

MEDIA ALERT



Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

June 1 2018

Thousands of Catholics to walk through Sydney streets in a sign of faith

Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher OP will lead thousands of Catholics from across Sydney on a march through the streets on Sunday June 3 as a sign of faith in Jesus.

The theme for this year's procession is "*Walk with Christ*" and will take place on the Feast of Corpus Christi (Body and Blood of Christ), which is the traditional time for Christians to publicly proclaim their faith and trust in God by taking Christ into the streets of the community.

The march is an expression of a deeply held belief and similar processions will be held by Catholic communities across the world.

2018 marks the 200th anniversary of a little known, but most heroic and faith-filled time in the history of the Australian Church.

In 1818, the Government forcibly removed the only Catholic priest in Australia, Fr Jeremiah O'Flynn, from Sydney. Fr O'Flynn's last pastoral act was to leave the Blessed Sacrament reserved in a faithful Catholic's home so that the colonists and convicts could come to adore Christ present there.

For two years, the Blessed Sacrament, in this lay Sydney home, was the source and centre of worship and consolation for the priestless Catholics of the Australian colony.

2018 marks the 200th Anniversary of Eucharistic Adoration in Australia and will be celebrated with the *Walk With Christ* Eucharistic Procession.

Participants will gather at the corner of Pitt St and Martin Place in the CBD at 2:30pm. The procession will conclude at the St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt with Adoration and Benediction.

The international nature of the *Walk With Christ* march will be evident in the significant numbers of Eastern rite Catholics – Maronites and Melkites – and multicultural communities who will be carrying banners and wearing cultural dress. Among the various communities represented will be:

- Croatian Community
- Korean Community
- Chinese Catholic Community
- Tongan Catholic Community
- Vietnamese Catholic Community

Walk With Christ engages Catholics of all ages and backgrounds and revives a rich Catholic tradition of public demonstration of faith.

Contact:

Tim Goonan

Events Manager

Archdiocese of Sydney

Mobile: 0419 975 501

Email: tim.goonan@sydneycatholic.org