# HOLY THURSDAY VISITATION OF THE

CHURCHES



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

### WHAT IS THE SEVEN CHURCHES VISITATION?

The Seven Churches Visitation is a centuries-old Roman Catholic tradition, in which the faithful visit seven churches on the evening of Holy Thursday. This pilgrimage is thought to have originated in Rome, where pilgrims would visit the Holy Year Basilicas as an act of penance and prayer. Saint Philip Neri popularised this practice, gathering people together before dawn to make a visit to all seven of these Pilgrimage Churches in the same day, stopping at each for a period of prayer, song and reflection.

Over time, the tradition of the Seven Churches Visitation travelled beyond the walls of Rome and is now undertaken by Catholics all over the world. The pilgrimage can take place between any seven churches, beginning in the church in which we attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper. At all the churches along the way, we stop to pray with Our Lord, truly present to us at each Altar of Repose. By partaking in the Seven Churches Visitation, we keep vigil with Jesus, joining him in his prayers to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane.

#### HOW DO YOU DO IT?

The only requirement for the Seven Churches Visitation is to spend time in prayer at and between any seven churches. Many participants pray the Stations of the Cross as they walk between each church. Some recite the Rosary and sing hymns and sacred songs.

The pilgrimage is "tailor-made" according to the time, distance, and capacities of the many diverse individuals, families or groups who take part in it. This booklet provides just one method of engaging with this pious practice, offering a Scripture reading on the seven places that Jesus stopped and prayed before his Crucifixion, a reflection and some vocal prayers that can be prayed at each church on your Seven Churches Visitation.

#### HOLY THURSDAY PLENARY INDULGENCE

While the prayer elements of the pilgrimage are decided by the pilgrims themselves, two moments of prayer are highly recommended on Holy Thursday, both granting to those who undertake them the gift of a Plenary Indulgence.

A Plenary Indulgence is the remission of all temporal punishment due to sin that can be applied to oneself or for the souls of the deceased.

#### THE INDULGENCED WORKS FOR HOLY THURSDAY ARE:

- 1. The recitation or singing of the "Tantum Ergo" during the solemn reservation of the Blessed Sacrament which follows the Mass of the Lord's Supper.
- 2. At least half an hour of adoration of the solemnly reserved Blessed Sacrament.

### THE NORMAL CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING A PLENARY INDULGENCE APPLY, NAMELY:

- 1. One must be in the state of grace at the time one completes the indulgenced work.
- 2. One can gain only one plenary indulgence per day.
- 3. One must have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin.
- 4. One must have confessed their sins sacramentally, received Holy Communion and prayed for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, if not on the day that the indulgenced work is performed, then at least 20 days before or after.

#### TANTUM ERGO

Tantum ergo Sacramentum Veneremur cernui Et antiquum documentum, Novo cedat ritui, Praestet fides supplementum Sensuum defectui.

Down in adoration falling
This great Sacrament we hail.
Ancient types have long departed
Newer rites of grace prevail.
Faith for all defects supplying
Where the feeble senses fail.

Genitori, genitoque, Laus et jubilatio; Salus, honor, virtus quoque Sit et benedictio. Procedenti ab utroque Compar sit laudatio. Amen Glory let us give and blessing
To the Father and the Son.
Honour, might and praise addressing
While eternal ages run.
Equal praise to Him confessing
Who proceeds from both as one. Amen

### JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.

- Pope Francis

#### Proclamation of Places of Pilgrimage in the Jubilee Year

The Holy Father has proclaimed 2025 as a year of Ordinary Jubilee and has invited all the faithful to full participation. I designate 12 churches as Places of Pilgrimage where full Jubilee Indulgences may be obtained under the usual conditions.

- Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP | Archbishop of Sydney

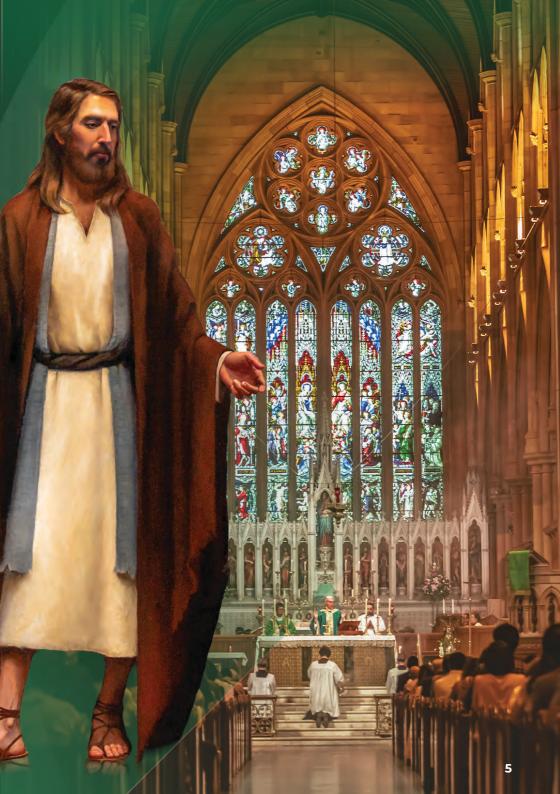


Use the QR code to access the Archdiocese of Sydney information on the Jubilee year.

### ST MARY'S BASILICA

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

Where devotion to "Our Lady of the Southern Cross" is promoted and where an original painting by Paul Newton was installed prior to WYD08 and blessed by Pope Benedict XVI. The Basilica is also home to the recently installed artwork "St Joseph and the Holy Family" by Sydney artist, Sally Ryan. The artwork was created in the year of St Joseph to celebrate St Joseph and his significance as Patron of the Universal Church. A relic of Saint Francis Xavier is also housed in the Basilica. Four canonised saints have visited this cathedral to date and it was the centre of worship for the 500,000 who took part in the World Youth Day celebrations in 2008.



#### OTHER SHRINES AND PLACES OF PILGRIMAGE INCLUDE:

### 2 | MARY MACKILLOP MEMORIAL CHAPEL MARY MACKILLOP PLACE MUSEUM

Dedicated to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first Saint. The Chapel was built in 1913, and St Mary's remains were moved to what was the original vestry of the Chapel in 1994. Since her beatification in 1995 and canonisation in 2010, thousands of people have come on pilgrimage to pray and reflect at her tomb. The Shrine is located in North Sydney, a short distance from the Sydney CBD, and can be easily reached by train or ferry.



### 3 | THE PARISH OF ST. BRIGID'S

The home, museum and Chapel of Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor, Australia's Saint-in-waiting is a short distance from central Sydney.



### 4 | ST PATRICK'S

The Rocks Sydney, the site of the earliest Catholic devotions in Australia where the laity kept alive the faith by praying before the Blessed Sacrament reserved and praying the Rosary even when there were no priests available in the convict period. The Church is an important part of the history of Sydney.





5 | SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL WATERLOO



6 OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART SHRINE



7 HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH CARNES HILL



8 | ST JOACHIM'S CHURCH LIDCOMBE



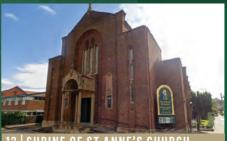
9 ST BRIGID'S CHURCH MARRICKVILLE



10 ALL SAINTS CHURCH LIVERPOOL



11 | ST CATHERINE OF LABOURÉ CHURCH GYMEA



12 | SHRINE OF ST ANNE'S CHURCH BONDI BEACH

### Sacred Night Pilgrimage

### Could you not spend one hour with me?

Walk alongside Christ on the night of His betrayal by selecting seven participating churches for your pilgrimage.

With each visit, trace His journey as He was taken from one location to another, and immerse yourself in the profound events of that sacred night.

#### WESTERN

AUSTRAL - ST ANTHONY 105 Eleventh Ave, Austral

BONNYRIGG - ST JOHN THE BAPTIST 45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

BOSSLEY PARK - MARY IMMACULATE (UNTIL 11PM)

110 Mimosa Road, Bossley Park

CARNES HILL - HOLY SPIRIT 25 Main Street, Carnes Hill

HORSLEY PARK - OUR LADY OF VICTORIES (UNTIL 10:30PM) 1788 The Horsley Drive, Horsley Park

HOXTON PARK - GOOD SHEPHERD

21 Twentieth Avenue, Hoxton Park

LIVERPOOL - ALL SAINTS 48 George Street, Liverpool

LURNEA - ST FRANCIS XAVIER (UNTIL 10:30PM) 71 Webster Road, Lurnea

MT PRITCHARD - OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL 230 Humphries Road, Bonnyrigg

#### **SOUTH WEST**

CABRAMATTA - SACRED HEART 13 Park Road, Cabramatta

FAIRFIELD - OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY 18 Vine Street, Fairfield

HOLSWORTHY - ST CHRISTOPHER 195 Heathcote Rd, Holsworthy

MOOREBANK - ST JOSEPH 231 Newbridge Road, Moorebank

PANANIA - ST CHRISTOPHER 233 Tower Street, Panania

REVESBY - ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST 1 Beaconsfield Street, Revesby

SMITHFIELD - ST BENEDICT (HALL)
Corner of Justin and Neville St, Smithfield

#### CENTRAL

AUBURN - ST JOHN OF GOD 2 Alice Street, Auburn

BANKSTOWN - ST BRENDAN 54 Northam Avenue, Bankstown

BANKSTOWN - ST FELIX DE VALOIS 550 Chapel Rd, Bankstown

BASS HILL - CHRIST THE KING 3 Cantrell Street, Yagoona

BELMORE - ST JOSEPH 763 Canterbury Road, Belmore

BELFIELD - ST MICHAEL 26 Margaret Street, Belfield

BERALA - ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH 62 Kingsland Rd, Berala

**CAMPSIE - ST MEL** 7 Evaline Street, Campsie

LIDCOMBE - ST JOACHIM 2 Mills Street, Lidcombe

PUNCHBOWL - ST JEROME 2 Turner Street, Punchbowl

SEFTON - IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY 6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton

#### CONCORD

CONCORD WEST - ST AMBROSE 2 Burke Street, Concord West

CROYDON - HOLY INNOCENTS (UNTIL 10PM)
1A Webb Street, Croydon

DRUMMOYNE - ST MARK'S 33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne

DULWICH HILL - ST PAUL OF THE CROSS 532 New Canterbury Road, Dulwich Hill

ENFIELD - ST JOSEPH 126 Liverpool Road, Enfield

HABERFIELD - ST JOAN OF ARC 97 Dalhousie Street, Haberfield

**LEWISHAM - ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY** 3 Thomas Street, Lewisham

LEWISHAM - MATERNAL HEART OF MARY Charles O'Neill Way, Lewisham

#### NORTHERN

**DENISTONE - ST THERESE** 440 Blaxland Road, Denistone

EASTWOOD - ST KEVIN 36 Hillview Road, Eastwood

LANE COVE - ST MICHAEL 204 Longueville Road, Lane Cove

MARSFIELD - ST ANTHONY 54 Agincourt Road, Marsfield

MEADOWBANK - ST MICHAEL 45 Maxim Street, Meadowbank

MOSMAN - SACRED HEART 23 Cardinal St, Mosman

NORTH RYDE - HOLY SPIRIT 191 Coxs Rd, North Ryde

NORTH SYDNEY - ST MARY'S 264 Miller St, North Sydney

RYDE - ST CHARLES BORROMEO 562 Victoria Rd, Ryde

#### CITY

ANNANDALE - ST BRENDAN 34 Collins Street, Annandale

BALMAIN - ST AUGUSTINE 3 Jane Street, Balmain

BROADWAY - ST BENEDICT 104 Broadway, Chippendale

CAMPERDOWN - ST JOSEPH 2 Missenden Rd, Camperdown

CHURCH HILL - ST PATRICK 20 Grosvenor Street, Church Hill

**ELIZABETH BAY - ST CANICE** 28 Roslyn Street, Rushcutters Bay

FOREST LODGE-GLEBE - ST JAMES 2 Woolley Street, Glebe

MARRICKVILLE - ST BRIGID
392 Marrickville Road, Marrickville

STANMORE - ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL 69 Clarendon Road, Stanmore

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL - CRYPT St Marys Rd, Sydney

WATERLOO - OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL (UNTIL MIDNIGHT)

2 Kellick Street, Waterloo



LUKE 22:39-46

### JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

He then left to make his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, with the disciples following. When he reached the place he said to them, 'Pray not to be put to the test.' Then he withdrew from them, about a stone's throw away, and knelt down and prayed. 'Father,' he said, 'if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.' Then an angel appeared to him, coming from heaven to give him strength. In his anguish he prayed even more earnestly, and his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. When he rose from prayer he went to the disciples and found them sleeping for sheer grief. And he said to them, 'Why are you asleep? Get up and pray not to be put to the test.'

### reflection from SAINT ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY

God knows what each of us can bear, and when he sees that one of us is strong, he does not hesitate to fulfill his will in us. Would you like to see how he treats those who make the prayer "Thy will be done" from their hearts? Ask his glorious Son, who made this prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. Think with what resolution and fullness of desire he prayed; and consider if the will of God was not perfectly fulfilled in him through the trials,

sufferings, insults and persecutions which he gave him, until at last his life ended with death on a cross. When God sees someone who loves him greatly, he knows that such a one can suffer much for him, whereas one who love him little will suffer little. For my own part, I believe that love is the measure of our ability to bear crosses, whether great or small. There is no wood like the wood of the cross for lighting the fire of love in the soul.





### JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE ANNAS

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly for all the world to hear; I have always taught in the synagogue and in the Temple where all the Jews meet together; I have said nothing in secret. Why ask me? Ask my hearers what I taught; they know what I said.' At these words, one of the guards standing by gave Jesus a slap in the face, saying, 'Is that the way you answer the high priest?'

### reflection from SAINT AUGUSTINE

Who is Christ if not the Word of God: in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God? This Word of God was made flesh and dwelt among us. He had no power of himself to die for us: he had to take from us our mortal flesh. In other words, he performed the most wonderful exchange with us. Through us,

he died; through him, we shall live. The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.

Our Father | Hail Mary | V. Christ was obedient unto death. R. Unto death on a Cross.



### JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE CAIAPHAS

But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, 'I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.' Jesus answered him, 'It is you who say it. But, I tell you that from this time onward you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now? There! You have just heard the blasphemy.

### reflection from SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENNA

We do not seek joy elsewhere than in Jesus and we avoid any glory which is not that of the Cross. *Embrace*, then, Jesus crucified, raising to Him the eyes of your desire! Consider His burning love for you, which made Jesus pour out His blood from every part of His body! Embrace Jesus crucified, loving and beloved, and in him you will find true life because He is God made man. Let your heart and your soul burn with the fire of love drawn from

Jesus on the Cross! You must, then, become love, looking at God's love who loved you so much not because He had any obligation towards you but out of pure gift, urged only by His ineffable love. You will have no other desire than to follow Jesus! As if you were drunken with Love, it will no longer matter whether you are alone or in company: do not think about many things, but only about finding Jesus and following Him!

Our Father | Hail Mary | V. Christ was obedient unto death. R. Unto death on a Cross.

JOHN 18:35-37

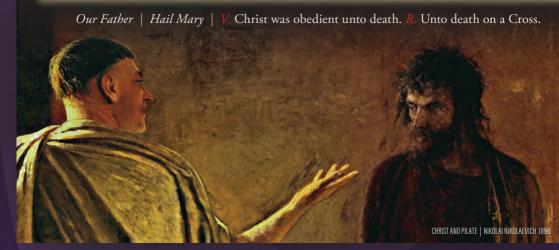
### JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE PILATE IN THE PRAETORIUM THE FIRST TIME

Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. As it is, my kingdom does not belong here.' Pilate said, 'So, then you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'It is you who say that I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this, to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

### reflection from SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

To attain holiness, then, we must not only pattern our lives on Christ's by being gentle, humble and patient, we must also imitate him in his death. Taking Christ for his model, Paul said that he wanted to become like him in his death in the hope that he too would be raised from death to life. We imitate Christ's death by being buried with him in baptism. If we ask what this kind of burial means and what benefit we may hope to derive from it, it means first of all making a complete break with our

former way of life, and our Lord himself said that this cannot be done unless a man is born again. In other words, we have to begin a new life, and we cannot do so until our previous life has been brought to an end. When runners reach the turning point on a racecourse, they have to pause briefly before they can go back in the opposite direction. So also when we wish to reverse the direction of our lives there must be a pause, or a death, to mark the end of one life and the beginning of another.



### JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE HEROD

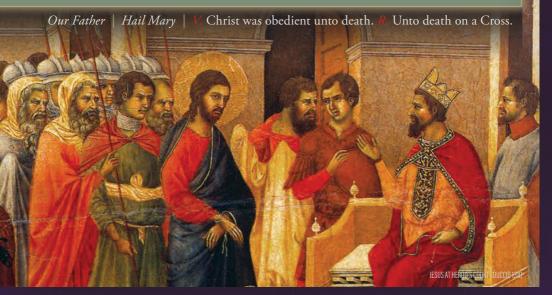
LUKE 23:8-9; 11

Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracle worked by him. So he questioned him at some length, but without getting any reply. Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate.

### reflection from SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

If you seek the example of love: "Greater love than this no man has, than to lay down his life for his friends." Such a man was Christ on the cross. And if he gave his life for us, then it should not be difficult to bear whatever hardships arise for his sake. If you seek patience, you will find no better example than the cross. If you seek an example of humility, look upon the crucified one, for God wished to be judged by Pontius Pilate and to die. If you seek an example of obedience, follow him who became

obedient to the Father even unto death. For just as by the disobedience of one man, namely, Adam, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one man, many were made righteous. If you seek an example of despising earthly things, follow him who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Upon the cross he was stripped, mocked, spat upon, struck, crowned with thorns, and given only vinegar and gall to drink.



### JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE PILATE THE SECOND TIME

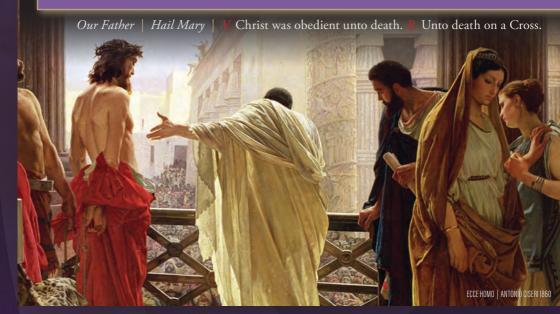
**MATTHEW 27:22-26** 

Pilate said to them, 'But in that case, what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' He asked, 'But what harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, every one of them, shouted back, 'Let his blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. After having Jesus scourged he handed him over to be crucified.

#### reflection from SAINT JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ

And having had Jesus scourged, he hands him over to them to be crucified. Their frenzied and possessed throats fall silent. As if God had already been vanquished. Jesus is all alone. Far off now are the days when the words of the Man-God brought light and hope to men's hearts, those long

processions of sick people whom he healed, the triumphant acclaim of Jerusalem when the Lord arrived, riding on a gentle donkey. If only men had wanted to give a different outlet to God's love! If only you and I had recognised the day of the Lord!



### JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS FROM THE PRAETORIUM TO CALVARY

#### **MATTHEW 27:27-31**

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet cloak round him, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucifixion.

### reflection from POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Jesus Christ is "the faithful witness" (Rev 1:5). He is the faithful witness because he reveals the mystery of God and announces his kingdom, which is now present. He is the first Servant of this kingdom. By becoming "obedient unto death, even death on the cross" (Phil 2:8), he will witness to the Father's power over creation and over the world. And the place for exercising his kingship is the Cross he embraces on Golgotha. His was a shameful death,

but it represents a confirmation of the Gospel proclamation of the kingdom of God. In the eyes of his enemies, that death should have been proof that all he had said and done was false: "He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him" (Mt 27:42). He did not come down from the cross but, like the Good Shepherd, he gave his life for his sheep (cf. Jn 10:11).

