

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **WOLLONGONG PRIEST ON A MISSION TO BRING WORLD RENOWNED MUSICIAN TO THE REGION**

Over the past five months, Wollongong priest, Fr Mark De Battista, has been traversing the Illawarra, Macarthur, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands speaking to anyone and everyone about the upcoming Australian tour (in February/March 2019) of acclaimed composer, virtuoso pianist and powerful inspirational speaker, Eric Genuis.

Eric (Kentucky, USA) has been described as a musical tour de force. Accompanied by a world class violinist, cellist and vocalist, Eric's concerts consist entirely of original compositions that are peppered with stories, lots of humour and audience interaction. Fr Mark said, "Eric's concerts are unique because he provides his audience with powerful testimonies outlining the inspiration behind each piece performed, thus enhancing the impression upon all who hear them. His music deals with themes such as mercy, faith, forgiveness, love, hope, relationships and so many other ordinary life experiences. Eric's concerts are for all who seek hope and purpose in their lives!"

And Eric isn't afraid to reach out and go to those on the edges of society who desperately need hope and purpose. As part of his Australian tour, Eric will be taking part in several *Purposeful Day Activities* in a handful of prisons in NSW. Over the past two years alone, Eric has performed in over 45 prisons—including maximum security prisons in the USA. Eric firmly believes in the Christian message, "I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:36). Eric said, "The wardens tell me that for days and weeks after one of my concerts, the level of violence in the prison drops markedly."

It's not just prisoners that are inspired by the beauty of Eric's music. Jim Caviezel, the Hollywood actor who portrayed Jesus in Mel Gibson's 2004 film, *The Passion of the Christ*, said, "What a pleasure to listen to not only a world-class pianist and composer, but an artist whose music translates beyond its genre to lift the audience to belief and hope in the power of the human spirit."

Eric is already booked to play 18 concerts in parishes across the diocese. He will also make appearances at a number of Catholic high schools as well. The tour is being coordinated by Fr Mark and a team of volunteers predominantly parishioners from Port Kembla in conjunction with the centenary anniversary on 2 March of St Patrick's Catholic Church in Port Kembla. For concert dates, venues and online bookings, visit [www.ericgenuistour.com](http://www.ericgenuistour.com). Tickets: \$30 adult; \$25 pensioner/concession; \$70 family (parents with dependent children under 18).

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