

## Pilgrimage Walk 2017

### “A Walk on the North Side – Walking the Rosary”

*Hosted by Holy Name of Mary Parish - Hunters Hill & Woolwich*



Thanks for choosing to participate in the 2017 Pilgrimage Walk.

The following is information to help you plan for the pilgrimage and to help you get the most out of it. Please remember the pilgrimage is not just an individual experience, but it is a shared experience – shared with all those who choose to make it with you.

## THE DETAILS

**When:** Sunday 15 October, 2017



**Who:** Although Holy Name of Mary Parish is the host of this event; it is open to all who wish to participate - any age, any ability, from any parish. Christians from other denominations are most welcome, and even people who don't profess a particular faith. Basically it's open to anyone who wants to join us.

**Theme:** The Rosary. In this year of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, this year's walk will focus on the Rosary, which Our Lady asked the children of Fatima and indeed the whole world to pray. The final apparition occurred on the 13th October, hence the selection of our date, being as close as possible to the anniversary of the final apparition.

**What will we do?** At each church or 'prayer station' we will pray one decade of the Rosary (Joyful Mysteries) as well as having some focused reflection and prayers for the needs of our communities, our church, our country and our world. We will spend about 15/20 minutes at each stop.



## Route:



This is a walking pilgrimage – so we walk – hopefully together. It’s not a race, so you do the walk in your own time, at a pace that’s comfortable for you. If you need extra stops, then take them. As a group of pilgrims, I’m sure we will find a balance of pace and be supportive of each other, especially those that may find it a little difficult.

Bearing in mind that we are a community of mixed ages and abilities, we want to offer to everyone the opportunity to participate in this special event. So there are four options for pilgrims to consider.

### **Option 1 – the Main Option – THE WALKERS (approximately 14.9kms)**

We start at Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill and walk all the way to Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Kirribilli. We will have 5 prayer stations on the journey, where we will have a short time of guided prayer, reflection and one decade of the Rosary. The 5 stations will be:



1. Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill – our starting point.
2. Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Gladesville
3. Mary Help of Christians Chapel, Greenwich
4. St Mary’s Church, North Sydney
5. Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Kirribilli - our final destination

You will be provided with a list of directions at the time of departure, just in case you get separated from the group and need to find your way, ‘back on track’.

### **Option 2 – For those that feel they cannot make the whole walk, but still want to do some of it.**

Choose one of the prayer stops (churches) where you would like to begin the pilgrimage and start from there. You could either drive or catch public transport to your starting point and aim to arrive just before the main group arrives. It is impossible to give an exact time of arrival, but the separate attachment of *Estimated Arrival Times* will give some guidance.



The shortest and easiest part of the walk would be from St. Mary’s North Sydney to Our Lady Star of the Sea Church at Kirribilli.

### **Option 3 – For those that find it quite difficult to walk a distance**



This option is for people who still want to participate in the pilgrimage prayers and experience, but cannot walk the distance of option 1 or 2. These people may like meet us at each prayer stop, and pray with us, but drive between the prayer stops.

### **Option 4 – For those short on time or energy**

Some people may just not have the time or energy or ability for the pilgrimage, but still want to show support and have a taste of the pilgrimage experience. These people may like to simply meet us directly at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church at Kirribilli and greet the walkers on their arrival. They could pray the first four decades of the Rosary at home and pray the 5<sup>th</sup> with the whole group at the last prayer stop.



**Timeframe:** As a general guide it should take about 4 hours to complete the full pilgrimage (option 1). It's not a race, so people can go at their own pace. Having said that, we hope that we can stay together as a group and thus support each other on the journey. Factors that could extend the time taken include the weather; the time spent at each prayer station; potential wrong turns; how much fun we have on the way; and if we need more rest stops.



### Start Time

We invite all pilgrims to attend the *10am Mass at Holy Name of Mary Church* (Mary Street, Hunters Hill). After Mass we will have a morning tea in the Chapter Hall (next door to the church) or on the lawn near it. Although there will be food supplied (and probably enough), it would be nice if everyone could bring something to share with their fellow pilgrims – something simple that can just be put on the table and people help themselves to it. Tea, coffee and water will be available.

After morning tea we will begin the first pilgrim's prayers in the church at approximately 11.30am (or as close as possible after that) and then begin walking.

### Finish time

Based on 'Google Maps' estimations, we should be at the Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Kirribilli between 3.30 and 4pm.

**Optional Extra:** At the conclusion of the pilgrimage walk it is of course up to you what you do. You may like to seek out a café (or pub) for sustenance and a good rest, or you may just like to make your way home. For those with the energy and inclination, you may like to consider an extension to your pilgrimage – continuing over the Sydney Harbour Bridge and on to St. Patrick's Church, Church Hill or St. Mary's Cathedral. Both places offer an evening mass or simply a place of calm in the city for some personal time and prayer in thanks for your pilgrimage. At St. Patrick's there is Mass at 5, 6 and 8pm as well as Reconciliation between 3 – 6.30pm. At St. Mary's Cathedral there is Choral Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5pm, and 6 pm Mass.

**Cost:** \$0 – the only cost might be your bus, train or ferry ride home – so bring your Opal Card. You might also like some money for a snack on the way and perhaps a celebratory coffee (or a refreshingly cold beer) after the walk.

**What to Wear:** Comfortable clothing – appropriate for the weather. Check the forecast and be prepared for what weather may come. If it rains the walk still goes ahead, so just bring your rain coat and or umbrella.  
Comfortable walking shoes  
Hat  
Sunglasses



**What to bring:** Sunscreen  
Water  
Snacks for along the way – if you need them  
Walking poles if you need them  
Opal card for your public transport back home  
Some money for a drink or sustenance along the way or at the end  
Something for a shared morning tea (if you can) before we depart  
A good sense of fun and humour and your best smile



## Why do a pilgrimage:

Pilgrimage is not just about the destination, it's also about the journey- the experiences you have along the way, the people you meet, the places you stay or stop at and so on. The final destination is the culmination of the journey – of all the steps taken, the conversations engaged in, the prayers offered, the songs sung, the laughter and fun had, the trips and stumbles, the sights and sounds, and even the sore feet. Some pilgrims would argue that the journey is more important than the final destination, because it is in walking the journey that you grow, learn and live. You are encouraged to engage fully in the journey and all that it holds, especially your fellow pilgrims. It's a wonderful opportunity to walk, talk and pray with someone that you may now know that well or perhaps don't know at all.

Pilgrimage is an ancient tradition. For centuries, Christians (and indeed non-Christians) have left their homes, villages, towns and countries to set out on journeys of days, weeks and months to visit the tombs of saints, sites associated with the life of Jesus and holy sites. They made the journey to these sites for so many reasons: for the expiation of sins; for return thanks to God for prayers answered; for the graces bestowed by God for completing a pilgrimage; for personal petitions; for family members who could not do it themselves; for deceased family; for enlightenment; to discover or enhance a personal relationship with God... and so the list goes on.

But why specifically did they walk? The physical activity of walking required physical effort and personal commitment - it was a challenge to complete it and seen as a personal physical sacrifice offered to God. Through the act of *walking* a pilgrimage it also put all pilgrims on the same level – the rich, the poor, the outcast, the sinner, the sick – all shared the same path which gave no privilege or prejudice – the hills didn't get any smaller because of the size of your bank account. The journey itself became somewhat of a 'leveller' of classes – or at least it should have been.

Pope Francis spoke about making a pilgrimage in the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016. He said that “The practice of pilgrimage is about ‘making our way to the desired destination’. The practice of *pilgrimage* has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a *viator*, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination. Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.” (*excerpt from “Q and A for the Jubilee Year of Mercy”*)

The bottom line however, and perhaps the best reason as to why you will make this pilgrimage, is your own personal one. You are encouraged to read, reflect and pray about the reasons for making your pilgrimage. The answer you come up with is the correct one, because it is your reason –and after all it's between you and God. If for no other reason you may decide to do this pilgrimage for some Christian fellowship, and good fun with your fellow parishioners and Christians, and family and friends.

You may like to read the other documents provided to you about pilgrimage, which will aid your understanding of reasons for making a pilgrimage.

Thanks for being part of *Pilgrimage Walk 2017 – A Walk on the North Side – Praying The Rosary*.



**God bless you and have fun.**

