

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

16  
DAYS

# Jubilee of Families Pilgrimage

*Every 25 years, the Church proclaims a Holy Year, a special gift of grace and mercy for all God's people. Not only is Italy a land of unforgettable charm and beauty, it is also a land made rich in grace by its colourful history of holy men and women. In this dedicated Jubilee year, be inspired to encounter the pathways of some of the Church's greatest saints, from St Francis and Clare in Assisi to St Peter and Paul in Rome, the Eternal City, where we cross the threshold of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica and receive the Jubilee blessing.*

**DEPARTS TUESDAY 20 MAY 2025 • 16 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS**

Padua (3 nights) • Venice • Ravenna • Bologna • Florence (2) • Siena • Assisi (3)  
• Subiaco • Rome - Jubilee of Families (5)



Accompanied by  
**Fr Andrew McCarter**



Holy Angel Castle, Rome



*the genuine pilgrim experience*

**harvest**  
journeys





Siena

Padua (3 nights) • Venice • Ravenna  
• Bologna • Florence (2) • Siena  
• Assisi (3) • Subiaco • Rome - Jubilee  
of Families (5)

## pilgrim highlights

- + Arrive in Padua and visit the Basilica of St. Anthony, celebrating Mass and learning about the patron saint of lost articles.
- + Explore St. Anthony's Basilica, visit Prato della Valle, and marvel at Giotto's frescoes in the Scrovegni Chapel.
- + Discover Venice by gondola, attend Mass in St. Mark's Basilica, and tour its famous monuments including the Doge's Palace.
- + Witness Ravenna's mosaics, visit St. Dominic's Basilica in Bologna, and continue to Florence for a glimpse of Renaissance masterpieces.
- + See Michelangelo's David, visit Santa Croce, the Duomo, and the iconic Ponte Vecchio.
- + Visit Siena's Cathedral, St. Dominic's Basilica, and the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi, home of St. Francis.
- + Tour the cliff-faced Monastery of St. Benedict, celebrate Mass, and continue to Rome, the Eternal City.

(B) = Breakfast (L) = Lunch (D) = Dinner

## Itinerary

**DAY 1: TUESDAY 20 MAY 2025 - DEPART FOR ITALY**

**DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 21 MAY - ARRIVE PADUA**

Welcome to **Italy!** Upon arrival at Venice airport, we will be met and transferred to **Padua**, home to St Anthony, the renowned patron saint of lost articles. Originally from Lisbon, Anthony came to Italy where his gift of preaching brought many to conversion.

*Padua overnight (BD)*

**DAY 3: THURSDAY 22 MAY - PADUA**

This morning, we celebrate Mass in the **Basilica of St Anthony**, followed by a guided tour, including the Chapel of the Reliquaries and **St Anthony's tomb**.

In the afternoon we visit the impressive park of '**Prato della Valle**' which includes the **Basilica of Santa Giustina** with its claimed **relics of St Luke the Evangelist**. Onwards to the infamous **Scrovegni Chapel**. The Chapel is a masterpiece in the history of painting in Italy and Europe in the 14th century, considered to be the most complete series of frescoes executed by Giotto in his mature age.

*Padua overnight (BD)*

**DAY 4: FRIDAY 23 MAY - VENICE**

*Venice comprises a dense network of waterways with 117 islands and more than 400 bridges over its 150 canals. Instead of main streets, you'll find main canals, instead of cars, you'll find Gondolas!*

Today we travel out to **Venice**, known as Europe's most romantic destination. Once we board our boat transfer, we enjoy our first glimpses of this unique city. Step into the world of powerful doges, merchants and

explorers, and learn about Venetian culture and traditions through one of the city's most dramatic landmarks.

Our time here begins with a guided visit and Mass in **St Mark's Basilica**, built to house the saint's remains. We then commence our walking tour, including **St Mark's Square** and its famous monuments. See open squares with enchanting palaces, cross over stunning bridges, and walk down narrow passageways. View the Doge's Palace and discover layers of rich history, from 14th-century foundations to a gilded staircase and the picturesque Bridge of Sighs.

*Padua overnight (BD)*

**DAY 5: SATURDAY 24 MAY - PADUA VIA RAVENNA & BOLOGNA TO FLORENCE**

We farewell Padua today and journey to **Ravenna**, once the capital of the Western Roman Empire some 1,500 years ago. The city's rare mosaics are thought to be the best preserved in Europe and our visit to the **Basilica of San Vitale** will give evidence to this reality. Our walking tour also includes highlights such as the **Piazza del Popolo**, the **Basilica of Sant' Apollinare Nuovo** including **Arian Baptistery** and the **tomb of Dante**.

Departing Ravenna we come to **Bologna** - one of Italy's most ancient cities and home to its oldest university. We visit the **Basilica of St Dominic**, where the Order of the Preachers came to Bologna in 1218. After Mass, visit here the shrine to **St Dominic**, which to this day holds the saint's sarcophagus. The church is a magnificent collaboration of skills, including the work of a young Michelangelo, visible in the angel candleholder on the right side of the saint's tomb.

Continue on to **Florence**, home to many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture.

*Florence overnight (BD)*



Subiaco, Rome



Basilica of St Anthony, Padua



St John Paul II



St Benedict



St Gianna



St Francis



St Clare



Bl Carlo



St Anthony



Bl Pier Giorgio

## DAY 6: SUNDAY 25 MAY - FLORENCE

Our tour of Florence begins today with Mass at the **Church of Santa Croce** before continuing to the **Academy of Fine Arts** containing many treasures, including **Michelangelo's statue of David**.

We will visit the **Ponte Vecchio** and the **Duomo**, whose magnificent dome was created by Brunelleschi. Across the way are Ghiberti's celebrated bronze doors to the **Baptistery**, so lovely that they are commonly known as 'The Gates of Paradise'.

*Florence overnight (BD)*

## DAY 7: MONDAY 26 MAY - FLORENCE VIA SIENA TO ASSISI

Before departing Florence today, we will ascend the **hill of Piazzale Michelangelo** to admire the most beautiful view over the whole city.

We then travel to one of Italy's loveliest medieval cities, **Siena**, birthplace of **Saints Catherine and Bernadine**. Upon arrival we will visit the medieval **Cathedral of Siena** (1263), dedicated to Holy Mary of the Assumption. We also visit **St Dominic's Basilica** and view the incorrupt head of St Catherine, the mystical bride of Christ. After Mass we will walk through the narrow lanes to the **Basilica of St Francis** where we will view the **Eucharistic miracle of the incorrupt hosts** that occurred in 1730, defying all scientific testing. Continue on and stroll the **Piazza del Campo**, one of Italy's finest Squares.

Departing Siena, we travel through the scenic Umbrian countryside to the pilgrimage centre of **Assisi**, where St Francis tended the poor and sick and founded the

Franciscan Order. On arrival in this medieval hillside town, we will visit the **Basilica of St Mary of the Angels** down on the plains where St Francis spent most of his life. Here we will see the **Portiuncula** (meaning 'small portion of land') where St Francis returned for prayer, the thornless rose bush, and the chapel where he died in 1226. On Palm Sunday 1211, Francis received in this church Clare of Assisi and dedicated her to the Lord.

*Assisi overnight (BD)*

## DAY 8: TUESDAY 27 MAY - ASSISI

This morning we awake to the sound of chapel bells, cobblestone footsteps and the tangible spirit of St Francis preserved within the medieval walls of this holy town.

Our day in Assisi begins with a guided exploration of the buzzing **Basilica of St Francis** which occupies the entire western end of the upper town. Construction began in 1228, just two years after the death of Francis and was finally completed in 1250. The Upper Basilica houses the famous fresco cycle of the life of St Francis, historically attributed to Giotto. Wander through the marvels of the Upper Basilica before our tour descends to the crypt of the Lower Basilica where Francis was laid in 1230 and where we will take some time to seek the intercession of this spiritual legend.

We then stop at the **Church of Santa Maria Maggiore - Sanctuary of the Spogliazione** where we are blessed with the opportunity to visit and pray at the tomb of **Blessed Carlo Acutis** – a young Catholic from Italy with a passionate devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and an aptitude for computer programming.

From the ages of 12 to 14, he designed a website cataloguing Eucharistic miracles that have occurred around the world, which he launched in 2005. He died of leukemia a year later at the age of 15, offering his suffering for the pope and for the Church.

Our day concludes with a visit to the **Basilica of St Clare** where we will proceed to the side chapel and pray before the relocated **Holy Crucifix** from which God spoke to Francis "Go and repair my Church which as you see is in ruins". Here too we can also take the stairway down to the crypt where the body of Clare is on display.

*Assisi overnight (BD)*

## DAY 9: WEDNESDAY 28 MAY - ASSISI

Today we continue to explore some of Assisi's upper town highlights including: the tranquil **Church of San Damiano** and the actual chapel where it all began when the voice of Christ spoke to Francis in the year 1205 (some may prefer to approach by foot down the hillside path in the spirit of St Francis). Adjacent to the chapel we find the first monastery of the Order of St Clare where Clare built her community in close friendship with Francis.

We then make our way by private taxis up to the **Hermitage** (Eremo delle Carceri), an oasis of peace and tranquillity in the woods built on the site of a simple cave where St Francis often withdrew to spend many hours in prayer. The cave and the Chapel of Our Lady are preserved in the Hermitage grounds. Here we will celebrate our group Mass and have time for prayer and reflection.

CONTINUED →





Assisi

Enjoy some free time this afternoon for continued personal prayer, reflection or rest.

*Assisi overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 10: THURSDAY 29 MAY - ASSISI VIA SUBIACO TO ROME

We farewell Assisi this morning and journey south to the village of **Subiaco**, famous worldwide for its two Benedictine Monasteries and located in a magnificent natural setting along the Aniene River.

Enjoy a guided visit and Mass on arrival in the spectacular cliff-faced **Monastery of St Benedict**, which enshrines the sacred cave '**Sacre Speco**' where St Benedict withdrew as a hermit to live for three years. He was eventually discovered in this cave and invited to become the superior of the nearby monastery of Vicovaro. However, the monks soon found his rule so unpleasantly strict that they tried to poison him. Benedict returned to his cave, but by then had attracted so many followers that he could no longer pursue the solitary life.

After our visit we then travel on to **Rome**, the Eternal City.

*Rome overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 11: FRIDAY 30 MAY - JUBILEE OF FAMILIES, GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY\*

*The Jubilee Year is a time for Catholics to renew their commitment to their faith 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 Catholics around the world, to be blessed and refreshed for the mission that lies before us.*

8:00am-6:00pm – Jubilee rites

#### DAY 12: SATURDAY 31 MAY - JUBILEE OF FAMILIES, GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY\*

8:00am-6:00pm – Jubilee rites

9:00am-5:00pm – Spiritual and cultural events throughout the city of Rome

#### DAY 13: SUNDAY 01 JUNE - JUBILEE OF FAMILIES, GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY\*

10:00am – Mass with the Holy Father

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

#### DAY 14: MONDAY 02 JUNE - ROME FREE DAY

Our day is free to discover more sights of Rome – perhaps throw a coin in the **Trevi Fountain** before strolling to the **Piazza Navona** to soak up the vibrant atmosphere. Indulge in a gelato or enjoy a coffee while absorbing and admiring the history of this ancient city. Strolling through the streets is like walking through the pages of a history book.

*Rome overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 15: TUESDAY 03 JUNE - DEPART ROME

Today 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 16: WEDNESDAY 04 JUNE - ARRIVE HOME

### PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

TOUR CODE	PV2555
STARTS	Tuesday, 20 May 2025
FINISHES	Wednesday, 04 June 2025
AIR & LAND	AUD \$9590 (twin share) *
SINGLE ROOM	AUD \$1880 supplement

*\* Costs are indicative and have been based on prices as at June 2024 and must remain subject to possible change in the event of significant exchange rate variations, tax increases or minimum group size (30) factors beyond Harvest's control. Refer to Harvest Booking Terms & Conditions for more details.*

### INCLUDED

**AIRFARES:** Return Economy Class airfare from Melbourne.

**ACCOMMODATION & MEALS:** Based on quality religious houses or 3 and 4-star hotels • Meals as specified in Itinerary.

**TOURING & TRANSPORTATION:** Deluxe air-conditioned touring coach • Professional English-speaking Tour Escort and local guides • Sightseeing and entrance fees.

**OTHER:** Fully escorted by Fr Andrew McCarter • Daily Masses • Porterage (where available) • Harvest Travel Pack: backpack, travel wallet, pilgrim's journal and sunbrella • Prepaid Tipping.

### NOT INCLUDED

Travel Insurance • Passport and visa costs (if applicable) • Other meals not stated • Drinks with meals • Items of a personal nature.



#### BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

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