

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

18  
DAYS

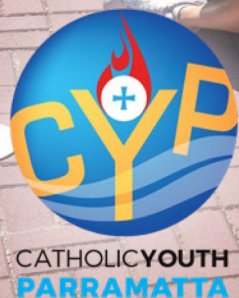
# Journey of St Paul & Rome Jubilee

*A Jubilee Holy Year is a special gift of grace and mercy for all God's people. The Jubilee of Youth pilgrimage is an invitation to journey with like-minded people, led by youth and guided by diocesan chaplains, to step into this grace with young people from around the world.*

*Join this pilgrimage inspired by many holy men and women of Italy, and encounter some of the Church's greatest saints along with the richness of Italian art and culture. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend the canonisation of the young saint, Pier Giorgio Frassati, meet with the Holy Father, cross the threshold of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica and receive the Jubilee blessing!*

**DEPARTS SATURDAY 19 JULY 2025 • 18 DAYS / 15 NIGHTS**

Athens (3 nights) • Ancient Corinth • Kalambaka (2) • Meteora • Thessaloniki (2)  
• Kavala • Philippi • Rome – Jubilee of Youth (8)



DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA

*the genuine pilgrim experience*

harvest  
journeys





Athens



Meteora

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

## Itinerary

### DAY 1: SATURDAY 19 JULY 2025 – DEPART FOR GREECE

### DAY 2: SUNDAY 20 JULY - 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. This evening, we celebrate our first Mass together.

*Athens overnight (D)*

### DAY 3: MONDAY 21 JULY - ATHENS

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**.

Afternoon at leisure

*Athens overnight (BD)*

### DAY 4: TUESDAY 22 JULY – ANCIENT CORINTH

Journey out to **Ancient Corinth** this morning where the apostle Paul lived for almost two years, teaching the people the Word of God

and converting many. We 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).

This afternoon we will have time to explore the fascinating **Acropolis Museum**, built to house every artefact found on the rock of the acropolis and the surrounding slopes.

*Athens overnight (BD)*

### DAY 5: WEDNESDAY 23 JULY - VIA HOSIOS LOUKAS MONASTERY TO METEORA

Today we depart Athens, travelling west to the remarkable Byzantine **Monastery of Hosios Loukas**, built in the 11th century on the slopes of Mt Helikon. In 1990 UNESCO included this site on their World Heritage List. On arrival we will celebrate Mass in the grounds of the Monastery and be taken on a guided tour of the **Churches, crypt and surrounds** where we admire the amazing frescoes and mosaics.

We continue north this afternoon to the small town of **Kalambaka** built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks of **Meteora**.

*Kalambaka overnight (BD)*

### DAY 6: THURSDAY 24 JULY - METEORA

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 day.

Enjoy some free time this afternoon.

*Kalambaka overnight (BD)*

### DAY 7: FRIDAY 25 JULY - METEORA TO THESSALONIKI

This morning, we travel north 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. See the ramparts of the city, the triumphal **Arch of Galerius** and the **Roman Agora** where St Paul once preached. We visit **St Demetrios' Church** with its valuable mosaics and frescoes and will drive up to the upper town, which offers a marvelous view of the city.

*Thessaloniki overnight (BD)*

### DAY 8: SATURDAY 26 JULY - PHILIPPI AND KAVALA

Arise and journey east along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul via **Amphipolis** (Acts 17:1) and on 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 **Baptistery of Lydia** for a beautiful outdoor Mass in this breathtaking oasis on the River Zygaktis, and to renew our Baptismal vows. Visit the **market place** (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.

Continue on 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.

*Thessaloniki overnight (BD)*

### DAY 9: SUNDAY 27 JULY – THESSALONIKI TO ROME

Today we will be transferred to Thessaloniki





airport for our flight to **Rome**, the Eternal City, rich in the traditions of our Church.

*Rome overnight (BD)*

#### **DAYS 10 - 16: MONDAY 28 JULY - SUNDAY 03 AUGUST | ROME: JUBILEE OF YOUTH (7 NIGHTS)**

*The Jubilee Year is a time for the faithful to be renewed in their commitment and to 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 pilgrims from around the world, to be blessed and refreshed for the mission that lies before us.*

#### **DAY 10: MONDAY 28 JULY - ROME: COMMENCEMENT OF JUBILEE OF YOUTH\***

**9:00am-9:00pm** – Arrival and Orientation

*Rome overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 11: TUESDAY 29 JULY - ROME: JUBILEE OF YOUTH\***

**10:00am-12:00pm** – Welcome Ceremony

**3:00pm-7:30pm** – Jubilee rites

*Rome overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 12: WEDNESDAY 30 JULY - ROME: JUBILEE OF YOUTH\***

**10:30am-6:00pm** – Spiritual and cultural events throughout the city of Rome

*Rome overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 13: THURSDAY 31 JULY - ROME: JUBILEE OF YOUTH\***

**10:30am-6:00pm** – Spiritual and cultural events throughout the city of Rome

*Rome overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 14: FRIDAY 01 AUGUST - ROME: JUBILEE OF YOUTH\***

**10:30am-6:00pm** – Day of Penance

*Rome overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 15: SATURDAY 02 AUGUST - ROME: JUBILEE OF YOUTH\***

**8:00am-6:00pm** – Jubilee of rites

**7:00pm-9:00pm** – Vigil with the Holy Father

*Rome overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 16: SUNDAY 03 AUGUST - ROME: JUBILEE OF YOUTH\***

**9:30am** – Mass with the Holy Father

*Rome overnight (BD)*

*\*further details and specific Rome itinerary to be finalised, once official Jubilee program is released*

During our time in Rome, subject to the final Jubilee of Youth program, we will have the opportunity to participate in the following pilgrimage sightseeing:

#### **Papal Basilicas Pilgrimage**

The four Papal Basilicas in Rome are the 'main' churches which will have Holy Doors opened by the Pope, and which will remain open throughout the Jubilee year.

- St Peter's - the Vatican Basilica
- Basilica of St John Lateran
- Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls
- Basilica of St Mary Major

#### **The Seven Churches Pilgrimage**

The pilgrimage of the 'Seven Churches', originally conceived by St Philip Neri in the 16th century, is one of the oldest Roman traditions. It involves a walk of about 25 km which snakes through the whole city, reaching out to the Roman countryside, the catacombs and with stops at some of Rome's magnificent basilicas.

- St Peter's - the Vatican Basilica
- Basilica of St Mary Major
- Basilica of St John Lateran
- Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls
- Basilica of St Lawrence Outside the Walls
- Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem
- Basilica of St Sebastian Outside the Walls

### *pilgrim highlights*

- + Trace St Paul's footsteps, surrounded by Athens' historic landmarks, including the Acropolis and the Ancient Agora.
- + Visit Corinth, where St Paul lived and taught for two years and explore the Temple of Apollo and the Peirene Fountain.
- + Marvel at the UNESCO-listed Byzantine monastery of Hosios Loukas, with its stunning frescoes and mosaics.
- + Discover the breathtaking cliffside monasteries of Meteora, home to priceless frescoes and relics, where Byzantine monks have worshipped for centuries.
- + Walk through Thessaloniki, visiting St Demetrios' Church, the Roman Agora, and sites linked to St Paul's epistles and missionary work.
- + Celebrate Mass at the Baptistry of Lydia, renew your baptismal vows, and explore Philippi's ancient marketplace and prison where St Paul was held.
- + Immerse yourself in the Jubilee Year in Rome with Mass at the Papal Basilicas, the Seven Churches pilgrimage, and the Vatican Museums, concluding with a vigil with the Holy Father.

**'Rome by night' tour** - Discover the city's renowned monuments from inside a comfortable coach. See the **Colosseum** alight, the **Victor Emmanuel Monument**, the **Piazza Della Repubblica**, **St Peter's Basilica** and **Capitol Hill**. Disembark to throw a coin in the **Trevi Fountain** before strolling to the **Piazza Navona** to soak up the vibrant atmosphere.

#### **Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel**

- Wander the spectacular chambers of the Vatican Museums, leading to the Sistine Chapel to view Michelangelo's

**CONTINUED →**





Colosseum



Vatican Museums

masterpieces, including the magnificent fresco of the Last Judgment.

**Catacombs visit** - A memorable guided tour of the underground burial tunnels for Christians and Hebrews.

**Colosseum visit** - The most visited attraction in Rome. In 1749, Pope Benedict XIV declared the Colosseum a sacred site, as it was a place where early Christians had been martyred. Some suggested youth pilgrim activities also to consider during this time in Rome are:

**Visit to the Centro San Lorenzo** - founded by Pope John Paul II in 1983, the San Lorenzo centre is the official home of the World Youth Day Cross. Thousands of young people from all over the world come to the centre each year to venerate the Cross. But the centre is much more than that. It is a magnet for young people from all over the world when they are in Rome either studying, working or just visiting. It offers, in many languages, a program of catechesis and social events specifically for young people. The Shalom Catholic Community is entrusted with looking after the centre and the International Mass on Fridays is often celebrated by Bishops and Cardinals of the Vatican. The centre also hosts international communities and movements for events and pilgrimages in Rome.

**Visit to the Community of Sant'Egidio** - a Christian community born in 1968, right after the second Vatican Council. An initiative of Andrea Riccardi, it was born in a secondary school in the centre of Rome. With the years, it has become a network of communities in more than 70 countries of the world. The Community pays attention to the periphery and peripheral people, gathering men and women of all ages and conditions, united by a

fraternal tie through the listening of the Gospel and the voluntary and free commitment for the poor and peace. The community runs regular programs for elderly, homeless, migrants, people with disabilities, street children, minors in the peripheries, prisoners.

**Formational Lectures** - an opportunity exists to arrange in advance specialised lectures for leadership and/or faith formation purposes particularly targeted to youth and young adults. The ACU Campus in Rome or other universities and theological colleges, are possible venues for such input.

**Free time** - to discover the sights of Rome or find an inspired and quiet place to reflect and pray. Strolling through the streets is like walking through the pages of a history book. Indulge in a gelato or enjoy a coffee while absorbing and admiring the history of this ancient city. Marvel at the Pantheon and Piazza Navona, throw a coin in the Trevi Fountain, walk on the Spanish Steps, or visit the Church of St Ignatius with its amazing ceiling painted to look like a dome.

*Note: further details and specific Rome sightseeing itinerary to be finalised, once the official Jubilee program is released*

#### DAY 17: MONDAY 04 AUGUST - DEPART ROME

Today we have free time until our transfer to the airport. (B)

#### DAY 18: TUESDAY 05 AUGUST - ARRIVE HOME

### PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

TOUR CODE	PV25107
STARTS	Sat 19 July 2025
FINISHES	Tue 05 Aug 2025
AIR & LAND	AUD \$9790 (Twin Share) *
SINGLE ROOM	AUD \$1860 Supplement
PREPAID TIPS	AUD \$160 Per Person

\* Costs have been based on prices as at December 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

**ACCOMMODATION & MEALS:** Based on reputable local 3-4 star superior hotels or quality religious houses as applicable • Meals as specified in Itinerary

**TOURING & TRANSPORTATION:** International Economy Class group airfare Sydney-Athens/Rome-Sydney • One-way Economy Class group airfare Thessaloniki-Athens-Rome • 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 • Jubilee of Youth Registration package

### 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

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