



CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS

WYD LOCAL
CELEBRATION
GUIDE

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE WYD LOCALLY?

Here is an excerpt from a blog post from the National Centre for Evangelisation that explains the reason for the annual WYD date change, and why there is a need to celebrate locally:

"Thirty-five years after the establishment of WYD, after listening to various opinions and consulting the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, which is responsible for youth ministry, I have decided, beginning next year, to transfer the diocesan celebration of WYD from Palm Sunday to Christ the King Sunday."

- Pope Francis, Remarks at the Conclusion of Holy Mass, Christ the King 2020

A move away from Palm Sunday for the local celebration of WYD finally gives youth ministers across the country a chance to celebrate and highlight young people's contribution to the life of the Church without needing to balance it precariously alongside our spiritual preparation for Holy Week.

Most importantly, the announcement of this new date means the Church can more intentionally integrate a comprehensive engagement with, immersion in and celebration of young people as highlighted in the General Synod on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment. You can read more [here](#).



How to celebrate and include young people in your Parish:

- Read Pope Francis' message for WYD and share it with your parishioners
- Invite a young person to give the homily/gospel reflection on The Feast of Christ the King
- Celebrate the young people at your parish by asking them to come to the front and receive a blessing and a small gift
- Host a listening forum with young people in your local community and find out what matters are important to them.
- Invite young people to give a presentation about something important to them
- Make copies of *Christus Vivit* available to parishioners and community members and then offer a book study
- Invite the young people of the Parish to co-edit the newsletter for the week
- Work with a local social agency (e.g. Vinnies) to plan a service and justice project.
- Plan a school-parish prayer, morning tea, or service project.



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

YOUNG PEOPLE

When we talk about young people, we are talking about those who are somewhere between the ages of 12 and 35.

- 12-14 Early Adolescence
- 15-18 Youth
- 18-24 Emerging Young Adults
- 25-35 Young Adults/ Young Professionals

The time of youth and young adulthood is marked by transition and change, discernment and life choices (study, work, vocation, family life, etc.).

ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

During the 2021 Diocesan Assembly Consultation, these are the themes that young people ages 16-29 told us they are most concerned about:

- The Church reaching out and accompanying young people
- Ecological justice and action against climate change
- Belonging and relationships in parishes
- Mental health concerns
- Formation and spiritual development
- Dialogue and listening with young people
- LGBTQIA+ matters and inclusion

ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Engaging with young people is about building relationships and accompanying them for the long-haul. It's not about replacing one's self in the parish, or even ensuring the parish has enough people to stay viable. Reaching out to, and including young people in the life of the faith community is about sharing the transforming love of God, being an authentic companion, and sharing in life with someone. Young people want a community to belong to, opportunities to grow in faith and personhood, and the ability to serve, lead, and share their gifts.

FOR MORE...

Visit the Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults blog for more ideas, information and support for reaching out to and accompanying young people.

www.cathoyouthadelaide.org.au/blog

The Coyya logo consists of the word "coyya" in a lowercase, white, sans-serif font, centered within a large, solid orange circle. The background of the entire page features a faint, light green floral pattern.

coyya

Prayers and Blessings for Young People for World Youth Day

Lord Jesus,

On this World Youth Day we turn our attention to all the young people of the world.

We pray that they might boldly take charge of their lives,
aim for the most beautiful and profound things of life
and always keep their hearts free.

Accompanied by wise and generous guides,
help them respond to the call you make to each of them
to realise a proper plan of life and achieve happiness.

Keep their hearts open to dreaming great dreams
and make them concerned for the good of others.

Like the Beloved Disciple, may they stand at the foot of the Cross,
to receive your Mother as a gift from you.

May they be witnesses to your Resurrection
and be aware that you are at their side as they joyously proclaim you as Lord.
Amen.

-Adapted from Pope Francis' prayer for young people in preparation of the 2018 Synod of Bishops

Blessing of Young People:

*Invite young people between the ages of 12 and 30 to stand.
Ask the assembly to raise their hands in blessing over young people.*

God of Love,

You have blessed this community with the gift of young people,
and we are truly grateful for each one of them.

We give youth thanks for their energy, joy and passion;

As well as the gifts they share with our community;

May we learn from the example of these young people.

Bless each young person in this community with wisdom for discernment,

Patience for the journey of life,

and courage to be witnesses to you and your love in the world;

And may we be willing to accompany them along the way.

Grant us the strength to support these young people through their challenges and sorrows,
and to celebrate their joys and achievements.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

RESOURCES

Local WYD Toolkit from the USCCB (USA):

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/usccb-christ-the-king-guidebook.pdf>

Articles

- **Local WYD moves to new date:** <https://nce.catholic.org.au/the-bridge/the-bridge/local-world-youth-day-celebration-moves-to-new-date>
- **Reimagining local world youth days:** <https://nce.catholic.org.au/the-bridge/the-bridge/reimagining-local-world-youth-days>

Pope Francis' message for WYD 2021:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/youth/documents/papa-francesco_20210914_messaggio-giovani_2021.html



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