

Fact Sheet

World Youth Day Sydney 2008 (WYD08)



Purpose of World Youth Day

- World Youth Day was established by Pope John Paul II in 1986 as an annual event to reach out to the youth of the world
- Pope John Paul II was inspired by the massive gatherings of young people in Rome for the 1984 Youth Jubilee and the 1985 United Nations International Year of Youth. He wanted to bring together young Catholics from around the globe to celebrate and learn about their faith on a more regular basis.
- Pope John Paul II saw World Youth Day as a way to reach out to the next generation of Catholics, to demonstrate confidence in them, to rejuvenate the Church and ensure that the core teachings of Christ are transmitted and lived.
- World Youth Day is a pilgrimage of faith, where young people from diverse backgrounds meet and experience the love of God.
- World Youth Day is an invitation from the Pope to the youth of the world to celebrate their faith around a particular theme. Everyone is welcome to attend
- World Youth Day is now the largest youth event in the world

History of World Youth Day

- The first World Youth Day was held in Rome in 1986 on Palm Sunday. Every year since, World Youth Day has been celebrated at a Diocesan level.
- Every two to three years, World Youth Day is taken to an international host city. The international World Youth Days are a week-long series of events attended by the Pope and hundreds of thousands of young people from all over the world.
- The week culminates in a Final Mass celebrated by the Pope on the last day (the actual World Youth *Day*). Typically, it is the largest event of the week and, overseas, has drawn millions of people.
- The Pontifical Council for the Laity (PCL) – a key Vatican body - is responsible for World Youth Days globally
- World Youth Day has been held in the following host cities:

YEAR	CITY	COUNTRY	FINAL MASS FIGURE	THEME
1987 11-12 April	Buenos Aires	ARGENTINA	N/A	<i>"We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves" (1Jn 4:16)</i>
1989 15-20 August	Santiago de Compostela	SPAIN	N/A	<i>"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" (Jn 14:6)</i>
1991 10-15 August	Czestochowa	POLAND	1.6 million	<i>"You have received a spirit of sonship" (Rom 8:15)</i>
1993 10-15 August	Denver	USA	500,000	<i>"I came that they might have life, and have it to the full" (Jn 10:10)</i>
1995 10-15 January	Manila	PHILIPPINES	4 million	<i>"As the Father sent me, so am I sending you" (Jn 20: 21)</i>
1997 19-24 August	Paris	FRANCE	1.2 million	<i>"Teacher, where are you staying? Come and see" (cf. Jn 1:38-39)</i>
2000 15-20 August	Rome <i>Jubilee Year</i>	ITALY	2 million	<i>"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14)</i>
2002 23-28 July	Toronto	CANADA	800,000	<i>"You are the salt of the earth ... you are the light of the world" (Mt 5: 13,14)</i>
2005 16-21 August	Cologne	GERMANY	1.2 million	<i>"We have come to worship Him" (Mt 2,2)</i>
2008 15-20 July	Sydney	AUSTRALIA	Expecting 500,000	<i>"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1, 8)</i>

- The last WYD in Cologne featured:
 - 435,000 registered pilgrims from 197 nations
 - 23,000 volunteers from 120 nations
 - 8,000 accredited media
 - 800 Cardinals and Bishops

World Youth Day in Sydney

- World Youth Day Sydney 2008 (WYD08) will be held from Tuesday 15 to Sunday 20 July
- Sydney was announced as the host city for the 23rd World Youth Day at the conclusion of the last international World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany in August 2005
- WYD08 will be the largest event Australia has hosted. It will attract over 125,000 international visitors – more than the 2000 Olympics
- WYD08 will mark the first visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to Australia
- The Archdiocese of Sydney has established the World Youth Day Trust to prepare for WYD08.
- The event has the strong support of the NSW and Australian governments.
- The NSW Government has created a special agency - the World Youth Day Coordination Authority (WYDCA) - to plan and manage the services it will provide for the event.
- The NSW Government is responsible for providing public transport, policing, emergency healthcare and venues
- The Australian Government is responsible for Papal security and immigration
- WYD08 events will take place in venues across Sydney. The majority of pilgrims will sleep at over 700 venues (classrooms and community halls) in greater Sydney and receive morning Catechesis (or teaching) at 300 venues near their accommodation.
- After lunch, pilgrims will make their way into the city for the major WYD08 events and Youth Festival activities. Sydney CBD venues include Hyde Park, The Domain, Sydney Opera House, Darling Harbour and Circular Quay.

Key Statistics

- Up to 225,000 registered pilgrims are expected to take part in WYD08 events each day, including 125,000 international visitors.
- 100,000 Australian pilgrims are expected, including 40,000 from greater Sydney
- An estimated 8,000 volunteers will assist
- An estimated 2,000 clergy will be present
- An estimated 700 Cardinals and Bishops will be present

- Between 3,000 – 5,000 media are expected to cover the event
- 3.5 million meals will be served to pilgrims
- 100,000 will sleep in 700 schools and parishes
- Up to 40,000 will be billeted as part of the HomeStay program
- Approximately 20,000 will stay in Sydney hotels. The remainder will make their own arrangements.
- Up to 500,000 people are expected to attend the Final Mass at Randwick Racecourse and Centennial Park (which is open to all)
- The four official WYD08 languages are: English, French, Italian and Spanish

WYD08 Program of Events

- **Tuesday 15 July**
Opening Mass celebrated by Cardinal George Pell
- **Wednesday 16 – Friday 18 July**
Morning – Catechesis (teaching) sessions in greater Sydney venues
- **Thursday 17 July**
Arrival and Welcome of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on Sydney Harbour
- **Friday 18 July**
Stations of the Cross: a re-enactment of the last moments of Jesus' life
- **Saturday 19 July**
 1. Pilgrimage walk across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to Randwick Racecourse
 2. Evening Vigil with the Pope
 3. Sleep-out under the stars
- **Sunday 20 July**
Final Mass with the Pope

Youth Festival

The Youth Festival will take place most afternoons and evenings, except when a major event is taking place.

It is an artistic and dynamic display of faith in the form of:

- Live concerts
- Film screenings
- Visual art exhibitions
- Street performances

- Workshops
- Debates and forums
- Theatre
- National and Community gatherings
- Centres of spirituality and mission
- Reconciliation
- Adoration
- Vocations Expo
- Mini pilgrimage to St Mary's Cathedral
- Veneration of the Cross and Icon in Hyde Park

Corporate Affiliates

WYD 2008 receives support from the following corporate affiliates to provide the necessary services and facilities for this major international event:

- Telstra: Mobile Phone and Digital Media Partner and Telecommunications Provider
- Mercedes Benz: Automotive Provider
- AVIS: Automotive Fleet Management and Car Rental Group
- Qantas: Airline Provider
- Catholic Church Insurances: Insurance Provider
- Commonwealth Bank of Australia: Financial Services Provider
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth: Legal Services Provider
- Equiset: Construction Partner
- Accor: Hotel Supporter
- Harvest Youth Tours: Australian Tour Operator and Accommodation Manager
- BridgeClimb: Tourist Attraction
- Captain Cook Cruises: Australian Cruise Charter Operator
- Australia Post: Philatelic products
- Richard Campbell: Licensed artwork
- Perth Mint: Commemorative coins

Government Partners

- Australian Government
- NSW Government

Media partners include:

- SBS: Free-to-air TV rights holder
- Sky News: Subscription TV rights holder

- News Limited: Newspapers
- IMG Media: Host Broadcaster
- Catholic Weekly: Catholic print media partner

WYD08 theme song: Receive the Power

- *Receive the Power*, written by Guy Sebastian, Gary Pinto and Bronwyn Rawlins, is the official WYD08 song.
- There are two versions of the song:
 1. English language version, performed by Guy Sebastian and Paulini
 2. International language version:
 - a. Verse 1: Italian, sung by Robert Galea
 - b. Verse 2: Spanish, sung by German Silva
 - c. Chorus: English, sung by Guy Sebastian and Paulini
 - d. Bridge: French, sung by Amelia Farrugia

Events and activities leading up to WYD08

- ***Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon of Our Lady
1 July 2007 – 15 July 2008***

The World Youth Day Cross and Icon are the travelling symbols of World Youth Day. Pope John Paul II gave the Cross as a gift to the youth of the world in 1984 to be carried across continents as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity

Since 2003, the Cross has been accompanied by the Icon of Our Lady, a copy of the painting *Salus Populi Romani* (Protectress of the Roman People), a gift from Pope John Paul II to the youth of the world.

Considered the 'Olympic Torch' of World Youth Day, the Cross and Icon arrived in Australia on 1 July 2007 and are currently travelling through every diocese in the country.

An indigenous Message Stick is accompanying the Cross and Icon throughout its Australian journey. The Message Stick is an invitation from the indigenous people of Sydney to the indigenous youth of Australia to attend WYD08.

The Cross, Icon and Message Stick will journey across Australia for 12 months, visiting some 400 communities.

- **15 Day Walk 1 – 15 July**

The Cross and Icon return to Sydney on 1 July for a 15 Day Walk through the suburbs of Sydney.

This event will be similar to the Olympic Torch Relay and will culminate in the official walk-in at the Opening Mass

- **Days in the Dioceses 10 – 14 July**

Days in the Dioceses is an opportunity for dioceses across Australia and New Zealand to host visiting groups of pilgrims in the days preceding WYD08. It is a cultural exchange in the context of faith, and will bring WYD08 to every corner of Australia and New Zealand.

The Archdiocese of Melbourne, for example, is planning to attract 25,000 overseas pilgrims for its Days in the Dioceses events. It also has its own volunteer and billeting program.

Days in the Dioceses will also have the practical benefit of easing international pilgrim entry into Sydney, by allowing for staggered access via road and rail.

Catholics in Australia

- Australia has approximately 5.12 million Catholics in 1,363 parishes. This is approximately 26% of the population
- Australia has 28 territorial Dioceses, four Dioceses of Eastern Catholic Churches and one military Diocese
- There are around 1.5 million Catholics in the four dioceses across the greater Sydney region
- The Archdiocese of Sydney has almost 600,000 Catholics in some 141 parishes with 480 priests

Australian Papal Visits

There have been three Papal visits to Australia

- **1970: Pope Paul VI**
Event held in Randwick Racecourse
- **1986: Pope John Paul II**
Event held in Randwick Racecourse, attracting 250,000 people
- **1995: Pope John Paul II**
Event held in Randwick Racecourse. Mary MacKillop is beatified.