

PILGRIMS OF HOPE



ASSEMBLY PROGRAM



MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

11am - Registration Opens

- Light refreshments and Market Stalls featuring handcrafted items from local and interstate artists

3pm - Welcome

- Traditional Custodians will warmly welcome delegates from accross Australia to the lands of the Wonnarua people.

NATSICC Welcome, Bishops Welcome

Opening Mass

- Hosted and organised by the New South Wales Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Council

4.30pm Keynote - Pilgrims of Hope

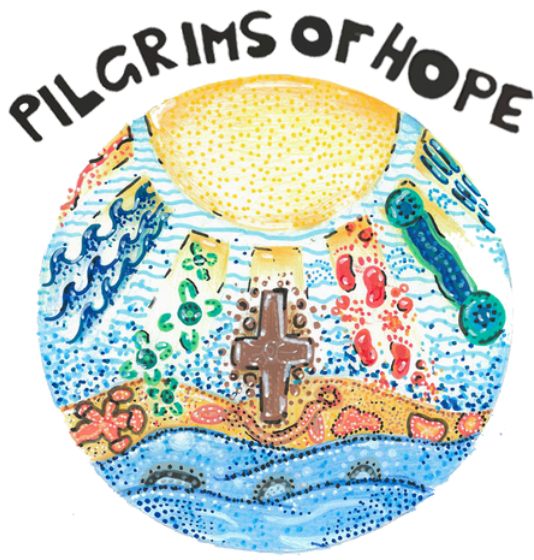
- **4.30pm Kelly Humphrey - Aboriginal Pilgrims of Hope**
- **5.20pm Toby Whaleboat - Torres Strait Pilgrims of Hope**

In our opening keynote, Kelly Humphrey and Toby Whaleboat will offer rich reflections on our theme Pilgrims of Hope—from both an Aboriginal Catholic perspective, then from a Torres Strait Islander Christian lens, revealing shared themes of faith, journey, and enduring hope.

6.30pm Assembly Dinner



RYDGES HUNTER VALLEY
430 Wine Country Dr,
Lovedale NSW 2325



ASSEMBLY PROGRAM



Meal Breaks

Morning Tea: 10.15am-10.45am

Lunch: 12.45pm - 1.30pm

Afternoon Tea: 3pm-3.40pm

TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

9am - Opening Prayer (Victoria / Western Australia)

9.15am - Keynote: Mass of the Land of the Holy Spirit

➤ **Madeline Jadai , Maureen Yanawana**

Explore the journey toward the approval of the Mass of the Land of the Holy Spirit—a significant step in embracing and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality within the Catholic liturgy.

11am - 12pm - Yarning Circles | 12 - 12.45pm - Report Back

In Yarning Circles, used by First Nations Peoples for millennia, we come together to share thoughts, listen deeply, and reflect on the previous session.

1.30 - 3pm Concurrent workshops -Session 1

➤ Delegates will select from one of 6 concurrent workshops covering topics including Truth telling, Liturgy, Prayer, Laudato Si and more.

3.30 - 5pm Concurrent workshops -Session 2

➤ Workshops from session 1 will be repeated

5.15pm Sharing our Workshop Experiences

5.45pm - Closing Prayer (SA/QLD)



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ON COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2025

9am - Opening Prayer (Torres Strait Islands / Northern Territory)

➤ Three On Country Experiences to choose from:

Delegates will experience the warmth and hospitality of the Traditional Custodians on one of three 'On Country experiences'. An art activity will take place at the Rydges for those that do not wish to travel offsite.

Please note that for those with mobility issues, the Murrook Cultural Centre experience is the most suitable option.

Murrook Cultural Centre: Murrook Culture Centre, located in Williamtown, NSW, is a vibrant hub dedicated to preserving and showcasing Aboriginal culture. Meaning "good" or "happy" in the Gathang language, Murrook offers immersive experiences through interactive exhibitions, storytelling sessions, and workshops that honor the traditions of the Worimi people.

Nobby's Head: Head to the ocean in Newcastle! Known as Whibayganba to the Awabakal people, Nobby's Head holds deep cultural and spiritual significance in Aboriginal heritage. According to Awabakal tradition, Whibayganba is associated with a Dreaming story of a notorious kangaroo that leapt from Tahlbihn (now Fort Scratchley) to the safety of Whibayganba. You will be led by a Traditional Custodian who will share the stories and sites of significance on this walking tour.

Baiame Cave (Wonnarua Country): Baiame Cave near Milbrodale is home to ancient Aboriginal rock art over 1,000 years old, depicting Baiame—the Sky Father and creator. Painted high on the cave wall with arms outstretched, he watches over the Hunter Valley. This sacred site is a powerful symbol of Wonnarua culture, law, and connection to Country.



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Meals

Morning Tea: 10.15am-10.45am

Lunch: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Afternoon Tea: 3.45pm-4.15pm

Assembly Dinner: 6.30pm

THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 2025

9am - Opening Prayer (Youth)

9.15am - Keynote: Hope - Our Young Leaders in the Church

> TBA

Shining a light on hope rooted in faith, honouring the wisdom of Elders and celebrating the emerging voices of young First Nations leaders shaping the future of the Catholic Church.

10.45 - 11.30am - Yarning Circles

11.30am - 12.15pm - Report Back

In Yarning Circles, used by First Nations Peoples for millennia, we come together to share thoughts, listen deeply, and reflect on the previous session.

1.30- 2.30pm - Keynote: Pilgrims of Hope

> Stan Grant

Acclaimed journalist and author Stan Grant will reflect on the Assembly theme, Pilgrims of Hope, offering a thought-provoking and powerful keynote that invites us to consider faith, identity, and the journey toward a more just and compassionate Church.

2.30 - 3.15pm - Yarning Circles

3.15 - 3.45pm - Report Back

4.15pm - Youth Liturgy

7.45pm Evening Activity:

Experience a Healing Liturgy led by
Fr Steve Fletcher and Elders



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ASSEMBLY PROGRAM



Meals

Morning Tea: 10.30am -11am

Lunch: 12.30pm (takeaway)

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2025

9am - Opening Prayer (Tasmania / Australian Capital Territory)

9.15 - 10.30am - Synod on Synodality

> Kelly Paget and Dr. Trudy Dantis

The global Catholic Synod on Synodality invites the Church to walk together—listening deeply, discerning prayerfully, and embracing the voices of all the faithful. This session will explore the Synod's themes of communion, participation, and mission, and how they connect to our own journey as Pilgrims of Hope. Grounded in dialogue and relationship, this session offers a space to reflect on how the Spirit is calling us all into a more inclusive and listening Church.

11 - 11.45am - Keynote: Sent out as Pilgrims of Hope

> Bishop Tim Norton

In our final keynote, Bishop Tim Norton—Bishop of Broome—will send delegates forth as Pilgrims of Hope, renewed in faith and inspired by the journey. Drawing on his pastoral leadership and deep connection to Community, he will commission us to carry the Spirit of Hope into our lives, ministries, and the wider Church.

11.45 - 12pm - Assembly Wrap up

12.30pm Closing Mass



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