

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

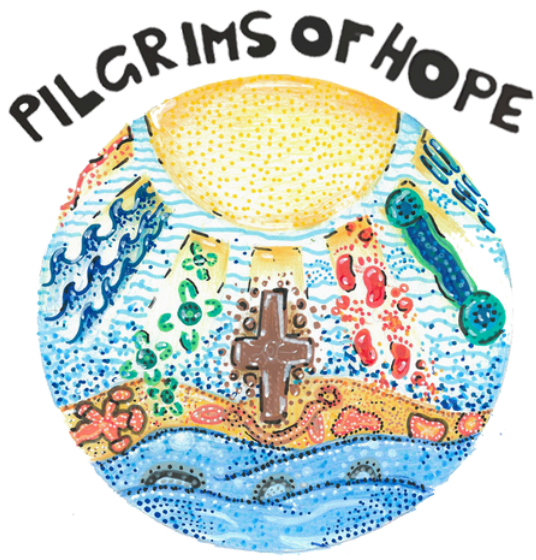
- **4.30pm Kelly Humphrey - Aboriginal Pilgrims of Hope**
- **5.20pm Toby Whaleboat - Torres Strait Pilgrims of Hope**

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

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.

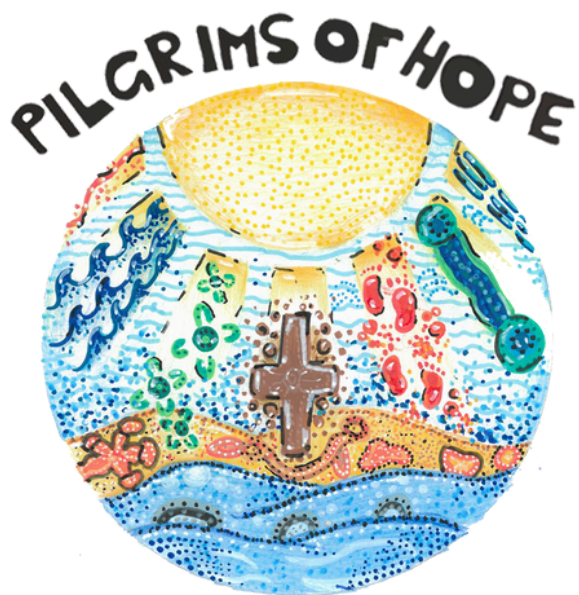
Murrook Cultural Centre: Murrook Culture Centre, located in Williamtown, NSW, is a vibrant hub dedicated to preserving and showcasing Aboriginal culture. Meaning "good" or "happy" in the Gathang language, Murrook offers immersive experiences through interactive exhibitions, storytelling sessions, and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



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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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.

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.

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 Copeland

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.

Brisbane RAP Journey

Ravina Waldren (Murri Ministry) and Joni McCourt (Brisbane RAP Coordinator)

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

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.

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.