



Indigenous Immersion (Catholic Mission)

The Indigenous Immersion program offered by Catholic Mission provides participants with a privileged insight into the work of the Church on the lives of the Arrente people living in and around Alice Springs. Participants are invited to share in parts of traditional culture, ask questions, seek clarification and explore Aboriginal values.

Catholic Mission partners with the Divine Word Missionary Fathers, the Missionary Sisters of Charity, Catholic Care and St Vincent de Paul in Alice Springs. Through these charisms/organisations participants gain access to the First Australians through classrooms, aged-care facilities, creative Arts projects, "sunset supper" on the Todd River, fringe communities and the healing and spirituality centre.

This immersion experiences may assist participants to deepen and explore their spirituality and strengthen their commitment to living their faith in ways that will build a more just world from a perspective of justice and Gospel values.

Graces of France and Italy

This two-week pilgrimage will begin in Paris, France, visiting famous religious and historic sites such as Notre Dame Cathedral, the Basilica of Sacré Coeur (Sacred Heart), Rue de Bac (St Catherine Labouré), the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Louvre Museum. Day excursions will include visiting Versailles Palace and Chartres Cathedral.

From Paris, the pilgrimage will journey to the mother-house of the Sisters of Charity in Nevers, the location of the incorrupt body of St Bernadette Soubirous, before travelling to Lourdes for two nights. From Toulouse, the pilgrimage will travel to Rome (3 nights) before finishing with a two-day visit to the Franciscan spiritual home of Assisi.

World Youth Day, Panama, 2019

Since Sydney hosted World Youth Day in 2008, over 1,500 student and staff pilgrims from Sydney Catholic schools have attended international WYD celebrations in Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Krakow. In 2019 the youth of the world will gather in Panama in the centre of the Americas. Once again, Sydney Catholic schools will be well represented, with plans envisaged to offer an amazing pilgrimage opportunity, joining with other pilgrims from around Australia. Pilgrims will again be offered an opportunity to work alongside some of the world's most underprivileged communities through mission work before gathering in the presence of Pope Francis to celebrate the events of WYD week.

"To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe."

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Pilgrimages & Immersions

CALENDAR 2017-19



"Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage."

PSALM 84:5



Sydney Catholic Schools

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Photo of East Timorese sisters: gaborbasch / Shutterstock.com. Photo of Missionaries of Charity Zvonimir Atletic / Shutterstock.com

Pilgrimages & Immersions

YEAR	MONTH	PILGRIMAGE/IMMERSION	DURATION
2017	July	Timor-Leste Encounter (PALMS)	12 days
2017	September-October	Holy Land/Rome/Fatima	21 days
2018	January	'Think Globally Act Locally' S-E Asia Immersion (Caritas Australia)	10 days
2018	April	Jordan/Holy Land – 'Into the Desert'	14 days
2018	July	India Immersion (Missionaries of Charity)	14 days
2018	September	'In the Footsteps of Jesus' ECCE HOMO, Jerusalem	28 days
2018	September-October	Saints of Ireland	21 days
2019	January-February	World Youth Day, Panama	21 days
2019	July	Indigenous Immersion (Catholic Mission)	10 days
2019	September-October	Graces of France and Italy	14 days



Timor-Leste Encounter (Palms Australia)

For 12 days in mid 2017 a small group of eight sojourners led by recently returned Palms volunteer and SCS teacher, Samantha Haddin, will have an unparalleled opportunity to engage with the sights, smells, sounds, tastes, textures and people of Timor-Leste.

A Palms Encounter is an invitation into co-creation with people who cooperate across cultures to build a just, sustainable, interdependent and peaceful world free of poverty. Visiting Palms Australian volunteers who live and work within various communities for up to three years will provide connection into the heart of the Timorese world. There will be challenges and learning from reflection on the resilience, humility, grace, resourcefulness, joy and other strengths of the Timorese to give you a deeper and broader understanding of authentic inter-cultural mission and development.

Holy Land/Rome/Fatima

This 21-day journey with Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney will take senior leaders of Sydney Catholic schools through three great centres of the Catholic faith, Jerusalem, Rome and Fatima. The pilgrimage will begin with a stopover at the Dead Sea, swimming in the famous salty waters 400 metres below sea level. There will be two days in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Christ, followed by three days in Galilee, where Jesus began his public mission. During three days in Jerusalem pilgrims will visit the Holy Sepulchre and the Temple Mount, among many other famous sites.

In Rome, four days will be spent visiting famous sites including St Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums, the basilicas of St John Lateran, St Mary Major, St Paul's, the Catacombs, as well as the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. Onwards to Portugal, where pilgrims will stay at the famous shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and join with millions of other pilgrims in celebrating the centenary of the famous apparitions of 1917. This will be followed by two days in Lisbon before returning to Australia.

'Think Globally Act Locally' S-E Asia Immersion (Caritas Australia)

Sydney Catholic Schools will provide an opportunity for up to eight staff to experience the work of Caritas Australia in either Vietnam or Cambodia. Caritas supports numerous programs in South-East Asia working alongside local partners. This work seeks to rebuild livelihoods, improve infrastructure, develop food security, improve agriculture, health, water and sanitation, and support the elderly, young people and people with disabilities.

Jordan/Holy Land – 'Into the Desert'

This 14-day pilgrimage will follow the general chronological path of Jesus' life, commencing with three days in Jordan where pilgrims will enjoy the salty waters of the Dead Sea, stop at Bethany Beyond the Jordan where Jesus was baptised and visit the ancient city of Petra. From there pilgrims will spend two days in Bethlehem and surrounds, before heading north via Caesarea on the coast.

Places in the north that will be visited include the Sea of Galilee, Mt Carmel, Megiddo, Mt Tabor, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Tabgha and Caesarea Philippi.

Pilgrims will travel south to Jerusalem via the Roman ruins of Bet She'an. In addition to spending two days visiting the traditional sites in and around Jerusalem, there will be an ANZAC Day memorial and a day trip to Masada and Jericho. There will be one final day of rest and private exploration in Jerusalem before returning to Australia.

India Immersion (Missionaries of Charity)

This immersion will allow Sydney Catholic Schools' staff to participate as volunteers in the work of the Missionaries of Charity founded by St Teresa of Kolkata in the city of Kolkata. Participants will be housed nearby the Mother House of the Missionaries of Charity and will spend time in a number of institutions run by the Order – an English school, an orphanage and a centre for children with cerebral palsy. In the Mother House, participants will be able to attend Mass, visit the tomb of St Teresa and the bedroom where she died.

'In the Footsteps of Jesus' ECCE HOMO, Jerusalem

Held in the heart of Jerusalem, the 'In the Footsteps of Jesus' study program at the Ecce Homo Institute enables participants to study the Gospel of the year with an emphasis on the Jewish roots of Christianity, Jewish feasts, and the first century setting of Gospel texts. Participants will experience modern Jerusalem as the home of Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Additionally, visits and excursions are arranged to complement the lectures, covering the major places of Jesus' childhood and later ministry, including Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ein Karem and Jericho. These visits facilitate the study of the Gospel text within its geographical and historical contexts. There is an ancient tradition that understands the Holy Land as the 'fifth gospel' because of the extensive way it too tells the story of Jesus

Saints of Ireland

This 20-day pilgrimage to the beautiful 'Emerald Isle' incorporates both places of historic and religious significance for Ireland as well as sites relating to religious orders that brought the Catholic faith to Australia.

Among the sites that will be visited include Trinity College, the home of the Book of Kells, and St Patrick's Cathedral, Ireland's largest church. Pilgrims will travel through Glendalough, a renowned place of pilgrimage and beauty, and the site of the monastic settlement founded by St Kevin.

Other towns and places of interest that will be experienced include Moone, Tullow, Kilkenny, Ardmore, Blarney Castle, Rock of Cashel, Cork, Killarney, Skelligs Island, Galway Cathedral, the Connemara, the holy mountain of Croagh Patrick, the Holy Shrine of Knock, Kildare and St Brigid's Cathedral, among others. At Waterford pilgrims will visit the tomb of Bl. Edmund Rice and view his remains. The journey will end with a retreat at the Mercy Convent in Baggot Street, the first house of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy.

“A pilgrimage is an occasion where one must knock on the Lord's heart for the many needs that we have and the Lord listens. He always listens. It is a spiritual encounter that helps us to go forward in the journey of life.”

POPE FRANCIS