

World Youth Day pilgrims from the Ballarat Diocese joined with pilgrims from the Dioceses of Sale and Sandhurst and the Archdiocese of Melbourne for a final Formation Session in Melbourne on July 3. Family and friends then gathered with the pilgrims for the Commissioning Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne where Archbishop Denis Hart commissioned the pilgrims in a moving ceremony. Bishop Paul Bird was one of the concelebrating Bishops at Mass.

After Mass, the pilgrims received their 'pilgrim packs' including tickets, a WYD Journal, the green Australian WYD t-shirt and the gold Victorian WYD sun hat, both very helpful for spotting the Victorian pilgrim group in a crowd of a million or more!

The four Victorian dioceses have joined together to go to World Youth Day in Krakow Poland as a whole Victorian Pilgrimage of three hundred and sixteen pilgrims and leaders. There are twenty-two pilgrims from Ballarat Diocese including Stacey Atkins, one of the pilgrimage leaders and six 'early career' teachers from Catholic Education Ballarat. Fr James Kerr and Fr John Corrigan are joining the group as pilgrimage chaplains. Sr Teresa Nguyen, a Sister of Nazareth who has recently moved to live in Ballarat, is also chaplain on the pilgrimage. Fr Ed Moloney, now based in Melbourne at Corpus Christi Seminary, has also been appointed as a chaplain as part of the group from the seminary.



The Victorian pilgrims are travelling by four different pilgrim routes to get to Krakow where they come together as the whole Victorian pilgrimage for the events of WYD week culminating in Mass with Pope Francis on Sunday 31 July. One of the pilgrim routes is the Days in the Diocese program where pilgrims stay with families in a host Polish Diocese for five days, experiencing Polish life and culture in a program of activities and faith events. The Victorian group is being hosted by the Diocese of Przemysl in the south-east corner of Poland. Pilgrim Rebecca McGrath, a teacher at Emmanuel College Warrnambool, has been busy making gifts for their hosts at Przemysl. The design for these keyrings and magnets draws on images from Warrnambool and features words which are central to faith and which are also the Emmanuel College motto.



The Diocese of Ballarat wish all pilgrims a wonderful experience for their journey to Krakow and pray that they celebrate God's love and mercy at World Youth Day 2016. *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Matthew 5:7*

WYD events are being live streamed <https://www.xt3.com/live/> 26-31 July. You may wish to have a **WYD At Home** event in your parish or school to view WYD live (or later when it suits you).

*Amanda Smith - Ballarat Diocese WYD Coordinator*

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### Prayer for World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow

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**“God, merciful father,  
in your son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed your love  
and poured it out upon us in the Holy Spirit, the  
comforter,  
we entrust to you today the destiny of the world and of  
every man and woman.’  
We entrust to you in a special way  
young people of every language, people and nation:  
guide and protect them as they walk the complex  
paths of the world today  
and give them the grace to reap abundant fruits  
from their experience of the Krakow World Youth Day.  
Heavenly Father,  
grant that we may bear witness to your mercy.  
Teach us how to convey the faith to those in doubt,  
hope to those who are discouraged,  
love to those who feel indifferent,  
forgiveness to those who have done wrong  
and joy to those who are unhappy.  
Allow the spark of merciful love that you have  
en-kindled within us  
become a fire that can transform hearts and renew the  
face of the earth.  
Mary, Mother of Mercy, pray for us  
St John Paul II, pray for us.”**



Photo 1: Ballarat Diocese pilgrims Kristy Brown (left) from Warrnambool and Georgia Kirby from Horsham (originally Edenhope) wearing Victorian pilgrim hats & with Australian Pilgrim t-shirts.

Photo 2: Ballarat Pilgrims with Bishop Paul

Photo 3: Design for the gifts that Rebecca McGrath is making to take to 'days in the diocese' hosts in the Diocese of Przemysl

Photo 1 and 2 :Peter and John Casamento