



# World Youth Day 2008

## FACT SHEET

### **Journey of the Cross and the Icon of our Lady**

#### **The Journey of the World Youth Day Cross?**

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 are the international symbols of the world's largest youth event and arrived in Australia on 1 July 2007, 12 months ahead of the World Youth Day celebration being staged in Sydney in July 2008.

Like the Olympic Torch and the Commonwealth Games Baton Relay, the Cross and Icon travel the world between World Youth Days to deliver a message of hope, peace and unity.

#### **The history of the World Youth Day Cross**

Introduced by Pope John Paul II, the 3.8 metre high wooden Cross was built and placed as a symbol of the Catholic faith, near the main altar in St Peter's Basilica during the Holy Year of 1983. At the end of that year, Pope John Paul gave this cross as a gift to the youth of the world, to be carried through the world as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity.

Since 1984 the WYD Cross has made its way around the world, throughout Europe, behind the Iron Curtain, and to parts of the Americas, Asia, Africa and briefly to Australia, being present at each international celebration of World Youth Day along the way.

In 1994 the Cross began in earnest what has since become a tradition: its year long journey around the dioceses of the host nation of each international World Youth Day, as a means of prayerful preparation for the big event. Heralding these international celebrations of young people, the Cross is now best known as "the World Youth Day Cross".

In 2003, the Icon of our Lady was given by Pope John Paul II as a second symbol of faith to accompany the Cross. Together, they have travelled hundreds of thousands of kilometres to places in need of peace and hope.

#### **Where and when will the Journey take place?**

The World Youth Day Cross and Icon of Our Lady will travel through 20 nations in Asia and Oceania and will arrive in Australia on 1 July 2007.

The Cross and Icon have most recently travelled through the African continent and are currently moving through 22 nations in South East Asia and Oceania on a tour that will culminate in New Zealand in June.

The World Youth Day Cross is currently on a journey across the African continent. It will arrive in the region in early 2007 travelling through Oceania before landing in Australia in July 2007 to commence its journey around the nation where it will visit the 28 Dioceses in Australia before coming to Sydney in July 2008.

#### **Where will the Journey take place in Australia?**

Sydney's role as host of WYD08 started with the Handover of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon of Our Lady on Sunday 9 April 2006 following the traditional Palm Sunday Mass in St Peter's Square, Rome.

The Australian itinerary starts on 1 July 2007 in Sydney and includes approximately 400 communities, visiting every Catholic diocese over a 12-month period before arriving at the World Youth Day opening Mass on 15 July 2008, in Sydney.

As on previous journeys, the World Youth Day Cross and Icon will travel to some of the host country's most beautiful and historic places including:

- Penola, South Australia, where Mother Mary MacKillop founded the Josephite Order of Nuns;
- The Great Barrier Reef;
- Parliament House, Canberra; and
- The Northern Territory, where it will travel from Darwin to Alice Springs on the Ghan.

### Proposed Australia Itinerary

Proposed Date	Diocese / Location
1 July 2007	Sydney
9 July 2007	Broken Bay
16 July 2007	Parramatta
23 July 2007	Maitland – Newcastle
31 July 2007	Lismore
8 August 2007	Toowoomba
17 August 2007	Brisbane
30 August 2007	Rockhampton
8 Sept 2007	Townsville
17 Sept 2007	Cairns
26 Sept 2007	Darwin
5 Oct 2007	North South National Pilgrimage (The Ghan)
11 Oct 2007	Port Pirie
20 Oct 2007	Ballarat
29 Oct 2007	Wilcannia Forbes
7 Nov 2007	Adelaide
18-30 Dec 2007	National Schoolies Mission
Dec 2007 - Jan 2008	Greater Sydney Cathedrals, National Conferences, Festivals, Communities, Orthodox Engagement
26 January 2008	Armidale
7 February 2008	Bathurst
16 February 2008	Canberra & Goulburn
27 February 2008	Wagga Wagga
7 March 2008	Sandhurst
25 March 2008	Wollongong
18 April 2008	Sale
26 April 2008	Melbourne
11 May 2008	Hobart
21 May 2008	Perth
27 May 2008	Bunbury
10 June 2008	Geraldton
19 June 2008	Broome
1 -15 July 2008	Sydney Walk in Countdown Pilgrimage

Details of the Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon can be found at [www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org)