



World Youth Day 2008 FACT SHEET

World Youth Day Week Events

Event	Date	Location/ Venue	Detail
Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon	1 July 2007 – 20 July 2008	The World Youth Day Cross and Icon of Our Lady will travel through 20 nations in Asia, Oceania and Australia.	The Journey of the Cross is a year long event that involves the tour of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon of our Lady to 28 Catholic Dioceses in Australia. The Cross and Icon arrived in Australia on 1 July this year to begin its 12 month journey across Australia.
Days in the Dioceses	10-14 July 2008	Dioceses of Australia and New Zealand	<p>Days in the Dioceses is held during the four day lead up to World Youth Day week in each of the 28 different dioceses in Australia (except the Greater Sydney diocese of Sydney, Parramatta and Broken Bay. 'Days in the Dioceses' aims to facilitate a cultural exchange in the context of faith. The local dioceses hold events and workshops which can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with the local Church community • Cultural activities and visits to local sites of interest • Prayer and visits to shrines • Social service projects <p>'Days in the Dioceses' is an important part of the WYD08 celebrations because it brings the event to local Australian communities. It also has benefit of allowing pilgrims to see and experience parts of Australia and Australian hospitality.</p>
Opening Mass	Tuesday 15 July 2008	Barangaroo (East Darling Harbour) Sydney	The Opening Mass of welcome will be celebrated by Cardinal George Pell at Barangaroo. This event is the first gathering of all the WYD08 pilgrims together in the one place and the official beginning of WYD08 week.
Catechesis	Wed 16 July – Fri 18 July 2008	Suburban sydney	The Catechesis sessions are group sessions/ teachings for WYD08 pilgrims in a number of smaller gatherings (from 200 to 10,000 people).

			<p>This event allows pilgrims to absorb the teachings of the Church leaders and grow their understanding of their faith.</p> <p>The catechesis is an important opportunity for the pilgrims to interact with the Church leaders and each other. Church leaders including Bishops and Archbishops from all over the world will all take part in presenting at the catechesis. The catechesis are also organised into different language groups to cater for as many people as possible.</p>
Youth Festival events	Youth Festival events will occur in the afternoons and evenings of WYD week 15-20 July (except major event times)	Youth Festival events will be staged primarily in the Sydney CBD in over 50 venues . Youth Festival venues will include parks and playing fields, churches, halls, galleries, indoor and outdoor performance spaces	<p>The Youth Festival events are a colourful and vibrant aspect of the WYD08 week that offers a chance for pilgrims and the public to take part in a vibrant cultural and spiritual exchange.</p> <p>The Youth Festival is only program where pilgrims are given the chance to actively participate by presenting and performing. They also allow the pilgrims and the public to be involved in cultural activities that bring about a sharing of faith using cultural forms.</p> <p>Youth Festival events will include live music, dance, film, visual arts, street theatre, workshops, guest speakers, and prayer centres concerts, performing and dramatic arts, visual art exhibitions, workshops, forums and debate, guest speakers, film screenings, street performances and community gatherings.</p>
Pope's arrival in Sydney	Thursday 17 July 2008	Sydney Harbour & Sydney CBD	Pope Benedict XVI will make his first visit to Australia for WYD08. This will be the first Papal visit to Australia for 13 years.
Stations of the Cross	Friday 18 July 2008	Sydney CBD	The Stations of the Cross involves the re-enactment of the final journey of Jesus Christ. It begins with the last supper and ends with the crucifixion. This event will be one of the most visually spectacular events of WYD08 and will take place across Sydney CBD.
Pilgrimage walk to Randwick Racecourse	Saturday 19 July 2008	Sydney	The Pilgrimage Walk involves the pilgrims walking to Randwick Racecourse in preparation for the final mass with Pope Benedict XVI. The walk will commence from North Sydney, crossing the Harbour Bridge before finishing at Randwick Racecourse.
Evening vigil	Saturday 19 July 2008	Randwick Racecourse Sydney	Event details to be announced.

Papal Mass	Sunday 20 July 2008	Randwick Racecourse and Centennial Park Sydney	All of the excitement and anticipation of the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims will culminate at the Papal mass. Up to 500,000 people are expected to attend the final mass. For many attending it will be the largest liturgies of their lives and unique because it is celebrating the Eucharist with people of the same faith from all around the world and the Pope.