

Missionary Immersion Trip 2019

Leaders: Fr Jude Pirotta and Fr Mario Zammit

Friday 4th January 2019 : arrive 15.30 at Manila

On arrival at Manila, the group will be met by Fr Hector Attard mssp and will transfer by private bus to the Missionary Society of St Paul's (MSSP) International House of Formation (IHF), Quezon City, Manila. Group will be introduced to the brothers and priests and settle into their accommodation. The Paulist community living at the International House of Formation come from a variety of different countries, including Peru, Pakistan, Malta, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Saturday 5th January:

7.30 am: Breakfast

8.30 am – Stroll down 13th Street. MSSP provide ministry to the people who live in slums on 13th Street. These men, women and children live in extremely impoverished surroundings in shantytown conditions. A number of the children of 13th St are provided with scholarships by the MSSP to ensure that they are able to continue their education and the adults are provided with pastoral formation.

9.00 – 11.00 Activities/catechesis with the children from 13th Street at the IHF. Today we will be responsible for the catechism lessons to these children. We need to prepare topics / activities to share with them.

11.00 am - Merienda (morning tea)

11.30 am – 12.30 pm Mass – IHF Chapel

12.30 pm– 1.30 pm Lunch

1.30 pm – 6.00 pm The group will spend the afternoon exploring the sights of Manila, offering a glimpse into the life of the locals, and seeing both past and present Manila. The group will visit the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene (known colloquially as Quiapo Church) which is famous home for the shrine of the Black Nazarene. Following this we will explore Manila's historic Intramuros area where we will learn about the Spanish colonial period and discover the intricate Baroque architectural designs of UNESCO World Heritage-listed San Agustin Church.

6.30 – Dinner at the IHF

8.30 – Group debrief

Sunday 6th January

9.00 am – Community Mass

10.15 – lunchtime – Merienda and then gathering with the MSSP Lay Community: this might involve splitting up the group into various age groups, and, together with the MSSP Lay Community, a sharing and discussion of the Gospel.

12.00 midday – Lunch

2.00 pm til late - Visit to the Ayala Cultural Museum (<http://www.ayalamuseum.org/>)

Dinner at restaurant in Manila

Monday 7th January

6.30 am – 7.00 am – Community mass at the IHF

9.00 am - Visit the (Mother Teresa of Calcutta) Missionaries of Charity Sisters' Home of Joy for the Sick Children in Tayuman, Manila. The orphanage was established as a special place which caters for disabled and underprivileged children. The group will assist the staff and other volunteers (including nurses and doctors) with household and personal care tasks (such as feeding) and also will be able to interact with the toddlers and children.

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch at the IHF

After lunch – depart for Santa Catalina parish in Bataan, north of Manila.

Tuesday 8th January

Bataan – the programme in the parish will be discussed with the parish priest when we arrive.

Wednesday 9th January

Bataan -

Thursday 10th January

Bataan

Friday 11th January

Visit to the Mount Samat National Shrine, an historical shrine located near the summit of Mount Samat in the town of Pilár in the province of Bataan. This memorial shrine complex was built to honour and remember the gallantry of Filipino and American soldiers who fought during the World War II.

We may also include a visit to Ambon waterfalls.

Saturday 12th January

8.30 am - Mass with parishioners at St Catherine of Alexandria parish

Sunday 13th January

Bataan

Monday 14th January

Bataan

Tuesday 15th January

Leaving Bataan parish and depart for Subic for two days of rest and relaxation. Here we will stay at a sea side resort.

Wed 16th January

Leave Subic and return to Manila – on the way back to Manila, we visit the famous Buried Church - San Guillermo Parish Church. Named after San Guillermo, the patron saint of Bacolor Pampanga where the church is erected, the church was originally constructed by the Augustinian Friars in 1576. In 1880, the church was then destroyed by an earthquake only to be rebuilt again in 1886. In 1995, lahar flow from the slopes of Mount Pinatubo buried the church at half its 12-metre height. The original door, which has been buried by mud and ash materials, can no longer be seen. Its old convent has now been converted to an art gallery, the Museo de Bacolor.

Sleeping back at Manilla

Thursday 17th January

Retreat day – venue to be confirmed

Friday 18th Jan

We will have some time to do some personal, last-minute shopping at the Greenhills Shopping Centre, a shopping mall in San Juan, Metro Manila, a destination for bargain hunters since the 1970's!

BBQ at the IHF

Leave Saturday 19th January at 21.10

Arrive back to Melbourne on Sunday 20th January at 8.30 am