

# ASSEMBLY PROGRAM



MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

## 11am - Registration Opens

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

## 3pm Smoking Ceremony and Opening Mass

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

## Welcome

- NATSICC Welcome, Bishops Welcome

## 4.30pm Keynote - Pilgrims of Hope

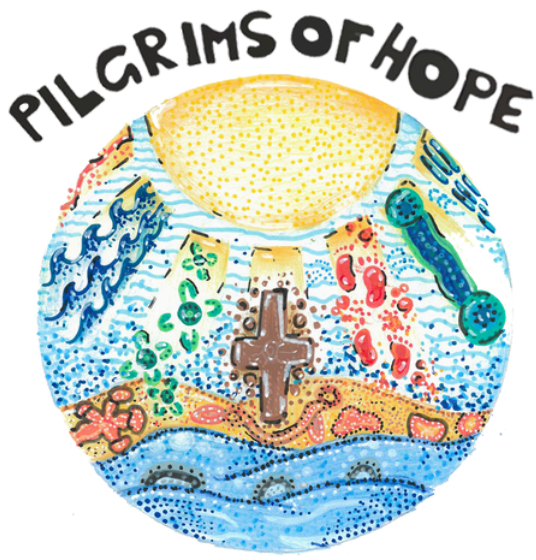
- 4.30pm Kelly Humphrey - Aboriginal Pilgrims of Hope
- 5.20pm Toby Whaleboat - Torres Strait Pilgrims of Hope

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



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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

9.30am - 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.

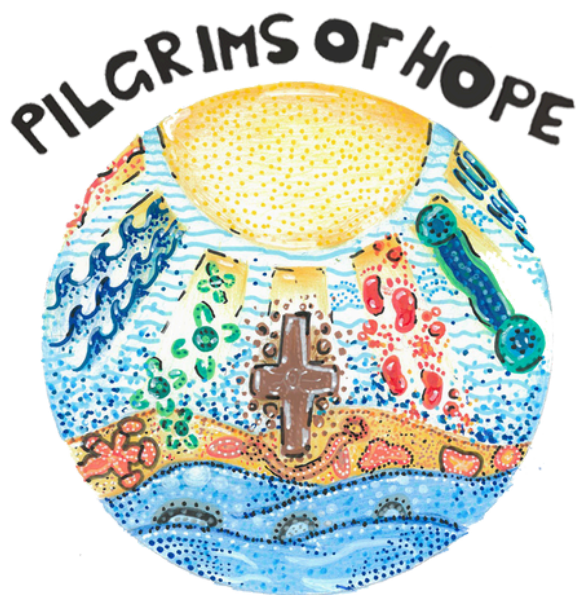
**Murrook Cultural Centre:** Murrook Culture Centre, located in Williamtown, NSW, is a vibrant hub dedicated to preserving and showcasing Aboriginal culture. Meaning "good" or "happy" in the Gathang language, Murrook offers immersive experiences through interactive exhibitions, storytelling sessions,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

**Baime Cave** (Wonnarua Country): Baime Cave near Milbrodale is home to ancient Aboriginal rock art over 1,000 years old, depicting Baime—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.

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### 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.

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### 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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## Meals

Morning Tea: 11am - 11.30am

Lunch: 12.30pm (takeaway)

## FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2025

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

**9.15 - 10.00am - 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.

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**10.15 - 11am - 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.

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**11.30 - 11.45am - Assembly Wrap up**

**12pm Closing Mass**



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# CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## **Truth Telling and Healing in the Kimberley and Darling Downs**

*Kimberley Community members and Dr Mark Copland*

This workshop will describe the process of truth telling with two concrete examples. The first is the remembering of Frontier Wars in Southern Queensland and the second is part of the brutal killing times in Warmun in the East Kimberley. Both instances of truth telling have involved building respectful partnerships and deep listening.

They have moved beyond party politics or culture wars and are an example of what is possible when we approach our shared past with an open heart.

## **Spirit of our Land of the Holy Spirit**

*Erica Bernard*

Participants will come to know and understand spiritually - the Missa Terra Spiritus Sancti - Mass of the Land of the Holy Spirit. Explore prayerfully in how language and culture is immersed in our Catholic faith and how we are in our connection to Country, our traditions, our language and culture and God. An opportunity to plan our Closing Mass, bringing all our different cultural language groups together.

## **Laudato Si - Ecological Stations of the Cross**

*Sally FitzGerald and Jacqui Remond*

These Ecological Stations of the Cross can be traced back to St Francis of Assisi. We will walk a journey together through the Stations, produced by Aboriginal man John Dunn, and reflect as Pilgrims of Hope.

## **Brisbane RAP Journey**

*Ravina Waldren (Murri Ministry) and Joni McCourt (Brisbane RAP Coordinator) Bernice Fischer (RAP Partner)*

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has been a leading light in the adoption of Reconciliation Action Plans. Ravina and Joni will share the successes and challenges of the process and guide others who may want to create a RAP for their Parish, school or organisation.

## **Prayer in the Spirit -an encounter with the Fire of Love**

*Fr Steve Fletcher MGL*

Exploring how the Holy Spirit is at work in our everyday lives. This workshop will invite participants into a space of prayer, reflection, and openness to the movements of the Spirit.

## **Music in my Life**

*Dolly McGaughey*

Join Dolly - NATSICC's Torres Strait Islander Councillor - as she shares her story of faith through traditional and contemporary Torres Strait Islander music, including her own compositions.

## **Proposal for Celebrating a Feast of the Mystery of Creation**

*Evelyn Parkin and Cynthia Rowan*

This workshop will connect through our stories and Scripture with a Proposed Feast of the Mystery on Creation that is happening in the worldwide church. We hope to share what a possible Feast of the Mystery of Creation is about and begin sharing amongst us about how we might bring it into our local communities through NATSICC.