

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY UPDATE

Preparing & Gathering!

Preparations are underway around the Diocese in the many groups of youth, young adults and their leaders who are travelling to Adelaide for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival that starts on Thursday, December 3. Preparation includes not only practical information about what to take, but also spiritual preparation and leadership formation. Amanda Smith has recently led sessions with the Ballarat group leaders and the Mildura Youth group. Also on Saturday 21 November there was a large gathering of the Ballarat group for Mass with Bishop Paul, followed by lunch and formation/information. Mike Toohey from St Patrick's College and Amanda led sessions, then parents arrived and Ben Van Styn, Diocesan Youth Worker, shared all the practical information. Two large bus loads of young people will be travelling from Ballarat with two stops along the way to pick up some other groups. Separate groups are travelling from Hamilton (and nearby parishes), Mildura and Colac. In all one hundred and thirteen from the Diocese are attending the Festival, including Bishop Paul. A big thank you to all the parishes and schools who have supported their young people to attend.



The Mildura Youth Group rehearses their Gospel Procession for the Mass of Christ the King.



Packing up the WYD stall after the Polish Festival at Federation Square. Victorian WYD Project Coordinator Leeanne Grima is on the right.

In other news, registrations for World Youth Day are being received every week and it looks like there will be a strong contingent from Ballarat participating in the Victorian WYD Pilgrimage to Krakow Poland in July 2016. As a member of the Victorian WYD Pilgrimage Steering Committee, Amanda spent an afternoon on the World Youth Day Stall at the recent one-day Polish Festival in Federation Square. Around 30,000 people were estimated to be there, enjoying Polish music, dancing and food and visiting the stalls. The WYD stall was busy all day with the life size Pope Francis being a highlight and a great talking point (and photo opportunity).

Information about the Youth Festival and WYD is on the Diocesan website Youth and Young Adult Ministry page www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or contact Amanda on youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Amanda Smith
Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival logo is made up of six coloured lines and the title of the event. Five lines represent the stories and lives of young people in the Catholic Church of Australia coming from parishes, movements and communities, schools, religious orders and universities. It is only by putting these lines together a vibrant and exciting image of Australia is created. A sixth line of cyan blue (the same colour as the cross) identifies the Holy Spirit at work in Australia and in the lives of young people. This energetic image reflects the enthusiasm of young people, demonstrating the type of gathering the Festival hopes to be.

The title of the event is marked by the Cross. This demonstrates that Christ is at the centre of the Festival and of who we are as Catholics.

