooley, John Taylor, James Bastic, Rove Varman, Claire Baxter, John Taylor



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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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading - Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 125

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading - Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 3:1- 6

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

UPCOMING FAMILY PICNIC DATES:

4TH AUGUST

8TH SEPTEMBER

13TH OCTOBER

10TH NOVEMBER

8TH DECEMBER

FROM 10:30AM AT ST CECILIA'S CATHOLIC
CHURCH





Rosary Novena

to the
Immaculate
Conception

For Peace

30th November – 8th December

7:00 PM AEDT

Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88622666967>



Caritas Australia's Lebanon Crisis Appeal

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

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

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

Donate today: www.caritas.org.au/lebanon



LEBANON CRISIS APPEAL

Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability.

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

DONATE NOW

caritas.org.au/lebanon

1800 024 413



Photo: Caritas Lebanon

ADVENT 2024 with The Catholic Guy Bruce Downes

Jesus is Coming – Time to Get Ready

Experience the life-changing love of Christ and be strengthened in your faith journey this Advent alongside many people from around the world with The Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes.

- Inspiring and transforming talks
- Opportunities to pray and reflect
- Practical strategies for impactful living
- Life-changing encounter with Christ

To help you go deeper in your prayer life and spiritual journey, you are invited to attend the **Advent Mission Event Retreat online** from 7-9th December with unlimited streaming until the end of Advent. To find out more and register, go to: <https://TheCatholicGuy.com/missionevent>

Register now on the website or for more information, email: info@brucedownes.org



Carols

at the Concourse

**7:30PM Saturday
14 December, 2024**

Chatswood Concourse
409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood NSW

Gather your loved ones, grab a chair or rug, and warm up your singing voices to join us in singing Carols at the steps of the Concourse!

A gift to you, from the Christian Churches of Willoughby City 



CATHOLIC
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THE *Writings* OF
JOHN PAUL II
ON GENDER, MARRIAGE & FAMILY

PRESENTED BY TOB INSTITUTE 19-24 JANUARY 2025

SPEAKER : Bill Donaghy, TOB specialist and international speaker

LOCATION : Benedict XVI Retreat Centre

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 1 DECEMBER 2024

TOBI.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG

“ The Theology of the Body Institute takes the great scholarship of St John Paul II and translates it into a language, images, music and stories that are understandable and resonate in the heart of the average person.
- Christopher West. ”

“ The greatest gift Theology of the Body gave me as an affirmation that the deepest longings, desires and yearnings of my own heart for love, fulfillment and intimacy were not only good but holy.
- Marie, university student ”

Meet your Instructors and Team:

BILL DONAGHY



Having worked in mission, evangelisation, and education since the early 1990s, Bill joined the faculty of the TOB Institute in 2010 and became a full-time member of the team as a content specialist in 2013. With a background in visual arts, philosophy, and systematic theology, he has given talks and retreats to bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and the lay faithful throughout the country and internationally. Bill is a co-author with Chris Stefanick of the popular

program *RISE: 30 Day Challenge for Men* and is a proud husband and father of four.

JASON CLARK



Since 2010, Jason has served as Christopher's closest collaborator in overseeing the global mission and outreach of spreading St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. He has a passion for drawing people closer to the heart of Christ and has been doing so since the early 1990s as a youth and young adult minister, a seminarian, a worship leader, a speaker throughout the United States and abroad, and, most importantly, as a husband and father of five.



The **Life, Marriage and Family** team in the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation serves parish communities through initiatives that affirm the dignity of the human person and build a culture that supports marriages and families in their vocations. We provide opportunities for spiritual encounter, growth and formation in the areas of RCIA, sacramental life, marriage, family life and men's and women's ministry.

VISIT: www.sydneycatholic.org/lmf

The team will serve as your local support and point of contact for any queries about the program. They will also be present to assist with any needs during the course.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION



EARLY EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- **Cost:** \$1900 AUD
- **Inclusion:** Immersion Course with all materials, five nights (twin shared room) accommodation and meals.
- **Apply:** tobi.sydneycatholic.org

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

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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:

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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

A Catholic Response to Domestic Violence

The Diocese has released a video with Bishop Anthony addressing the serious and increasing issue of domestic family violence.

The theme for Safeguarding Awareness 2024 is The Voice of the Vulnerable and Bishop Anthony wanted a particular focus on domestic family violence, which affects women, children and men across our communities.

The video is called “A Catholic Response to Violence”. It can be viewed on the Diocese website at [A Catholic Response to Domestic Violence - Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay \(bbcatholic.org.au\)](https://www.bbcatholic.org.au) where other resources, including a booklet, are also available.

While a number of help lines are identified in the video and booklet, below are some of the key ones”

- 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) – 24-hour 7 day a week service for advice and support

- 131 450 for non-English speakers and ask them to ring RESPECT

CATHOLICCARE BROKEN BAY:

- 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

The video is also available on our [Youtube channel](#)

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**