
JPIC and World Youth Day – SYDNEY
15 July to 20 July 2008

The first World Youth Day (WYD) was held in Rome in 1986 on Palm Sunday. Every two to three years, WYD is taken to an international host city. The week culminates in a Final Mass celebrated by the Pope on the last day (the actual World Youth Day). It is the largest event of the week and, overseas, has drawn millions of people.

Sydney was announced as the host city for the 23rd WYD at the conclusion of the last international WYD in Cologne, Germany in August 2005. This week Sydney is expected to welcome over 125,000 international visitors.

WYD08 events will take place in venues across Sydney throughout the week. Pilgrims will receive morning Catechesis 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. Venues include Barangaroo (East Darling Harbour), Hyde Park, The Domain, Sydney Opera House, Darling Harbour and Circular Quay.

In 1908, one hundred years ago this year, a small group of Franciscan Sisters and Friars, founded the **Church Unity Octave**. Marking 100 years of prayer for Christian Unity, the Franciscan Friars of Australia are hosting a celebration of Christian Unity at their WYD event on Bondi Beach.

The day will be a celebration of Christian and inter-religious UNITY with guest speakers and music artists from around the world. Set with the backdrop of Bondi Beach, pilgrims will enjoy presentations by Cardinal Napier, Sam Clear, The God Squad, The Matt Maher Band, Fr Stan Fortuna and many others.

Key *JPIC* components of the Sydney gathering include:

Preaching by Cardinal Napier. Wilfrid Napier was born in South Africa and ordained a priest in 1970. He first became a bishop in 1980 and in 1992 became archbishop of Durban, a position he still holds. He chose as his Episcopal motto the phrase *pax et bonum* which translated means "peace and goodwill"

Presentation by Robyn Black. Having grown up in the Uniting Church and worshipped for a time at the Assemblies of God Church, Robyn later heard and answered the call of God to become an Officer in the Salvation Army (Minister of Religion). She began her work with the Salvation Army in 1989 working in the outreach service in Kings Cross. From there she spent time in community mental health, worked with families and young people and later in telephone counselling.

Awareness raising by the Climate Institute and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC). The *Climate Institute* is a non-partisan, independent research organisation that works with community, business and government to drive climate change solutions. They research, educate and communicate. The *AYCC* is a coalition of youth -focused and youth-run organisations from across Australia is committed to uniting youth organizations to build a generation-wide movement to prevent climate disaster. They inspire, educate, empower and mobilise young Australians to take action on climate change.

Prayer for World Youth Day 2008

Holy Spirit,
pour out your grace on this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit and grant to us
a New Pentecost. Make of this land a true place of welcome for the young
people of the world. Grant to those young people who come conversion of life,
a deeper faith, and love for all. Enable them to build a new civilization of life,
love and truth.
Make them true witnesses to your power and grace.
Amen.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians – pray for us.
Blessed Mary MacKillop – pray for us.
St. Francis of Assisi – pray for us.

***It is our hope that all Friars in Sydney on 16 July will join the Minister
General and International Friars for this unique Franciscan event.***

Ben Galea, Paul Ghanem ofm, Caitlin King and Sarah Menassa.

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