



THE GREAT PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE

“Journeying together as peoples of Asia... and they went a different way” (Mt 2:12)

Nov 27-30, Penang, Malaysia

SCHEDULE

Nov 27th, 2025

03.30 pm - Welcome, Icebreaking, and Prayer
04.00 pm - Opening Ceremony
04.45 pm - Break
05.00 pm - Inaugural Holy Mass
06.15 pm - Transition time
06.30 pm - Congress Orientation
06.40 pm - FABC@50
06.50 pm - Keynote Address - **Going a Different Way as Renewed Pilgrims of Hope**
07.45 pm - Dinner
08.45 pm - Concert/Festival
09.30 pm - Final announcements, Conclusion.

Nov 28th, 2025

08.00 am - Morning Prayer
08.30 am - Holy Mass
09.45 am - Break
10.15 pm - Keynote Address - **“Journeying Together as Peoples of Asia”**
11.00 am - Orientation to Conversations in the Spirit
11.10 am - Conversations in the Spirit - Based on both the Keynote Addresses
11.50 am - Moving to the halls for Impact Sessions
12.00 pm - Impact Sessions (in seven halls)
 1. The Relevance of Digital Media
 2. Alpha for Youth
 3. Living as a Christian
 4. Preferential Option for the Poor
 5. Laudato Si Movement
 6. Feminine Genius - Made for Greatness
 7. Taking the Church forward in the Synodal Way

01.00 pm - Lunch
03.00 pm - Streams: Theme - **A Synodal Church in Mission: Walking Together as a Community** (5 categories - Bishops, Priests, Religious, Adults, Youth)
04.15 pm - Break
04.45 pm - Worship
05.00 pm - Talk - **A call for a Renewed Encounter**
05.20 pm - Faith Stories/Testimonies
05.50 pm - Talk - **A Call for Reconciliation**
06.10 pm - Adoration
07.00 pm - Dinner



08.00 pm – Cultural Programmes from different countries
09.30 pm – Conclusion

Nov 29th, 2025

08.00 am – Morning Prayer
08.30 am – Keynote Address - **Living and Sharing the Story of Jesus –
Journeying towards 2033 as Peoples of Asia.**
09.15 am – Conversations in the Spirit
10.15 am – Break
10.45 am – Panel
11.45 am – Moving to the halls for Impact sessions
12.00 pm – Impact Sessions (in seven halls)
 1. Harnessing New Trends and Platforms in Popular Music
 2. ‘The Chosen’ Series
 3. Accompanying and Forming Young People
 4. Witnessing in Your Workplace
 5. Living in a Multi-cultural & Multi-religious Asia
 6. Gender Identity – A Catholic Perspective
 7. Global2033: Commissioned Series - A new Catholic tool for training Missionary Disciples.
01.00 pm – Lunch
03.00 pm – Streams: Theme – **Living and Sharing the Christian values in my Profession-
Journeying towards 2033, Possibilities and Challenges**
*(The group will be divided according to their professions. Bishops/Priests/Religious can join any group they like.
We will divide the group after we receive the registrations.)*
04.15 pm – Break
04.45 pm – Departure to the Basilica
05.30 pm – Holy Mass at the Minor Basilica of St Anne
07.00 pm – Dinner
 Evening Rally – Theme: **Be Pilgrims of Hope**
08.00 pm – Opening Songs
08.20 pm – Talk - **Be Pilgrims of Hope**
08.40 pm – Concert
09.30 pm – Departure to the Hotels

Nov 30th, 2025

08.00 am – Morning Prayer
08.30 am – Talk: **“Go Forth”** (Mathew 28: 18-20)
09.15 am – Concluding Remarks
09.30 am - Final Statement/Conclusion
10.30 pm - Break
11.00 am – **Holy Mass**
01.00 pm – Lunch and Departure



Programme Outline

THEME: “Journeying together as peoples of Asia... and they went a different way” (Mt 2:12)

27th Nov 2025

We will begin the programme with an inaugural ceremony at 4:00 p.m., followed by Holy Mass at 5:00 p.m. Each day, one of the main speakers will deliver a keynote address. The theme of the keynote on the 27th will be part of the central theme — “They Went on a Different Way.” The day will conclude with a concert by the RexBand.

28th Nov 2025

The second day will begin with morning prayer, followed by the Holy Mass. The day’s keynote address will focus on the second part of the central theme, “*Journeying Together as Peoples of Asia.*”

After the keynote address, the delegates will gather in small groups for ‘*Conversations in the Spirit.*’ Conversations in the Spirit is a mode of communication that fosters common and shared responsibility by opening up to the Spirit’s inspiration and identifying what the Spirit is conveying to the praying community so that decisions can be made accordingly.

At noon, we will witness seven ‘Impact Sessions’ where participants can choose from diverse Impact Sessions being held simultaneously across seven different venues within the hotel complex.

Following lunch, Stream-specific gatherings will take place in five venues, with the theme ‘*A Synodal Church in Mission: Walking Together as a Community.*’ The group will be divided according to their vocations/life situations: Bishops, Priests and Deacons, Religious Sisters, Youth, and Lay Adults.

The Evening Rally will be a powerful time of ministry with the theme ‘*Encountering Christ*’ referencing the quote, “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them...” (EG3). The Rally will include short talks, witness testimonies, worship, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and more.

After dinner, we will have cultural presentations from different countries in Asia.

29th Nov 2025

The third day will begin with morning prayer. The day’s keynote address will focus on the theme “*Living and Sharing the Story of Jesus – Journeying towards 2033 as Peoples of Asia.*”

After the keynote address, the delegates will gather in small groups for ‘*Conversations in the Spirit.*’

After the small group gathering, we will have a panel showcasing a few notable initiatives that can be offered for the Church in Asia.



At noon, we will witness seven 'Impact Sessions,' where the participants can choose from diverse sessions held simultaneously across seven different venues within the hotel complex.

Post-lunch, Profession-specific gatherings will take place in six venues. The group will be divided according to their professions. Bishops, Priests, and Religious can join any group they like.

After Coffee, we will visit the Minor Basilica of St. Anne for an open event. We will start with the Holy Mass, followed by dinner and an Evening Rally open to all.

The Evening Rally will be a powerful time of ministry, featuring a short talk, worship, concerts, and more.

30th Nov 2025

The fourth day will begin with morning prayer. The day's keynote address will focus on the theme 'Go Forth' (Mathew 28:18-20).

With this session, we will proceed to the concluding part of the Congress, which includes the final statement, concluding remarks, followed by the Holy Mass and Commissioning Ceremony.

SPEAKERS

(This list includes only the Bishops confirmed as speakers. We will update the list soon with the Priests, Religious, and Lay speakers.)

His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle

Pro-Prefect for the Section of First Evangelization of the Dicastery for Evangelization

His Eminence George Jacob Cardinal Koovakad

Prefect of the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue

His Eminence Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao

Archbishop of Goa and Daman, India, and the President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences & President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India.

His Eminence Tarcisio Cardinal Isao Kikuchi

Archbishop of Tokyo, Japan, and the Secretary General of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences & President of the Japanese Bishops' Conference, and President of Caritas International.

His Eminence Pablo Virgilio S. Cardinal David

Bishop of Kalookan, the Philippines, and the Vice President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences & President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

His Eminence Sebastian Cardinal Francis

Bishop of Penang

**His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias**

Archbishop Emeritus of Mumbai, India; Former President of FABC.

His Eminence Charles Maung Cardinal Bo, S.D.B

Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar; Former President of FABC.

His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church & the Metropolitan Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly, India.

His Grace Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Australia, and Chairman of the Commission for Evangelization, Laity and Ministry.

His Grace Archbishop Simon Poh

Archbishop of Kuching, Malaysia, and the President of Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia.

His Grace Archbishop Felix Anthony Machado

Archbishop Emeritus of Vasai, India, and Chairman, Office for Inter-religious Dialogue, FABC.

His Excellency Bishop George Pallipparambil SDB

Bishop of Miao, India & Chairman, Office of Evangelization, FABC.

ARTISTES**RexBand**

Rexband is a pioneering international Catholic band from Asia; it takes its name from Christus Rex, emerging from musicians in the Jesus Youth movement. Having performed at six World Youth Days, they are the only band from the Asian subcontinent to have performed at five different World Youth Day main stages. Rexband has performed hundreds of concerts across 21 countries and has released over 12 albums.

<https://www.rexband.org/>

Fr. Rob Galea

Fr Rob is an internationally renowned singer, songwriter, performer, recording artist, evangelist, and energetic youth speaker with several album releases. He has written and performed the English and International versions of the official World Youth Day songs for 2008, 2016, and 2019. Fr. Rob is the founder and executive director of ICON Ministry and Co-founder of the 'Stronger Youth Program.'

<https://www.frrobgalea.com/>