



australian
CATHOLIC YOUTH
FESTIVAL

ADELAIDE 2015
3-5 DECEMBER



REFLECTIONS



The Australian Catholic Youth Festival logo is made up of six coloured lines and the title of the event. Five lines (burnt orange, green, yellow, orange and red) represents the stories and lives of young people in the Catholic Church of Australia coming from parishes, movements and communities, schools, religious orders and universities. Only together do these lines create a vibrant and exciting image of Australia.

This vibrant image of Australia reflects the energy and enthusiasm of young people, demonstrating the type of gathering the Festival hopes to be. This image also identifies that the Festival is a time of celebration of the full communion of the universal Church in Australia. The title of the event is marked by the Cross. It demonstrates that Christ is at the centre of the Festival and who we are as Catholics.

A sixth line of cyan blue (the same colour as the cross) identifies the Holy Spirit at work in Australian and in the lives of young people. This colour also links to WYD 2008 (logo) where the young people of Australia were called to be disciples and receive the power of the Holy Spirit – a key moment of grace in the life of the Church in Australia.

Photography by Daniel Hooper. © Office for Youth,
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

'Look around you young friends. Look at this hall completely full. The bishops, priests, religious, lay leaders and the young church. Not the church of the future. The Church of today. The Church of 2015 in Australia. Look around you and know that that Church is good, and true, and beautiful, and holy.

Haven't we packed a lot into three days together. Feels to me like we have been away together for a month or more. We have done so much. We have grown so much in faith and hope and love, friendship with each other, and above all, with our Lord.

To all of you, the young church of Australia, thank you for your participation. This Festival was for you, but it was also largely done by young. I pray that your relationship with Christ and the Church, has deepened this week, and that this will be long lasting, so that you emerge with the get up and go to build up Gods Kingdom wherever you live. With BE-Attitudes like purity and mercy, you will do great things and draw many other to Christ.'

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
Australian Bishops Delegate for Youth
Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2015 Closing Mass, 5th
December 2015



Attendees as identified by geographical location

Archdiocese of Adelaide	856
Archdiocese of Brisbane	150
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn	43
Archdiocese of Hobart	25
Archdiocese of Melbourne	479
Archdiocese of Perth	112
Archdiocese of Sydney	487
Diocese of Armidale	7
Diocese of Ballarat	111
Diocese of Bathurst	8
Diocese of Broken Bay	141
Diocese of Broome	4
Diocese of Bunbury	17
Diocese of Cairns	25
Diocese of Darwin	60
Diocese of Geraldton	8
Diocese of Lismore	133
Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle	90
Diocese of Parramatta	181
Diocese of Port Pirie	40
Diocese of Rockhampton	8
Diocese of Sale	67
Diocese of Sandhurst	71
Diocese of Toowoomba	13
Diocese of Townsville	7
Diocese of Wagga Wagga	54
Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes	6
Diocese of Wollongong	98
International	21
Total Registrations	3322





Attendees as identified by their role:

Bishops	18
Exhibitors	195
Exhibitor Coordinators (63)	
Exhibitor Team members (132)	
Group Attendees	2663
Group Coordinators (179)	
Participants (2012)	
Adult Leaders (472)	
Individual Attendees	174
Guests	45
Media	13
Presenters/musicians	71
Workforce	143

Religious participation:

Bishops	18
Priests	92
Religious Sisters	57
Religious Brothers	30
Deacons	10
Seminarians	18
Total	225

Seeing bishops walking around with people, stopping, having a chat with everybody, taking selfies with kids (and not only kids) was amazing. ‘Made them more human and closer to “common” people. Good because they’re often seen as distant and not related to everyday life.

– Participant

THURSDAY PLENARY



The Plenary's were a fantastic way to start and end the day as it really charged the youth up and by listening to different speakers they made better decisions on where they would like to spend their day." - *Leader*







It was very important to me because it was a way for me to learn different areas of the church that's active and discern my vocation

- Participant



My favourite moment was the Northern Territory indigenous face painting. At school, we always talk about Indigenous people and now, to have been painted by one was an incredible experience

- Participant



MEGA WORKSHOPS

Jason Evert gave a practical way to be pure and find pure love. Changed my view on modern relationships and inspired me.

- Participant





Sr. Hilda Scott, spoke to me. She really spoke to me.. I have never heard anyone every speak directly to me and it made sense.

- Participant

FRIDAY MORNING PLENARY



I've always felt uncomfortable dancing, especially around others, but the music, particularly Fr Rob Gales etc. at Plenaries, just got me bursting with such joy that I did so anyway.

- Participant



The opportunity for powerful, vibrant worship is a huge strength of the Festival and the way those days normalize faith and provide a sense of community to the youth participants is fantastic.

- Leader



JUSTICE ACTIVITY CENTRE



I really enjoyed the justice center and when I was making paper cranes, knowing it was for a cause, it relaxed me and helped me take a break in the busy days.

- Participant



Catholic
Earthcare Australia



Reach out. Give life.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works



Loved the stalls in Justice centre- when I visited, people were lovely and stalls were interactive. Loved being able to give back in a small way at the stalls.

- Participant

CHAPEL AND RECONCILIATION



When I went to confession as I have not been since my first reconciliation about 10 years ago. Being able to confess my sin's and be cleansed of all was my favourite moment.

- Participant



FRIDAY EVENING PLENARY



Had a Bishop sit next to me in the Friday night session. Seeing his humility in the way he prayed, laughed danced and entered into all activities was the most encouraging thing for me. He showed me true leadership - not acting all important and things but he event put on one of our promotional tattoos the next day, a truly special Bishop.

- Participant



One of my girls said that she knew (in her head) that God loved her but during one of the Plenary's she experienced an overwhelming knowing (in her entire self) that she was loved by God.

- Leader



The interaction between clergy and youth this was instrumental in creating a tangible link further more the opportunity to engage in topics which are considered taboo.

- Participant



I was so impressed with the Bishops willingness to engage in dialogue with young people - not just talk at them - this is something that was really groundbreaking.

- Leader



FESTIVAL PRECINCT



It allows students that feel in the minority as practicing Catholics as part of something large! It is also a fantastic evangelising occasion.

- Leader





I met a young man from Adelaide at Woolworths working the Wednesday night shift. He asked if I was with the big youth thing and said he wished he was going and had about it from his mother. Two days later I saw him at the Festival with a lanyard. Good news story!

- Leader

SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY



I loved singing, dancing, praising in the plenary because it showed me those who have faith. It strengthened me to love God. I thought not many young people followed Christ. It showed our unity, a sense of belonging, presence of God and the faces of everyone has shown me that I am not alone

- Participant



I had my moment with our Lord and I really felt our Mother's presence before we began the rosary, I basically cried because my mind pictured Mother Mary with open arms looking down on all of us and loving us

- Participant



WORKSHOPS



My most favourite event is the talk of Christians and Muslims relationship and how much of a similarity we are to them and also the fact that they desire peace, faith and spirit and not war and violence like what the media shows/ presents us.

- Participant



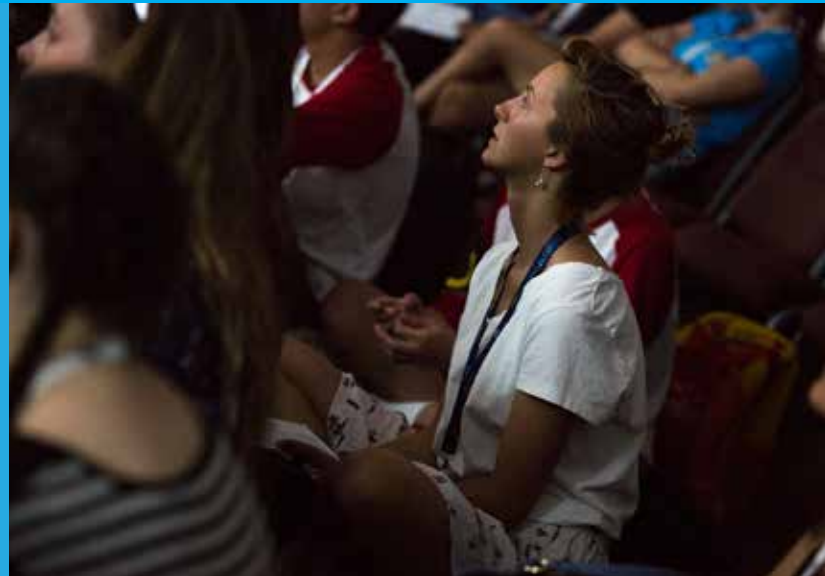
Listening to David
Jorna, learning that
following God and
expressing my faith
can be done in even the
smallest of actions
- Participant



PRAYER EXPERIENCES

Showing the beauty and sacredness of some of the more traditional aspects of our faith, like the rosary, reconciliation and adoration, in an atmosphere of celebration and downright fun, was absolutely wonderful.

– *Leader*





STUDENT LEADERSHIP CENTRE



One student said, that being in Catholic Schools his entire life, he has always gone to Mass, however, closing Mass at ACYF was the first time every word, every hymn, every prayer meant something powerful to him, and not just “going through the motions”. Powerful!!!.

– Leader



SATURDAY EVENING PLENARY



The Mass was brilliant. Showing the beauty and sacredness of some of the more traditional aspects of our faith, like the rosary, reconciliation and adoration, in an atmosphere of celebration and downright fun, was absolutely wonderful.

– Leader



VOLUNTEERS





Amazing job to all organizers, speakers and volunteers

- Leader

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

HOSTING PARTNERS



Presenters

Thank you to all those who presented and performed during the Youth Festival, sharing their gifts and experience with the young people of Australia.

Fr Bony Abraham MGL
Dr Sandra Allen-Craig
Dr Roma Aloisi
Steve Angrisano
Basic Gift
Fr Morgan Batt
Bishop Justin Bianchini
Bishop Paul Bird CSsR
Megan Bourke
Andree Brown
Genevieve Bryant
Cassandra Bull
James Camden
Sr Mary Rachel Capets OP
Fr Anthony Casamento csma
Joseph Catania
Centacare
Katherine Challis
Candace Champion
Anna Chandler
Sam Clear
Archbishop Mark Coleridge
Dr John Collins
Jenny Collins-White
Bishop Peter Comensoli
Pauline Connelly
Aoife Connors
Terese Corkish
Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB
Greg Crafter AO
Fr Ian Cribb
Ehsan Danish
Maverick De Leon
DOJ Worship
Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
Mark Doyle
Phillippee Dulawan
Fr Chris Eaton MGL

Prof Fr Denis Edwards
Bishop Mark Edwards OMI
Mary Elias
Emmanuel Worship
Sr Merideth Evens
Mr Jason Evert
Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
Sr Rachel Fleurants MGL
Fr Auerelio Fragapane
Kate Freeman
Fr Robert Galea
Tessa Ganley
Daniel Giles
Anne Glamazina
Sr Michelle Goh
Jonathan Green
Ashleigh Green
Gus and Iggy
Sowaibah Hanifie
Geraldine Hawkes
Fr Andrew Hayes
Lauren Hichaaba
Anthony Hill
Bishop Gerard Holohan
Sue Holoubek
Teresa Hudson
Bishop Eugene Hurley
Ignite Youth
Bishop Peter Ingham
Jesus Youth
David Jorna
Kym Keady
Stephen Kirk
Alex Knopoff
Patrick Langrell
Steve Lawrence
Fr Richard Leonard SJ
Nadine Levy
Senator Jo Lindgren
Jonathan Lindsay-Tjapaltjarri-Herawan
Mabel Lochowiak
Luminous
Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE
Trish McCarthy

PLATINUM SPONSOR



Br Greg McDonald
Fr Thomas McFadden
Bishop Robert McGuckin
Liam McGuire
Fr Patrick McInerney
Katie McSweeney
MGL Band
Dr Paul Morrissey
Patricia Mowbray
Therese Nicholas
Paul Ninnos
Joshua Nirens
Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ
Bishop Patrick O'Reagan
Bishop Joseph Oudeman
OFMCap
Kelly Paget
Anita Parker
Passionist Youth Retreat Team
Fr Nicholas Pearce
Gary Pinto
Natasha Pinto
Quddus Pourshafie
Madeline Proud
Teagan Pugsley
Marijana Rajcic
Marijana Rajcic
Teresa Rhynehart
Fr Ramesh Richards SJ
Jennifer Robinson
Fr Nicholas Rundle
Fr Chris Ryan MGL
Sr Mary Ryan RSJ
Patricia Yaji Sakamoto
Bishop Christopher Saunders
Sr Hilda Scott OSB
Sr Kathryn Seward RSM
Sr Catherin Seward rsm
Chloe Shannahan
Sisters of Life
Fr Mary Magdalene Soileau OP
Stronger Rally Team
Penelope Sturrock
Francis Sullivan
Miriam Tanios

GOLD SPONSOR



Rev Prof Michael Tate AO
Tony Telford Sharp
Testa Brothers
Lijesh Thomas
Br Rod Thomson
Sr Bernadette Toohy
Rachele Tulio
Steph Unger
Bishop William Wright
Sr Elizabeth Young

INcounter Stall

Thank you to those organisations and ministries who shared how they live out the Gospel in Australia today, inviting young people to join with them to live out their baptismal call.

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Acts 2 College of Mission and Evangelisation
Aid to the Church in Need
Alpha Australia
Archdiocese of Adelaide Office for Youth and Young Adults
Archdiocese of Melbourne Office for Youth
Archdiocese of Melbourne Vocations
Augustian Volunteers
Australian Catholic University
Australian Christian Meditation Community
Australian Young Christian Students
Campion College
Capuchin Friars
Catholic Church Insurance
Catholic Enquiry Centre
Catholic Vocations
Archdiocese of Melbourne Cosmos
CSYMA – Catholic Schools

SILVER SPONSOR



Youth Ministry Australia
Diocese of Darwin Youth Office
Disciples of Jesus
Divine Word Missionaries
Dominican Fathers and Sisters
Edmund Rice Camps
Franciscan Friars
Freedom Publishing
Globus Family of Brands
Harvest Pilgrimages
Ignite Youth
Jesuits
Jesus Youth Australia
Lighthouse Media
Little Sisters of the Poor
Marian Community of Reconciliation (Fraternas)
Marist Youth
Missionaries of God's Love
Missionary Society of St Columban
Net Ministries
Oblate Youth Australia
Parousia Media
Priests Deacons Religious SA
Project Hatch
Real Talk
Salesians of Don Bosco
Servi Store
Sisters of Mercy (Australia & Papua New Guinea)
Sisters of Nazareth
Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres
Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth
Stronger Youth
Vocations Brisbane
Willow Publishing
XT3
Young Christian Workers
Young LaSallians
Youth Mission Team

THANK YOU

“Congratulations! This is one of the best ideas and events the Catholic Church has in Australia, I thank the team that has put the festival together and run it, and a special thanks to all the Bishops for supporting this faithful, uplifting event. The true definition of CATHOLIC!!!” – Leader

“Thank you to the Australian Bishops for meeting and connecting with students at their level. Thanks for calling them holy. Thanks for openly engaging in conversations with them. I know one of my students will always remember the opportunity she had to meet the Bishops and when she returned to the group, she beamed from ear to ear! - Leader

Special thanks goes to:

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference: its commissions, councils, offices and staff. The Bishops Commission for Family Youth and Life, especially its Chairperson and Delegate for Youth, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and its bishops members Bishop Peter Comensoli, Bishop Michael Kennedy and Bishop Mark Edwards OMI. Special thanks also to the previous chairperson of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life, Bishop Eugene Hurly and the bishop members.

Archdiocese of Adelaide: Archbishop Philip Wilson, Archdiocesan Leadership and Staff, Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults, Catholic Education South Australia, Catholic Communications and Southern Cross Newspaper, St Francis Xavier Cathedral staff.

State of South Australian: Governor of South Australia His Excellency The Honorable Hieu Van Le AO, Adelaide Convention Centre and its staff, Adelaide Convention Bureau, Premier Event Concepts

Festival Partners: Catholic Church Insurance, XT3.com, Cosmos

Australian Catholic Youth Council: Benita De Vincentiis, Fr Christian Fini OMI, Elise Ganley, Michael Hart, Shawn van der Linden, Anita Parker, Fr Chris Ryan MGL, Yvette Nehme, Teresa Rhynehart, Malcolm Hart, Gabrielle Sinclair, Alison Burt.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival Steering Committee: Teresa Rhynehart, Malcolm Hart, Gabrielle Sinclair, Sarah Moffatt, James Meston, Annaliese Ros, Heather Carey, Michael Vial, Jenny Brinkworth, Sr Elizabeth Young rsm, Fr Michael Romeo, Joseph Catania, Anne Frawley-Mangan.

Sub Committee and Team Members: Robyn Carroll, Lisa Zuppa, Lisa Bright, Majella Jovanovich, Veronica McCaffery, Bianca Dipilato, Mary Elias, Rebecca DiGirolamo, Josh Rajasingam, Gianna & Brendan Lucas, Aoife Conners, Anne Frawley-Mangan, Tif Orbien, Fr Robert Galea, Edward Bartels, Caitlin Brown, Holly Roberts, Fr Peter Zwaan, Sean McGrath, Stephen Kirk, Michael Mangan, Dan Ryan, Dom Ascoli, Elise Ganley, Rachelle Smith, Belinda Maric, Sr Mel Edwards MGL, Adam Whitefield, Timothy Davey, Patrick Bojanic, Marc Tanilon, Ursula Paul, Patricia and Glenn Mowbray.

Thank you to all those organisations who contributed to the Festival by offering presenters, where involved in the INcounter Expo, and who offered staff and time to make the Festival a success. Thank you also to all volunteers for their hard work, dedication and effort to help to make the event a huge success.

Finally thank you to all those young people and their group leaders who attended the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Thank you for believing in this event and coming in such large numbers. We look forward to welcoming you to the next Youth Festival in Sydney 2017.

Malcolm Hart
Director, ACBC Office for Youth

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2017 Year of Youth 2018



'Some years ago something extraordinary happened to Australia. Many of you were too young to be there. But your older siblings, parents, teachers, group leaders or clergy will remember when hundreds of thousands of young aussies were joined by the Pope and the youth of the world. It was of course World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney. And it is etched in our minds as the happiest and holiest week in the history of our country.

WYD 2008 continues to bare fruit in youth ministries, in priestly, religious and married vocations, and in the evangelical mindset and youthward outreach of our church.

Before we know it, it will be ten years, a decade, since that great moment of grace. I am therefore excited to announce that the Australian Catholic Bishops have decided to celebrate a Year of Youth from December 2017 to December 2018, marking the tenth anniversary of WYD.

This Year of Youth will be dedicated to reflecting on how young people can and do contribute to the life of the Church and society, and how the Church can best be there for them.

That very exciting Year of Youth will be launched by our next Australian Catholic Youth Festival. To be held from the 7th to the 9th of December 2017. I am pleased to announce that the next Australian Catholic Youth Festival will be held in Sydney.

I invite everyone of you, with your peers, your younger siblings, the friends that couldn't be here this time, to join me at the tomb of our first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop; At the mother Church of Australia, St Mary's Cathedral, and amongst the people of the Archdiocese of Sydney and the surrounding metropolitan diocese of Parramatta, Broken Bay and Wollongong, who will welcome you with open arms.

Thank you again young faithful of Australia. See you at my place in Sydney in 2017.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
Australian Bishops Delegate for Youth
Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2015 Closing Mass, 5th December 2015







From 3rd 7th December 2015 over 3300 young people, leaders and teachers, religious and bishops gathered in Adelaide for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. The Festival is a celebration of the vibrant and live giving place of young people within the Catholic Church in Australia.

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is an initiative of the



Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Facilitated by the Bishop's Commission for Family, Youth and Life through the Office for Youth.