

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

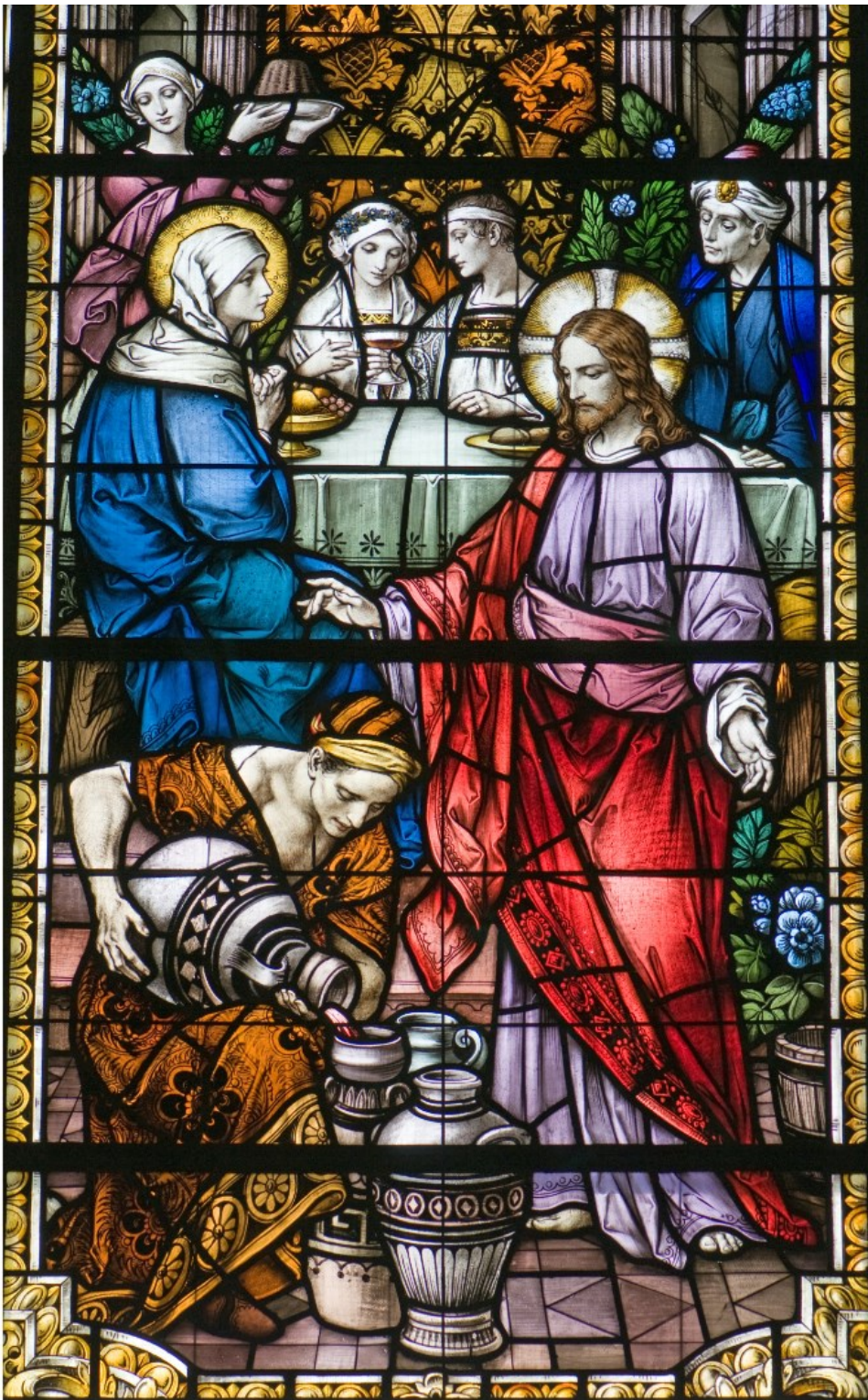
19TH JANUARY 2025—2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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)



Wedding Feast Reflection **19.1.25**

The wedding feast at Cana engages us as a story of family dynamics, hospitality, and festivities. It also contains theologically loaded words. For example, the wedding takes place on the 'third day' which, in biblical symbolism suggests the entry of divine power into the narrative -something 'big' is at work here! 'Woman' might seem a rude form of address for a son to his mother; however, in John's Gospel 'woman' is used in a revelatory sense, calling to mind the first woman in the creation story, Eve. We are led to understand that creative, and recreative, divine power is at work, and we learn that this is the first of Jesus' signs that 'revealed his glory'. Let's pause to reflect on the human setting for this miracle: a wedding feast. Haven't we all witnessed the innate sacredness of a wedding celebration? That tingling awareness that something incredibly precious is at hand as we witness a bride and groom declaring their life commitment to one another, with family and friends rejoicing? Amid human frailties, the power of love shines through. Weddings are special places and times for divine presence to be manifested and celebrated.

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

RCIA

Our Rite of Christian Initiation Program will return this year on Saturday 1st February 2025 at 3pm in the parish hall. Please keep these candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive their sacraments.

Thank You Volunteers

As we get settled into 2025 and wind down from all the festivities, we would like to take this time to thank all of our volunteers who have kept our parish going. Your time and efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you for all you do and we wish you all a wonderful, prosperous and joyous New Year!

Wyong Catholic Parish Filipino-Australian Senyor Santo Nino Devotees'

The Feast of Sto Nino 2025

SUNDAY | **19** | AT 11:00AM

JAN

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE
84 Gavenlock Road TUGGERAH



Details

11:00AM Mass
12:00NN Procession
12:30PM Sinulog dance with all the devotees
12:45PM Lunch will be served buffet style (water will be available for purchase)

Contact

Peps Burlat 0403 211 643
(For volunteering)
Lennie Sebing 0403 765 598
(Financial donations/pledges)
Manny Dangca 0420 603 743
(Liturgy/Novena)
Mona Santos 0406 998 422
(General enquiry)

Anyone who would like to give pledges, bank deposit can be made to details below:
BSB 637 000 Account #: 721209601 Ref "your name"



GOD,

grant me the SERENITY

to accept the things I cannot change,
the

COURAGE

to change things I can,
and the

WISDOM

to know the difference.

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

Floral Arrangements

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

Volunteers Needed

We have a few different departments in our parish that could use extra hands. If you are interested in supporting your parish here at Wyong using your skills and some of your time then please contact the parish office because we would love to hear from you! **Phone:** 02 4352 1011 **Email:** wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Main Liturgical Feasts: January

17th Jan: Saint Anthony 18th Jan: Saturday Mass of the Virgin Mary

20th Jan: Saint Sebastian & Saint Fabian 21st Jan: Saint Agnes 22nd Jan: Saint Vincent 24th Jan: Saint Francis de Sales

25th Jan: The Conversion of Saint Paul 26th Jan: Australia Day 27th Jan: Saint Angela Merici & Saints Timothy and Titus

28th Jan: Thomas Aquinas 31st Jan: Saint John Bosco



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



Ph: 02 4351 8004
Ph: 02 4392 8777

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Anita Bowden - Director
anita.bowden@cci.net.au



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it is an irish honour.*



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CHILDREN'S LITURGY—YOU'RE INVITED !

All children are invited to attend the children's Liturgy at our weekend masses. Children's Liturgy is when the children leave the congregation to celebrate and reflect on the Sunday Gospel reading in an age appropriate way. The children are led through prayers, songs and readings that are adapted to their level of understanding. (Please ensure there is a parent/guardian for children under 5yrs old; all parents/guardians welcome).

Attending Mass together is a part of being a Catholic Family, while Children's Liturgy allows children to enter the celebration more fully by catering to their needs.

Please see below the weekend masses with Children's Liturgy:

St Cecilia's Church, Wyong—Sunday 9.30am

St John Fisher Mass Centre, Tumbi Umbi—Sunday 5:00pm



Safeguarding Message

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

Wyong parish is committed to safeguarding. All children, young persons and vulnerable adults have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you have a concern about the safety of anyone in the parish, please raise your concern with Fr Raul, Fr Alex or Fr Teody.

You can contact the Parish Office on 02 4352 1011 or wyongparish@bbccatholic.org.au or see back of Bulletin for the priests Mobile numbers.



JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025

What is a Jubilee?

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

Jubilee Prayer:

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

200 CLUB UPDATE— 2025

200 CLUB FINAL PRIZE DRAW RESULTS

Major prizes drawn on 20 December at the Christmas Function.

1st	\$400	No 73	Helen Beamish
2nd	\$200	No 182	Beth Bolte
3rd	\$100	No 78	Clara Banda
4th	\$ 50	No 101	Robyn MacDonald

Final Draw 28/29 December

1st	\$50	No 192	Louis Sammut
2nd	\$20	No 24	Beth Hughes.

A special thank you to all who supported the 200 club in 2024. Organisation of a similar fundraising is still in the planning stages.

A short survey will be distributed at the end of January asking for your thoughts and suggestions for the 2025 club.

May the Holy Family grant you happiness, hope and peace throughout 2025.

Every blessing from your Parish Pastoral Council
Kerry Bugden (Secretary.)



Property Transfer Professionals

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propertytransfer@bigpond.com

www.conveyancersnsw.net.au

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Hondrio

Aguila, Maria Esther Attard, Fr Michael O'Toole, Peter Vaughan, Manfred Merl

ANNIVERSARY JANUARY: Sophie Roe, Peter White, Patricia Unger, Bill Martin, Tony Kerr, Armida Bito-on, Kevin Booth, Ian Hughes.



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Ricky Li

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www.tuggerahphysio.com.au

Safeguarding Message

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Sunday Mass - 19 January 2025

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading - Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken,' nor your land 'Abandoned,' but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 95:1-3, 7-10

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

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

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - cf 2 Thessalonians 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Gospel - John 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from - only the servants who had drawn the water knew - the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Wyong Catholic Parish
Filipino-Australian Senyor Santo Nino Devotees'**

The Feast of Sto Nino 2025

SUNDAY | **19** | AT 11:00AM

JAN

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE
84 Gavenlock Road TUGGERAH



Details

Contact

- 11:00AM** Mass
- 12:00NN** Procession
- 12:30PM** Sinulog dance with all the devotees
- 12:45PM** Lunch will be served buffet style (water will be available for purchase)

- Peps Burlat** 0403 211 643
(For volunteering)
- Lennie Sebing** 0403 765 598
(Financial donations/pledges)
- Manny Dangca** 0420 603 743
(Liturgy/Novena)
- Mona Santos** 0406 998 422
(General enquiry)

Anyone who would like to give pledges, bank deposit can be made to details below:

BSB 637 000 Account #: 721209601 Ref "your name"



Jubilee *for*
CONSECRATED LIFE
FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Holy Mass: 9:30am, Sunday 2 February 2025

Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara

PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT: Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL



**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.

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

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

Orlando
TRAVEL



PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND AND ITALY | 16 DAYS

POLAND & ITALY

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

DATE:	16 – 31 MAY 2025
PRICE:	8350 AUD/person + TIPS (GROUP 21 PERSONS)
FLIGHT:	SYDNEY - DUBAI - WARSAW/ROME - DUBAI - SYDNEY (EMIRATES)
ROUTE:	WARSAW - ZELAZOWA WOLA (CHOPIN) - JASNA GORA (CZESTOCHOWA) - AUSCHWITZ - KRAKOW - WIELICZKA SALT MINE - LAGIEWNIKI (SHRINE FAUSTYNA & JOHN PAUL II) - ZAKOPANE - WADOWICE - ROME - VATICAN - BOLSENA - ORVIETO - ASSISI



INFORMATION:

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E-MAIL: JPIL.CENTRE@BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU



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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

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

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Alexandria BC

NSW 2015

Australia



harvest
journeys

Key Telephone Numbers

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE: 000

Call the Police for immediate assistance.

1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 732

A national 24-hour 7 day a week service, for advice or support in relation to sexual assault and domestic violence. The service also connects victims to the nearest help according to their location.

FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Call 131 450 for an interpreter. Ask them to ring 1800 RESPECT for you.

CATHOLIC CARE 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**