



# Fact Sheet

## World Youth Day Sydney 2008 (WYD08)

### Purpose of World Youth Day

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- 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

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- 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:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>FINAL MASS FIGURE</b>	<b>THEME</b>
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 Jubilee Year	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

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- 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 Barangaroo (East Darling Harbour), Hyde Park, The Domain, Sydney Opera House, Darling Harbour and Circular Quay.

## Key Statistics

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- 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 500 Cardinals and Bishops will be present

- Around 3,000 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 paid accommodation such as hostels, boarding houses, hotels and backpacker accommodation. 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)
- Randwick Racecourse and Centennial Park will be united in name as the "Southern Cross Precinct" for the Vigil and Final Mass.
- 4000 toilets for Southern Cross Precinct (Randwick Racecourse and Centennial Park)
- 35 large video screens for Southern Cross Precinct
- 60 lighting towers for Southern Cross Precinct
- The four official WYD08 languages are: English, French, Italian and Spanish
- Door-drops to half a million Sydney homes, inviting them to volunteer, become a HomeStay host or attend events during the WYD08 week
- WYD08 will be the most technological event ever, with the Pope to send text messages to all registered pilgrims and digital Prayer Walls available as well
- 100 actors taking part in the Stations of the Cross performance
- 500 chasubles for the Bishops and Cardinals made
- 2000 stoles for the priests
- 1 million communion hosts to be made
- 120 bottles of wine (total) for the Opening Mass and Final Mass

## WYD08 Program of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tuesday 15 July	4.30pm–6.30pm	Opening Mass with Cardinal Pell	Barangaroo
	2.00pm-10.00pm	Youth Festival (except during Opening Mass)	Sydney CBD locations
Wednesday 16 July	9.00am-12.00pm OR 10.00am-1.00pm	Catechesis sessions	250+ locations across Sydney
	2.00pm-10.00pm	Youth Festival (various events)	Sydney CBD locations
Thursday 17 July	9.00am-12.00pm OR 10.00am-1.00pm	Catechesis sessions	250+ locations across Sydney
	2.45pm	Papal Arrival via Boat-a-cade commences	Sydney Harbour and Barangaroo
	2.00pm-10.00pm	Youth Festival (except during Papal events)	Sydney CBD locations
Friday 18 July	9.00am-12.00pm OR 10.00am-1.00pm	Catechesis sessions	250+ locations across Sydney
	3.00pm–6.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St Mary's Cathedral, Barangaroo, Darling Harbour, Sydney Opera House Forecourt, Domain
	2.00pm-10.00pm	Youth Festival (except during Stations of the Cross)	Sydney CBD locations
Saturday 19 July	5.30am	Pilgrimage Walk	Sydney Harbour Bridge through city to Southern Cross Precinct
	7.00pm-9.00pm	Evening Vigil with the Pope	Southern Cross Precinct
Sunday 20 July	9.00am	Papal motorcade commencing in Centennial Park	Southern Cross Precinct
	10.00am	Final Mass with the Pope	
	12.15pm	Announcement of next host city	
	12.30pm-5.00pm	Youth Festival (various events)	

## Youth Festival

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

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

- Live concerts
- Visual art exhibitions
- Film screenings
- 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

## WYD08 Ambassadors

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Nine prominent Australians have generously volunteered their public profile and time as official Ambassadors for WYD08.

- Carla Zampatti, Fashion Designer
- Jared Crouch, AFL Sydney Swans player
- The Delezio family – Ron, Carolyn, Sophie and Mitchell
- Matthew Hayden, Australian cricketer
- Amelia Farrugia, Opera Singer
- Mark Bresciano, Socceroo Player
- Stephen Moore, Wallabies Hooker
- Jimmy Little, Musician
- Dr John Herron, Former Ambassador to the Holy See and Ireland, and Chairman of the Australian National Council on Drugs

## WYD08 Patrons

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Ten inspirational saints and blessed have been named the official patrons for WYD08.

A tradition of each World Youth Day, the 10 patrons have been chosen by the organisers and approved by the Vatican. An Australian artist, Richard de Stoop was commissioned to recreate their images.

- Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians
- Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901 – 1925)
- Blessed Mary MacKillop (1842 – 1909)
- Saint Peter Chanel (1803 – 1841)
- Blessed Peter To Rot (1912 – 1945)
- Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910 – 1997)
- Saint Therese of Lisieux (1873 – 1897)
- Saint Maria Goretti (1890 – 1902)
- Saint Faustina Kowalska (1905 – 1938)
- Servant of God, John Paul II (1920 – 2005)

## **Corporate Affiliates**

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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
- 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 Indigenous artwork
- Perth Mint: Commemorative coins
- Taronga Zoo: Tourist Attraction

### 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**

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- *Receive the Power*, written by Guy Sebastian and Gary Pinto, 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**

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- ***Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon of Our Lady (JCI)***

#### ***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.

***Key JCI statistics: 1 July 2007– 20 May 2008***

- 2 JCI Travelling Teams
- 325 days
- 29 dioceses (including the Military Diocese and Maronite Diocese)
- 30 Communities and movements
- c. 65 000kms (including flights)
- c. 2300 events
- 280 – 380,000 people directly present to Cross & Icon

- ***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**

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- 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**

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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.