

World Youth Day 2008: The Basics



What's World Youth Day?

World Youth Day is the Catholic Church's celebration of young people and their faith. Every year it is celebrated locally in dioceses and parishes.

Every 2 – 3 years the youth of the world come together in a host city for an international World Youth Day celebration. This celebration lasts for a week and draws hundreds of thousands of young people from

around the globe. The next international WYD will take place in Sydney from 15 – 20 July 2008 and up to 500 000 young people are expected to take part.

World Youth Day 2008 (WYD08) is more than a day or even a week. It's part of a long term strategy that includes practical and spiritual preparation beforehand, the big event in Sydney, and the follow up afterwards.

What's it about?

World Youth Day is a chance for young people across the world to connect with each other and with God. It gives them a space to share their faith in a variety of ways and to come to know how huge and diverse their Church is. For YCS and YCW, World Youth Day is a major moment in our ongoing mission to develop the faith and leadership of young people and take action for

change. It's a chance to get loud about what young people are doing and what they can do to live just and meaningful lives. Through WYD08, YCS and YCW will make an impact on the faith and actions of thousands of young students and workers.

This fact sheet has been created for YCS and YCW members and workers, to give you the low down on World Youth Day 2008.

For more info on our World Youth Day plans click on our websites:

www.ycw.org.au

www.aycs.org.au

To learn more or to talk about what's happening where you are, contact your World Youth Day Coordinator, Chantelle:

02 9745 9708

chantelle.ogilvie@ycw.org.au



YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS



YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS



For more info about World Youth Day 2008 check out www.wyd2008.org

What's happening before World Youth Day...

Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon, July 2007 – July 2008

In 1983 Pope John Paul gave the World Youth Day Cross to the world's youth and asked that it be carried across the globe as a symbol of Jesus' love for all people. In 2003 he added an image of Mary to travel with the cross to signify Mary's faithfulness to Jesus and to young people.

The Journey of the Cross and Icon gives an experience of global faith to those who may not make it to WYD08 in Sydney. From July 2007 to 2008, the Cross and Icon will visit every Australian diocese. Young people encounter the Cross in creative ways, for example through pilgrimages, discussions, concerts and prayer.

Days in the Dioceses, 10 – 14 July 2008

In the week before WYD08 in Sydney, Australian dioceses will welcome young people from around the world for 4 days of cultural exchange and hospitality. The theme of Days in the Dioceses is "Together under the Southern Cross".

Days in the Dioceses are organised on a diocesan level. Schools and parishes will host young people from overseas and join them for cultural activities, visits to important local sites, reflection, celebration and service actions.

After Days in the Dioceses local and international pilgrims will travel on to Sydney for WYD Week.

Other events and programs will also take place in dioceses before WYD08. These will include events to mark 'one year out' from WYD08 in July 2007 and celebrations for Palm Sunday 2008. Dioceses will run preparation programs to get young people and leaders ready for WYD08. Many young people, schools and parishes will also be fundraising to pay for their own participation and to help young people from overseas to get involved.

YCS and YCW will be active in the dioceses before WYD08, by hosting events, collaborating with the local Church and offering formation resources.

.... At World Youth Day....

Young people will arrive in Sydney on 14 July 2008. It will be the biggest domestic movement of people in Australia's history. From Victoria, for example, an estimated 150 000 km of buses will travel up the Hume Highway! During the week young people will be hosted in Sydney's schools and parishes.

On Tuesday 15 July an **Opening Mass** and concert will welcome the youth of the world.

From Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 July, the days will begin in local parishes with **Catechesis**: talks on faith by bishops from around the world. In the afternoon and evening the **Youth Festival** will offer a range of performances, forums, spaces and gatherings run by a variety of groups like YCS and YCW. There will also be a **Vocations Expo** where young people can find info about different ways to live out their faith.

On Thursday 17 July young people will gather to welcome **Pope Benedict XVI** as he arrives in Sydney and on Friday 18 July the last moments of Jesus' life will be played out in a **Stations of the Cross** on the city's streets.

On Saturday 19 July, hundreds of thousands of young people will walk to the site of the **Closing Mass** at Randwick Racecourse. In the evening they will pray together with Pope Benedict before sleeping out under the stars, and on the morning of Sunday 20 July World Youth Day Pope Benedict will celebrate mass.



Registration

To be part of WYD week in Sydney, you need to register with your local diocese, school or parish. Registration gets you entry to all events as well as accommodation, food and transport. You can also register without accommodation, or for the weekend only. Registration can cost up to \$400. This amount helps reduce the cost of people coming from poorer or 'majority world' countries and from indigenous communities.

YCS and YCW have decided not to run their own pilgrimage groups for WYD08 but are encouraging members to travel with their dioceses so that they can have an impact on other young people and get them involved in YCS and YCW.

.... and after World Youth Day?

This is probably the most important part! After WYD08 young people need ways to reflect on their experience and to take action. YCS and YCW have an important role to play in this. Many dioceses, parishes and schools are planning now for the future of youth ministry after WYD08.

