

**Reflection on ACYF from Fr Bill Lowry:**

After my fourth experience of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), I am all the more convinced of its value in encouraging the youth of Australia to love and share their gift of faith.

I was moved particularly by the response of the pilgrims to the times of prayer throughout the festival. So many were visibly overcome by the encounters they had with God and were so involved in the periods of communal praise and worship.

These 'grace moments' were especially apparent to me also when watching the constant traffic entering the Adoration Chapel and in celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation in the Mercy Park complex.

This fourth ACYF experience, my first as a priest has really encouraged me in my ministry to be attentive to the individual faith journey of each unique person, be they young or old.

Each one of us encounters God in different ways, and our parishes should be reflective of that. We can and must employ all the spiritual and physical resources available to us to amplify God's love story that can engage and possess any human heart.

Especially the hearts of fallen away Catholics, those on the margins and of course of our young people.