



Krakow WYD 2014

SYMBOLS

Meeting's Place	Protagonists
	
Meeting's Theme	Logo's colors
	

The logo is enclosed in the outline of Poland with a cross in its centre representing Jesus Christ, the spirit of the meeting. The yellow circle marks Krakow on the map of Poland and also the youth. The spark of the Divine Mercy flows out of the cross, its shape and colour refer to the painting 'Jesus I Trust in You'. The colours used in the logo refer to the official colours and crest of Krakow.

EFFECTS OF WORLD YOUTH DAYS AND CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVALS

Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney this year published his findings on the effects of young people's participation in large scale youth gatherings, a phenomenon that has significantly changed the culture of youth ministry in Australia over the last decade. Following are some key excerpts from this document:

Archbishop Fisher begins with the query, "It is legitimate to ask whether all the planning, effort and expense put into WYD and ACYF are worth it."

Research shows that religious youth festivals such as WYD represent a "small-scale remnant" of what used to be the norm whereby adolescents went through a stage of religious socialisation and continued to construct an identity based, at least in part, upon their religious heritage and upbringing. (Mason, "Converts at World Youth Day," p. 20).

Through their mission experience, catechesis, liturgies and the rest, WYD challenges, feeds and commissions young Catholics. Such festivals give young Catholics a kind of "Catholic intensive".

Recent studies by Mason, Rymarz and Cleary all indicate that these effects upon WYD pilgrims are not only very positive but also enduring. Pilgrims move from a passive and pick-and-choose attitude to the Church, to "an active and committed model of affiliation".

The Australian Catholic Youth Council is strongly of the view that youth ministry across our country is in a much healthier position than it was before WYD.

This document is available in the resource centre or for download at:

<http://www.xt3.com/library/list.php?categoryId=40>

"Those adolescents who choose to be Catholic will need far more support if they are to maintain that identity than previous generations needed."

- Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP

SYNOD

The need to engage young people in the life of our parishes continues to be a key talking point of synod sessions. Many parish reports called for discussion around strengthening the connection between parish, school and home, posing questions for Synod such as: "How do we attract, invite and welcome young people to be active members of our parishes?" and "How do we mobilise our parish communities to support our youth on their journey of faith?"

A significant accomplishment of this year's synod session was the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee whose task it is to create a Pastoral Plan for the diocese through an in-depth consultation process overseen by Bishop James and involving clergy, parishes and diocesan agencies.

The Pastoral Plan will be an effective vehicle for carriage of future pastoral strategies, including youth ministry. During the August synod session, a small working group developed S.M.A.R.T. strategies (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic, Time Bound) around youth ministry. These and other ministry strategies will be incorporated in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan that will be presented to Synod next year in draft form for comment.

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Cairns CYM 2014 Annual Report

By Anne Chellingworth

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2014 has been a year of consolidation for Catholic Youth Ministry in Cairns. Links between CYM and our diocesan schools have strengthened, and the profile of Catholic Youth Ministry continues to build across our parish communities. Throughout 2014, I have worked closely with the CYM Reference Group in developing strategies to engage our young people in the life of the church and we were encouraged by the fabulous support that the recent Jesus@theJack event received.

One significant milestone of 2014 has been the increase of my hours from 2 days to 3 days per week— certainly an indication of the value which our diocese places on youth ministry.

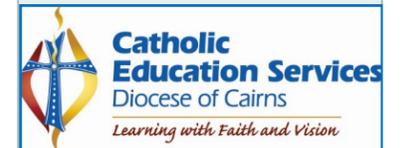
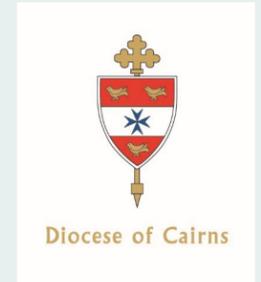
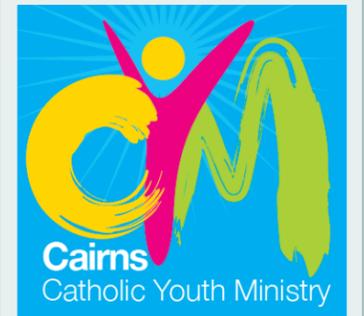
An ongoing role of youth ministry is identifying and building up local leaders and Cairns CYM has been proud to support three young people's attendance at different formation events occurring around Australia: St Monica's College student, Matisse Coyle, attended the 12th Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association Student Conference in Melbourne, Patrick Heritage from St Clare's parish in Tully attended the Ignite Conference in Brisbane and JCU student Rachael Knight is currently participating in a month long Youth Leaders Formation Course run by Catholic Youth Services in Sydney.

Another key aspect of my work this year has been meeting with a number of Parish Pastoral Councils and other key parishioners who have expressed interest in revitalising youth ministry in their local communities.

A major focus for 2015 will be extending this type of support across the diocese, by promoting the youth ministry resources that are available to parishes, as well as facilitating targeted information and training sessions for anyone keen to get involved in this important and rewarding ministry.



Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator, Anne Chellingworth (bottom left), at the Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention



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2015 DATE CLAIMERS

Jesus@theJack.—first Monday of the month:
Mon 2 Feb
Mon 2 March
Mon 4 May
Mon 1 June
Mon 3 Aug
Mon 7 Sep
Mon 2 Nov
The NET National Team will be in the diocese between July 28—Aug 15. School bookings now open.
Project Hatch available for school bookings between Monday 18th May — Friday 22nd May .
Australian Catholic Youth Festival: 3 — 5 Dec.

We pray that with the whole Church that we can meet the challenge of providing coming generations with reasons for living and hoping.

Gaudium et Spes #31 Vatican Council II

Today, we need a Church capable of walking at people's side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a Church which accompanies them on their journey... but we need to know how to interpret, with courage, the larger picture.

Pope Francis

WYD Rio de Janeiro, 2013

JESUS@THEJACK

It was a delight to see so many young adults enjoy themselves at the Union Jack hotel for the diocese's first Jesus@theJack event.

On Nov 3, around 40 young adults (including some 'young at heart'!) enjoyed the laid back atmosphere, wholesome conversation and great food at The Jack. Fr Neil inspired us in the beer garden with his reflections on what it means to 'be church' and some friendly games of pool ensued.

Our next 3 Jesus@theJack events will be held on Mon 2nd Feb, Mon 3rd March and Mon 4 May, beginning at 6:30 pm.



YEAR 12 VISITS

I continue to visit the year 12 students in our Catholic colleges across the diocese. The purpose of my time with these students is to invite them to stay connected to the church community after they have left school through the Cairns CYM facebook page and various youth ministry events.

Though a significant proportion of students do not identify with having a personal faith, the overwhelming majority consistently report that they have appreciated the Christian values and community atmosphere of whichever school they are at. It is also interesting to note the growing number of students who identify with being "spiritual" but not "religious".

NATIONAL NETWORKING AND FORMATION

From the 3rd to the 5th of October, I attended the Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention (ACYMC) held in Adelaide. ACYMC is Australia's premier Catholic youth ministry specific training and formation event.

Over 300 participants heard from inspiring and informative keynote speakers, celebrated Mass together and participated in a wide range of workshops.

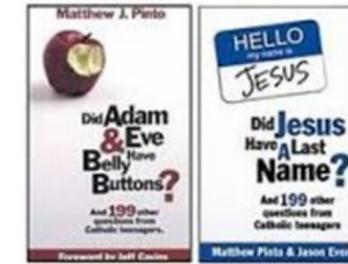
The event was an incredible opportunity to connect with stakeholders outside of their immediate network. It was fantastic to see people from different dioceses, parishes, movements, communities and organizations, all connecting in one place to be formed in their faith and to assist each other in the development of ideas for youth ministry throughout the broader Church. It will be exciting to see how the Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Framework is developed from this Convention, as well as the many other initiatives that are growing throughout the country.

Immediately following the convention, I met with Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinators from around Australia for their Annual Membership Meeting. The Australian Network of Diocesan Youth Ministry Co-ordinators (ANDYMC) is a network of member dioceses that exists to foster the development of youth ministry within dioceses and nationally across the Catholic Church in Australia.

Both of these events provided excellent formation and networking opportunities and we are excited to be hosting the 2015 ANDYMC gathering in Cairns next August.

YOUTH MINISTRY RESOURCES

A number of new resources for youth and young adults have been purchased throughout the year and are available in the Diocesan Resource Centre.

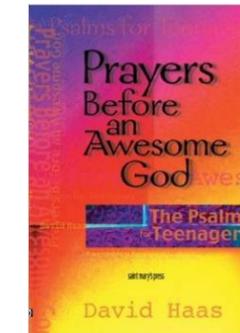


Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?

With more than 110,000 copies sold, *Did Adam & Eve Have Belly Buttons?* is the number one book for Catholic teens. It offers today's young Catholic 200 clear and insightful answers to questions about the Catholic faith. This book captures the attention of teens by directly addressing their concerns, misconceptions, and challenges.

Prayers Before an Awesome God.

David Haas brings the joy of the Psalms to life in a language that teens can understand. Haas not only helps young people find meaning in the Psalms but also shows them how to incorporate the Psalms into everyday life. These Psalms can also be used for any occasion that calls for prayer in a group setting.



Australian Catholic Youth Ministry

The experience of youth ministry in Australia is extremely diverse and challenging at times. This resource is a sharing of knowledge by those with expertise and experience in youth ministry to ensure that youth ministers have a comprehensive understanding of their important role and appreciate their significance for the future of the Catholic Church in Australia.

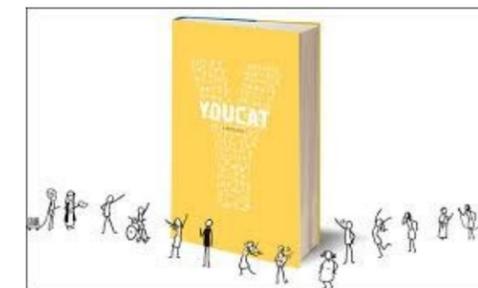


Youcat

The tremendously popular, global Catholic youth phenomenon YOUCAT--Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church--now has an easy-to-use companion study guide. The YOUCAT Study Guide is excellent for classroom use, youth group discussions, or personal study.

The YOUCAT - Youth Prayer Book, helps young people to live their faith and deepen their spiritual lives. The book includes modern, new prayers, along with traditional prayers, and the time-honoured prayers of Holy Scripture.

The Youcat, study guide and prayer book are all available for borrowing through the resource centre.



Other titles now available include: **Living the Questions Jesus Asks: A Guide for Teens** by John M. Vitek, **Total Youth Ministry** by Anne Marie Eckert, **Models for Youth Ministry** by Steve Griffiths, **Effects of World Youth Days and Catholic Youth Festivals** by Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney and **An Introduction to the Theology of the Body: Discovering the Master Plan for Your Life** by Christopher West.

It is essential that Church leaders study the culture and language of youth, welcome them and incorporate the positive aspects of their culture into the Church's life and mission.

St John Paul II

Ecclesia in Oceania #44

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

(Luke 4: 18-19)