

16  
DAYS

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH, NARRABUNDAH

# Saints of Italy

**COMMENCES MON 14TH SEPT 2020 • 16 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS**

Rome (3 Nights) • Vicocaro • Subiaco • Montecassino (2) • Pompeii • Cava Di  
Tireni • Pietrelcina • Monte Sant'Angelo • San Giovanni Rotondo (2) • Norcia •  
Assisi (2) • Ravenna • Padua (3) • Venice



Accompanied by  
**FR DANIEL BENEDETTI MGL PP**



*the genuine pilgrim experience*

**harvest**  
journeys

St Peter's Square, Rome



## SYMBOLS

(B) = Breakfast (L) = Lunch (D) = Dinner

Ⓜ = Time Out - Planned site for extended opportunity for prayer & reflection

### DAY 1: MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER – DEPART AUSTRALIA

### DAY 2: TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER - ARRIVE ROME

Welcome to Rome. Join with pilgrims this evening for a Welcome Dinner.

#### Rome overnight (D)

### DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER – ROME PILGRIMAGE – PAPAL & PEOPLE CELEBRATIONS

Papal Event (Subject to the Pope's presence in Rome)

We will proceed to St Peter's Square where the Holy Father is expected to host a General Audience to celebrate with pilgrims from around the world.

In the afternoon, visit the impressive St Mary Major Basilica. Onwards to the Basilica of St John in Lateran Ⓜ (First Papal residence) and the adjacent Holy Stairs brought from Jerusalem to Rome in 326AD by St Helena (as a favourite of pilgrims, these steps may only be ascended on the knees).

Visit the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme with its extraordinary collection of relics from the Holy Land.

#### Rome overnight (BD)

### DAY 4: THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER ROME PILGRIMAGE – SAINTS & MARTYRS

Celebrate this morning a spectacular Mass at St Peter's Basilica before coming to the nearby Vatican Museums. Wander the spectacular chambers leading to the Sistine Chapel to view Michelangelo's masterpieces, including the magnificent fresco of the Last Judgment. Continue through to the awe inspiring St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world for an

informative exploration. Our guided tour will feature among other highlights Michelangelo's stunning Pieta, the tomb of Pope St John Paul II, the great Confessional and the Crypt containing the tombs of several Popes.

Journey this afternoon out to the majestic Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. Originally consecrated in 324, the saint's tomb is visible now under the Papal Altar. We will spend some time here as a special tribute to the Church's greatest evangelist.

Ⓜ Continue then to the ancient Catacombs for a memorable guided tour to marvel at these underground burial tunnels for Christians and Hebrews. Return to our hotel for some free time.

We will then dine out at L'Eau Vive Restaurant – Meaning Living Water (from the Biblical scene of Jacobs Well). This fabulous French Restaurant is run by Carmelite Missionary Nuns who will sing the Ave Maria to us between courses!

#### Rome overnight (BD)

### DAY 5: FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER – VIA VICOVARO & SUBIACO TO MONTECASSINO

Today we farewell the Eternal City and travel to Vicovaro and visit the Convent of San Cosimato. The first church built here was between 936 and 949 for the Benedictine abbey and called Santi Cosma e Damiano a Mica Aurea.

We then proceed to the village of Subiaco, famous worldwide for its two Benedictine Monasteries and located in a magnificent natural setting along the Aniene River. Enjoy a guided visit and Mass on arrival in the spectacular cliff-faced Monastery of St Benedict which enshrines the sacred cave 'Sacre Speco' where St Benedict withdrew as a hermit to live for three years. He was eventually discovered in this cave and invited to become the superior of the nearby monastery of Vicovaro. However, the monks

soon found his rule so unpleasantly strict that they tried to poison him. Benedict returned to his cave, but by then had attracted so many followers that he could no longer pursue the solitary life.

We journey south this afternoon to Cassino and wind our way up the mountain, enjoying the view of the spectacular Abbey of Montecassino, Ⓜ founded in 529 by St Benedict, patron saint of Europe and the founder of Western Monasticism. The Abbey was carefully rebuilt after the epic battle of 1944 and still dominates the surrounding countryside from its mountaintop setting. We will have a guided visit on arrival. The Basilica is richly decorated with mosaics. We come as pilgrims to pray before the relics of St Benedict and his sister, St Scholastica. The museum displays examples of medieval monastic art.

#### Cassino overnight (BD)

### DAY 6: SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER – POMPEII & CAVA DI TIRENI

This morning we travel to Pompeii, the city which was petrified and engulfed by the volcanic eruption of Mt Vesuvius in 79AD. On arrival embark on a guided visit of the ruins of ancient Pompeii. See a patrician home, public baths, and shops that give a striking picture of what day-to-day life was like.

We then proceed to Cava Di Tireni and the Santissima Trinita Abbey, under the care of the Benedictines for more than a thousand years. Our guided visit will include the Basilica with the pulpit dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century; the Cave of St Alferio; the Cloister and the Museum among other highlights.

#### Cassino overnight (BD)

### DAY 7: SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER – VIA PIETRELCINA & MONTE SANT'ANGELO TO SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

This morning we depart Cassino and travel East to Pietrelcina, the home village of St Padre Pio who was born here on 25 May, 1887.

Basilica of St Francis



Visit the room of his birth, the friary and the sacred **Church of Our Lady of the Angels**. **T**

Proceed to **Monte Sant' Angelo** to visit the hilltop **Sanctuary of St Michael the Archangel** and celebrate Mass in the Grotto Cave. The Archangel is said to have made four separate appearances here mostly during the 5<sup>th</sup> century, making the sanctuary here one of the earliest Christian sites in Europe and visited by thousands of pilgrims every year. St Francis also visited the sanctuary but feeling unworthy to enter the grotto, stopped in prayer at the entrance, kissed a stone and carved on it the sign of the Tau cross.

Continue to **San Giovanni Rotondo** where **St Padre Pio** spent a lifetime of prayer, penance, self-denial and intense pain caused by the five wounds of Our Lord's passion. His list of supernatural gifts are overwhelming - reading of souls, prophecy, miraculous healings, spiritual direction, etc while spending extraordinarily long hours in the confessional and often sleeping very little. Throughout his life he received visits from Jesus and Mary and had regular communication with his guardian angel.

**San Giovanni Rotondo overnight (BD)**

**DAY 8: MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER - SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO**

This morning we take a tour of the shrine including: **Tomb and cell of St Padre Pio**; his **Confessional**; and the **Crucifix** **T** from which he received the stigmata. We visit the English speaking office for an inspirational talk by one of the friars and to view a special rare film showing highlights of St Padre Pio's daily life in the Monastery.

Remainder of the day at leisure.

**San Giovanni Rotondo overnight (BD)**

**DAY 9: TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER - VIA NORCIA TO ASSISI**

Travelling north early this morning we arrive to **Norcia**, the birthplace of St Benedict. On arrival

we will enjoy a guided visit of the **Monastery of San Benedetto** which is built over the birthplace of Sts Benedict and Scholastica.

Journey through scenic Umbrian countryside to the pilgrimage centre of **Assisi**, where St Francis tended the poor and sick and founded the Franciscan Order.

On arrival in this medieval hillside town we will visit the **Basilica of St Mary of the Angels** down on the plains where St Francis spent most of his life. Here we will see the **Portiuncula** (meaning 'small portion of land') where St. Francis returned for prayer, the thornless rose bush, and the chapel where he died in 1226. On Palm Sunday 1211, Francis received in this church Clare of Assisi and dedicated her to the Lord. Proceed to the Upper Town to check in to our hotel.

**Assisi overnight (BD)**

**DAY 10: WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER - ASSISI**

This morning we awake to the sound of chapel bells, cobblestone footsteps and the tangible spirit of St Francis preserved in this holy town.

After breakfast we enjoy a guided tour through some of the town's highlights including: the tranquil **Church of San Damiano** and the actual chapel where it all began when the voice of Christ spoke to Francis in the year 1205. Here too we find the first monastery of the Order of St Clare where Clare built her community in close friendship with Francis.

**T** Culminate up at the **Hermitage** (Eremo delle Carceri), an oasis of peace and tranquillity in the woods built on the site of a simple cave where St Francis often withdrew to spend many hours in prayer. The cave and the Chapel of Our Lady are preserved in the Hermitage.

We end our tour at the **Basilica of St Clare** where we will proceed to the side chapel to pray before the **Holy Crucifix** from which God spoke to Francis "*Go and repair my Church which as you see is in ruins*". Here too we can

also take the stairway down to the crypt where the body of Clare, partially restored, is displayed.

Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure in this oasis of peace.

An opportunity presents itself before dinner to attend Vespers in the Basilica of St Clare and listen to the angelic voices of the Poor Clare nuns.

**Assisi overnight (BD)**

**DAY 11: THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER - VIA RAVENNA TO PADUA**

We conclude our time in Assisi's upper town with Mass and a guided exploration of the buzzing **Basilica of St Francis** which occupies the entire western end of the upper town. Construction began in 1228, just two years after the death of Francis and was finally completed in 1250. The Upper Basilica houses the famous fresco cycle of the life of St Francis, historically attributed to Giotto. Wander through the marvels of the Upper Basilica before our tour descends to the crypt of the Lower Basilica where Francis was laid in 1230 and where we will take some time to seek the intercession of this spiritual legend.

Departing Assisi we travel north to **Ravenna**, once the capital of the Western Roman Empire some 1,500 years ago. The city's rare mosaics are thought to be the best preserved in Europe and our visit to the **Basilica of San Vitale** will give evidence to this reality. Our walking tour also includes highlights such as the **Piazza del Popolo**, the **Basilica of Sant' Apollinare Nuovo** including **Arian Baptistry** and the **tomb of Dante**.

Travel on to **Padua**, home to St Anthony, the renowned patron saint of lost articles. Originally from Lisbon, Anthony came to Italy where his gift of preaching brought many to conversion.

**Padua overnight (BD)**



Venice

**DAY 12: FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER – VENICE DAY**

Venice comprises a dense network of waterways with 117 islands and more than 400 bridges over its 150 canals. Instead of main streets, you'll find main canals, instead of cars, you'll find Gondolas!

Today we travel out to Venice, known as Europe's most romantic destination. As we board our boat transfer we enjoy our first glimpses of this unique city. Our time here begins with Mass in St Mark's Basilica, built to house the saint's remains. Our guided walking tour includes St Mark's Square and its famous monuments. See open squares with enchanting palaces, cross over stunning bridges, and walk down narrow passageways. Enjoy some time to explore the unique surroundings at your own pace.

*Padua overnight (BD)*

**DAY 13: SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER – PADUA**

This morning we view the impressive park of 'Prato della Valle' and the nearby Basilica of Santa Giustina with its claimed relics of St Luke the Evangelist.

Onwards to the infamous Scrovegni Chapel. The Chapel is a masterpiece in the history of painting in Italy and Europe in the 14th century, considered to be the most complete series of frescoes executed by Giotto in his mature age.

Continue to the Basilica of St Anthony for Mass and a guided tour including the Chapel of the Reliquaries and St Anthony's tomb. **T** For our final night of pilgrimage, we will enjoy a special celebration dinner.

*Padua overnight (BD)*

**DAY 14: SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER – DEPART ITALY**

Today we will be transferred to Venice airport for our homebound flights. *(B)*

**DAY 15: MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER – IN TRANSIT**

**DAY 16: TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER – ARRIVE AUSTRALIA**



St Mark's Square, Venice

**INCLUSIONS**

**AIRFARES:** Return Economy Class airfare from Canberra to Rome and Venice return • (N.B. Airlines taxes are included on standard itinerary and subject to fluctuations)

**ACCOMMODATION & MEALS:** Based on standard hotel & religious accommodation throughout with breakfast and dinner daily

**TOURING & TRANSPORTATION:** Deluxe Air Conditioned Coach with driver • Professional English Speaking Tour Representative • Local English Speaking Guides • Entrance Fees throughout itinerary • Porterage at hotels • Harvest Backpack, Pilgrims Journal and Tour Wallet

**NOT INCLUDED:** Passport and visa costs (if applicable) • Tipping (invoiced separately) • Other meals not stated • Items of a personal nature • Travel Insurance

**PILGRIMAGE DETAILS**

<b>TOUR CODE</b>	PV13620	
<b>STARTS</b>	Mon 14 Sep 2020	Canberra
<b>FINISHES</b>	Tue 29 Sep 2020	Canberra
<b>AIR &amp; TOUR (indicative)</b>	\$6390 (twin share) *	
<b>SINGLE ROOM</b>	\$840 Supplement	
<b>PREPAID TIPS</b>	\$14 per person, per day	

\* Prices are based on a minimum group size of 25 paying pilgrims, calculated as at January 2020. Prices remain subject to possible changes in the unlikely event of significant exchange rate variations, airfare increases or minimum group size contingencies.



**BOOK NOW**

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