

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

18  
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 THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2025 • 18 DAYS / 16 NIGHTS**

Athens (2 nights) • Acropolis • Ancient Corinth • Kalambaka (2 nights) • Meteora Monasteries • Berea • Thessaloniki • Kavala (2 nights) • Ancient Philippi • Island of Patmos (2 nights) • Kusadasi (2 night) • Ephesus • Rome - Jubilee (4 nights)



The Library of Celsus, Ephesus



*the genuine pilgrim experience*

harvest  
journeys



Athens



Meteora

**SYMBOLS:** (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner

## Itinerary

### DAY 1: THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2025 - DEPART FOR GREECE

### DAY 2: FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER - ARRIVE ATHENS

*Athens today is the thriving capital of Greece, but, more importantly, we have entered 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. We will then celebrate our first pilgrimage Mass before dinner.

*Athens overnight (D)*

### DAY 3: SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER - ATHENS & ANCIENT CORINTH

*Theme: The Athenians & The Corinthians*

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 view **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: SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER - 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: MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER - 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 back at our hotel.

*Kalambaka overnight (BD)*

### DAY 6: TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER - 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: WEDNESDAY 01 OCTOBER - 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** 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)*



House of the Virgin Mary



#### DAY 8: THURSDAY 02 OCTOBER - 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: FRIDAY 03 OCTOBER - PATMOS DAY

*Theme: The Patmosians*

Successfully settled by the Dorians from 500BC and later the Ionians up until the 2nd century, the volcanic island of Patmos became a penal colony under Roman rule for political and religious troublemakers. In 95AD St John the Apostle was sent into exile here where he lived in a cave below the hilltop temple of Apollo dedicated to the pagan goddess Diana. During his time on what is now called the 'Holy Island of Patmos', St John wrote the book of Revelations and composed the Fourth Gospel as a very old man.

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, vestments embroidered with silver or gold threads and bejewelled 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: SATURDAY 04 OCTOBER - PATMOS TO KUSADASI

Depart Patmos this morning by private charter vessel to **Kusadasi**, doorway to **Ephesus**, the Churches of Revelation and Gallipoli.

On arrival in Kusadasi we will be met and transferred by coach to our centrally located hotel for the remainder of the day at leisure.

*Kusadasi overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 11: SUNDAY 05 OCTOBER - EPHESUS

*Theme: The Ephesians & Laodiceans*

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 12: MONDAY 6 OCTOBER - FLY TURKEY TO ITALY \*

This morning, we will take the final leg of our pilgrimage to Izmir airport for our flight via Istanbul to **Rome**, the Eternal City, rich in the traditions of our Church.

*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 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.*

Some of the spiritual activities that pilgrims are encouraged to participate in during our time in Rome are:

- Attend Mass and receive the Eucharist
- Make a pilgrimage to the many shrines and holy sites in Rome
- Pray for forgiveness
- Renew our commitment to our faith
- Strengthen our relationship with God
- Come together as a community and celebrate our faith

On arrival (Subject to flight times) we will be met and transferred to the city centre for a tour of the Historical centre. 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)*

CONTINUED →



Rome



Vatican Museums

**DAY 13: TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER – ROME: THE VATICAN & MAJOR BASILICAS \***

Commence our day with a spectacular Mass at **St Peter's Basilica** before coming to the nearby **Vatican Museums**. Wander the spectacular chambers leading to the **Sistine Chapel** to view Michelangelo's masterpieces, including the magnificent fresco of the Last Judgment. Continue through to the awe-inspiring St Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world for an informative exploration. Our guided tour will feature among other highlights Michelangelo's stunning **Pietà**, the **tomb of Pope St John Paul II**, the **great Confessional** and the **Crypt** containing the **tombs of several Popes**. In the afternoon, visit the impressive **St Mary Major Basilica**. Onwards to the **Basilica of St John in Lateran** (First Papal residence) and the adjacent **Holy Stairs** brought from Jerusalem to Rome in 326AD by St Helena (as a favourite of pilgrims, these steps may only be ascended on the knees).

Visit the **Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme** with its extraordinary collection of relics from the Holy Land.

*Rome overnight (BD)*

**DAY 14: WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER – ROME: CHRISTIAN MARTYRS \***

This morning we return to St Peter's Square for memorable **Papal Audience** with the Holy Father as we join with pilgrims from around the world. *(Subject to the Pope's presence in Rome.)*

In the afternoon we enter into the most visited attraction in Rome - the **Colosseum**. In 1749, Pope Benedict XIV declared the Colosseum a sacred site, as it was a place where early Christians had been martyred. View also the **Circus Maximus** and the **Roman Forum** en route.

*Rome overnight (BD)*

**DAY 15: THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER – ROME: ST PAUL'S & THE CATACOMBS \***

Journey this morning out 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 a wonderful 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. On the way, drive by **Domine Quo Vadis** - the chapel that stands at the site where, according to tradition, St Peter met Christ when he fled from Rome to escape martyrdom.

*Rome overnight (BD)*

**DAY 16: FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER – DEPART ROME**

After celebrating our final Mass together this morning, we bid farewell to the Eternal City as we make our way to the airport for our homebound flights or ongoing travel connections. (B)

**DAY 17: SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER – IN TRANSIT**

**DAY 18: SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER – ARRIVE AUSTRALIA**

*\* Please note the itinerary in Rome is dependent upon the Jubilee circumstances and activities and may be subject to change.*

**PILGRIMAGE DETAILS**

TOUR CODE	PV2573
STARTS	Thursday, 25 September 2025
FINISHES	Sunday, 12 October 2025
AIR & LAND	AUD \$10950 <i>(Twin Share) *</i>
SINGLE ROOM	AUD \$2890 <i>Supplement</i>
PREPAID TIPS	AUD \$255 <i>Per Person</i>

*\* 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:** AIRFARES: Return Economy Class group airfare from Sydney • European flights Thessaloniki to Athens and Izmir to 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:** Portorage at hotels only (1 suitcase pp) • Harvest Backpack, Pilgrim Journal and Travel Wallet.

**NOT INCLUDED**

Any Jubilee registration fees • 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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