

## **Bishops host reception for Australians in Rome following John Lateran Mass**

Australia's Bishops have celebrated Mass at St John Lateran Church , which is regarded as the oldest and first among the four great patriarchal basilicas of Rome. Archbishop Adrian Doyle of Hobart was the principal celebrant at the Mass in the ancient Church which dates back to the Emperor Constantine in the early 300s and has been destroyed and rebuilt many times. The Mass was attended by a small congregation of Australian priests, religious and lay people who live and work in Rome. Following Mass, the Bishops held a reception for the Australians in Rome at the Irish College.

Earlier, various Bishops attended meetings with Vatican congregations for Laity, Culture, Cor Unum, and Justice and Peace. Today's Mass was the last of the big public Masses to be celebrated by the Australian Bishops during their ad limina visit. The five-yearly ad limina pilgrimage is expected to conclude with a general audience with Pope John Paul II on Friday.