

a message of **hope**

THEME

**"YOU WILL BE BAPTISED WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT" ACTS 1:5**

Dear young friends,

We are now one year away from our journey to WYD08, an event that will alter us all for ever!

With the opening of individual registrations on 20 July, we are driving our preparations inexorably hurtling like a train towards our meeting 12 months away there is a danger of reducing the event in our minds to a logistical task only. Vital questions such as 'how are we going to raise the money in time?', 'can we manage to arrange our transport?', or 'how can we gather young people into our group?', are certainly occupying your minds as well as our energy. As they should.

Let us pause for a moment and take this opportunity to reflect that the theme given to us by the Holy Father is instructive in relation to all these questions and others: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). When the early Christians were "baptised in the Holy Spirit" they were plunged into the life of grace, into power itself, who is the person of the spirit of God, they were launched inexorably into a mission like a blazing fire setting the whole world on fire for the love of Jesus Christ.

In Australia, bushfires are a normal part of life and can be very destructive. There are also native seeds that only germinate after the bushfires because their hard

shells cannot be penetrated otherwise. The Holy Spirit works as a purifying fire to allow to destroy and to bring life. The symbols for the Spirit at Pentecost were experienced as fire and wind, a sure recipe for a good bushfire! When Jesus promises to "baptise" us in the Holy Spirit, be sure that His desire for us is to draw each one into himself and to send us on an adventure whirlwind of fire, to be "his witnesses to the ends of the Earth".

Hold on and get ready for the ride, do not be afraid, because God is our Father and he will be with us no matter what. Jesus I trust in you!

See you in a year!

**BISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP,
WYD08 COORDINATOR**



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PILGRIMAGE

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faith foundations

THE CHURCH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

At the end of St Matthew's Gospel, Jesus as he returns to the Father at **His Ascension** assures his disciples, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

This assurance of Jesus' continuing life-giving and healing work in His Church is accompanied by His commission to the disciples that in **His Name**, they continue His saving work in time: "making disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) and proclaiming "repentance and forgiveness of sins..." (Luke 24:47).

Since that time, Christians understand that they are not to keep Jesus to themselves but must help all people to know Jesus Christ and His saving love and presence in the Church. This is the task of **evangelisation**.

Jesus promised that this work and His presence would be made possible by His gift of the **"Advocate"/"Paraclete"** who is the **"Spirit of Truth"** (John 16:7-15) known to Christians as the Third Person of the **Blessed Trinity, God the Holy Spirit**.

The Acts of the Apostles describes the coming of the Holy Spirit like "tongues of fire" upon the Disciples in the Upper Room (or **Cenacle**) on the day of **Pentecost** (Act 2:1-13). It is the Holy Spirit who continues to animate and unite the Church through her leaders and through her faithful.

Each person Baptised in Christ, is "remade in Him" and receives special gifts and strengths of the Holy Spirit. **The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit** are the personal graces of **wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and awe for the Lord**.

The graces of the Holy Spirit are also called "charisms". These were identified in the New Testament (Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12: 4, 30f; 1 Tm 4:14, 2 Tm 1:6; 1 Pt 4:10). The charisms are particular spiritual powers freely and often surprisingly given by the Holy Spirit at different times in response to the needs of others and particularly in order to revive, build up, purify or restore the work of Christ in the Church.

Charisms appear in the Church's history especially in times of crisis. The charisms of healing, encouragement, discernment of spirits, mercy, organisation, preaching, prayer, and wisdom in the lives of Saints Dominic, Francis, Teresa of Avila, Vincent de Paul and Mother Teresa and in notable figures such as **Jean Vanier and Dorothy Day** ignite movements and new institutions within the Church which shine the Gospel to the world.



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pilgrim prayer

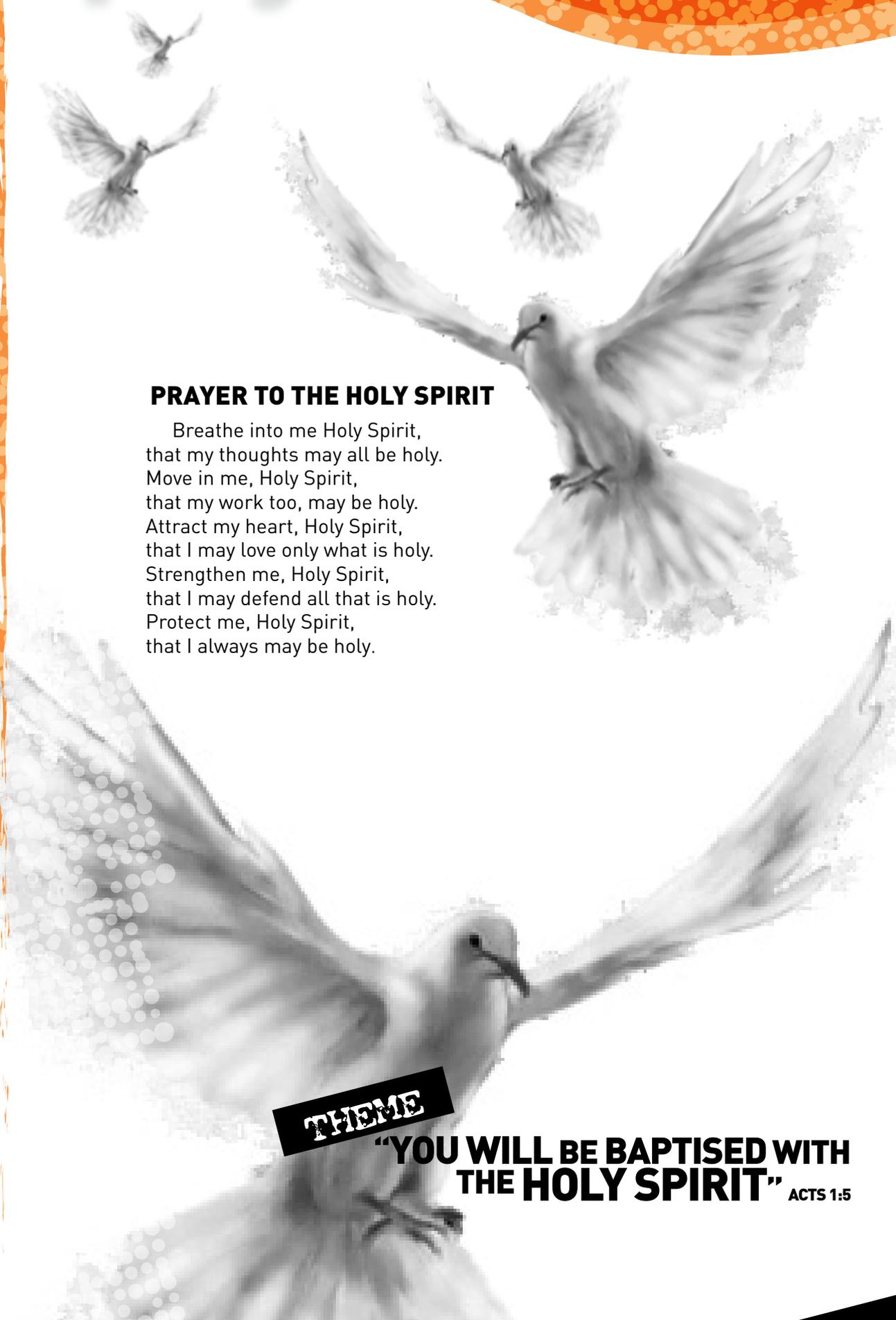
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PILGRIMAGE



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PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Breathe into me Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may all be holy.
Move in me, Holy Spirit,
that my work too, may be holy.
Attract my heart, Holy Spirit,
that I may love only what is holy.
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit,
that I may defend all that is holy.
Protect me, Holy Spirit,
that I always may be holy.

THEME

**"YOU WILL BE BAPTISED WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT"** ACTS 1:5

inspired writings

HOMILY OF PENTECOST VIGIL 2006, POPE BENEDICT XVI

[To view the papal message in its entirety, click here.](#)

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God the Father, the Spirit of God the Son Jesus Christ, the Spirit who unites the Father with the Son in Love, which in one God gives and receives. He unites us so closely that St Paul once said: "You are all one in Jesus Christ" (Gal 3: 28).

With his breath, the Holy Spirit impels us towards Christ. The Holy Spirit acts corporeally; he does not only act subjectively or "spiritually".

The Risen Christ said to his disciples, who supposed that they were seeing only a "spirit": "It is I myself; touch me, and see;

for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" (cf. Lk 24: 39).

This applies for the Risen Christ in every period of history. The Risen Christ is not a ghost, he is not merely a spirit, a shadow, a thought, only a memory. He has remained incarnate - it is the Risen One who took on our flesh - and always continues to build his Body, making us his Body. The Spirit breathes where he wills, and his will is unity embodied, a unity that encounters the world and transforms it.

In his Letter to the Ephesians, St Paul tells us that this Body of Christ, which is the Church, has parts (cf. 4: 16) and even names them: they are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (cf. 4: 12). In his gifts, the Spirit is multifaceted - we see it here. If we look at history, if we look at this assembly here in St Peter's Square, then we realize that he inspires ever new gifts; we see how different are the bodies that he creates and how he works bodily ever anew.

.....

"It is I myself;
touch me, and see;
for a spirit has not
flesh and bones as
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(cf. Lk 24: 39).

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"The Day the Holy Spirit Visited Marjorie and her People"
Artist Marjorie Liddy from Tiwi Islands, NT.

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testimony of faith

CORINNE, ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

A friend said to me before I left for WYD Cologne, "it will change your life, you will never be the same".

With that expectation in mind, I embarked on my first-ever pilgrimage. Having travelled before, I thought I knew what to expect. However I went with the National Antioch Pilgrimage, as Antioch has been part of my life for seven years. As I was soaking up the Antioch spirit on the plane trip to our first destination (Rome), I quickly realised this was not going to be a normal travel experience.

The presence of the Holy Spirit was so hard to ignore it was almost tangible.

We arrived in Rome at 6am and straight away went on a tour of Rome, stopping at St Peter's Basilica, the heart of the Catholic Church. I thought this would be a great place to send some prayers up regarding my future. Whilst praying for what path I was meant to take, the name of my parish was loud and clear. This confused me for so many reasons, although it eventually made a lot of sense... more on that later.

My most memorable moment on pilgrimage before Cologne, was having Mass in the Crypt at St. Peter's Basilica. Behind our altar was St Peter's tomb creating a wonderful backdrop. Beside us was JP II's tomb. The presence of the Holy Spirit was so hard to ignore it was almost tangible. I took that feeling throughout my entire pilgrimage and everyday when we celebrated Mass that powerful sense of the

Holy Spirit stayed with me. And still to this day, I look at Mass in a very special way as I continuously feel that power during each and every Mass I attend.

As all Australians on pilgrimage to WYD, the announcement of "SYDNEY 08" has got to be a highlight, and for me definitely! I could write a book on the amazing atmosphere and that still won't cover it all. The final Mass with Pope Benedict however, was the best example of our Catholic Church, the Universal Church. That moment while celebrating my faith with people from all over the world, seeing the AUSSIE flags in the midst of a sea of represented countries showed me in every way what UNITY means.

When I heard the announcement I realised we have an amazing opportunity to show Australia the "true spirit of unity", we can share in this "true spirit of unity" aka the Holy Spirit, and we will receive power! So now back to the prayer about my future, When I returned home, I had a meeting with my priest and at the conclusion of that meeting I walked out as a youth minister for my parish. The answer to my prayer then made sense. Now, I run the youth group and youth activities in my parish, and my life has changed. So it is true, it will change your life, you will never be the same... GET READY AUSTRALIA!!!!!!



saints and witnesses

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Born: 1181 or 1182 Town of Assisi, Umbria, Italy

Died: 3 October, 1226 in Assisi.

Patron Saint of Italy, of Animals, of Nature and Ecologists and many other places and things.

Francis of Assisi, with St Dominic, started one of the key spiritual renewals in the history of the Church. Francis was born into a wealthy merchant family. A lively young man, he enjoyed the adventure and glory of his status. During a local war Francis was taken as a prisoner and became ill and experienced a conversion to the radical call of the Gospel.

While praying at the **church of San Damiano**, Francis heard Christ call to him from the crucifix "Go and rebuild my house..!" Instantly and joyfully he threw himself into giving away all his possessions to the poor, devoting care to the sick, restoring local churches and drawing followers to his labours and way of life.

Francis centred his growing community around the tiny **Church of the Portiuncula** on the plains outside Assisi. In **Matthew 10:7-19**, and the words of Christ to the Rich Young Man, he found the pattern for **his Poor Brothers** or

Friars Minor.

With the approval of **Pope Innocent III**, Francis drew up a rule for an Order given to humble dispossession, concrete charity, utter simplicity of life and the preaching of conversion back to the core of the Gospels. His movement spread like a fever across Italy and beyond. His close friend **St Clare** founded a feminine arm of the Order.

Between 1212 and 1217 Francis, risking almost certain death, attempted to carry the Gospel to the Muslim rulers of Syria and Egypt. The Sultan was intrigued by him but not converted. During his travels Francis probably met the other great spiritual reformer of the time, the founder of the **Friars Preachers, St Dominic**.

In 1221 the Rule of the Friars was revised and a Chapter of between 3,000-5,000 friars met in Assisi to receive the rule.

At Christmas 1223 Francis made popular the



Francisco de Zurbarán. **St. Francis Kneeling**. 1635-39. Oil on canvas. National Gallery, London, UK. Wasn't able to seek permission, web site unavailable.

ceremony of the **Christmas Crib**. On **Mount Della Verna** the next year, Francis received a mystical solidarity with Jesus on the Cross and was the first saint to receive the excruciating marks of Christ's wounds - **the stigmata**.

Francis blinded and ill, was more deeply taken in prayer and knew that his life was ending. He led the friars in singing his **Canticle of the Sun**, in blessings, last visits and the reading of the Gospel. He died a deacon preaching the love God and the blessings of poverty. His compelling character and life left an indelible mark on Christian spirituality and history.

The Church recently celebrated the 800th anniversary of the conversion of St Francis, and Pope Benedict XVI visited Assisi and met with young people there to commemorate the event.

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PIGGRIAGE

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place of pilgrimage

THE UPPER ROOM/THE CENACLE

Where: *South west Jerusalem, Israel.*

The **Cenacle** is derived from the Latin word: **cenaculum or dining room**. It is an extremely ancient and important site marking the place where the Holy Eucharist was instituted by Jesus, where He began his Passion and where the Church was formed by the Holy Spirit at **Pentecost**. Sadly the site has for much of its history been subject to destruction and strife between Christians, Muslims and Jews.

The Dining Room is described in the Gospels (Mark 14:15; Luke 22:12) and in the Acts of the Apostles (1:13), using the Greek word: **anagion/ huperion** (upper room). The room, which probably belonged to one of his followers, was chosen by Jesus to be the place where he would celebrate the traditional Passover Meal with his disciples before his arrest and death. At this **Last Supper**, Jesus' actions and words transformed the Jewish meal of commemoration into the **redemptive sacrifice** of his own Body and Blood, **The Eucharist**.

After the Resurrection and return of Jesus to the Father at **The Ascension**, the disciples, the relatives of Jesus and the Virgin Mary came together "praying constantly" in the "upper room", where they were filled with amazing new gifts from the **Holy Spirit** (Acts 2:1-14 ff).

Archeologists have discovered the remains of a Jewish Christian synagogue (75-100 AD) around the Cenacle. There is also evidence of a larger Church, the **Hagia Sion** built by the Christian emperor in the 4th century, which was later destroyed by the invading Persians.

Today the Cenacle is attached to what remains of the even larger three-naved Gothic Church, **St Mary Mount Sion** (1110-1219) which was built by the Crusaders who travelled from Europe to fight and reclaim the **Holy Places** of Palestine for Christianity.

In 1330, the **Franciscan Order** (founded by St Francis of Assisi) negotiated with the Muslim authorities of that time to purchase and rebuild the ruins of the Cenacle. However with every new Sultan the fortunes of the Franciscan Guardianship altered, until in 1528 the Franciscans were driven out of Mount Sion by the invading



Turkish Muslim forces. The Cenacle was converted into a Mosque.

In 1936 and again in 1960 the Franciscan friars rebuilt a monastery and **chapel of St Francis** near the Cenacle. On the 23rd March, 2000 (during the great **Jubilee Year**) **Pope John Paul II** was permitted to celebrate the first Mass celebrated at the Cenacle for over 600 years.



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PILGRIMAGE



towards WYD 08

G'DAY!

Arrival of WYD Cross and Icon to Australia

On 1 July, the WYD Cross and Icon arrived in Australia with the handover from the New Zealand delegation to the Australian delegation at the airport. Prime Minister Howard, Premier Iemma, Archbishop John Dew from Wellington, and Archbishop Phillip Wilson spoke on the significance of the arrival. The Cross and Icon were then taken to Mary MacKillop Place, to pray for the intercession and patronage of Blessed Mary MacKillop. The Australian and New Zealand Youth delegations then made a pilgrimage from Mary MacKillop Place to Darling Harbour for the official welcome. At Darling Harbour the WYD song was performed live for the first time by Guy Sebastian and Paulini as part of a concert

prior to the arrival of the Cross and Icon. This was followed by a moving liturgy led by Bishop Fisher, and concluded with reverencing of the Cross and Icon. The 6pm Mass at St Mary's Cathedral was celebrated by Archbishop Wilson. The Journey of the Cross and Icon travelling team were commissioned during the mass. At the conclusion of veneration after Mass, the Cross and Icon were handed over to the youth of the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Registration

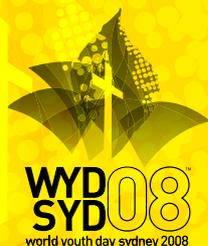
Over 100,000 people have now registered for WYD08, and it is fantastic to see that they are coming from all over the world. We currently have groups that have registered from Palestine, China, Bolivia, the

Wallis and Fortuna Islands and thousands from Europe. The nation with the largest number of registrations is still the USA with over 27,000 pilgrims estimated by their group leaders – and they are from all over the US including Alaska and Hawaii.

If your group hasn't registered yet – there is no better time than NOW!! All you have to do is go to the website www.wyd2008.org and register as a group leader and let us know the details for your group.

If your group has already registered, get ready for individual registrations which open in the next few weeks.

But what ever you do - **register.**



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Special offers for pilgrims from WYD08 business partners

Last month we announced that our business partners would be making special offers available to Pilgrims. The first of these is now available.

Travel insurance is an important item you need when coming to Australia, and we are aware that this can be expensive particularly from the US or Europe. Two of our partners, Global Assist and World Nomads have provided a special travel insurance package for pilgrims which is up to 50% less than commercial rates. They both offer full travel insurance packages including flight disruption, full medical, lost baggage, lost cash and all the other things that could conceivably go wrong on a big journey. Details of the packages are available through the registration section of the website www.wyd2008.org.

More offers will be announced next month.

HomeStay

HomeStay is flying in the greater Sydney area. We are extremely pleased with the support from the parish

priests in the Archdiocese of Sydney, and the three metropolitan dioceses of Sydney, Parramatta, Broken Bay and Wollongong, with the appointment of HomeStay coordinators in their parishes. Many parishioners have already registered their homes to welcome our international visitors.

Sydney residents may have heard radio announcements on 2GB and the community radio stations supporting the HomeStay program. If not, these will be running again later in the year.

HomeStay provides such a wonderful opportunity to meet with people from around the world and other parts of Australia. It's a major part of WYD08 and you wouldn't want to miss it!

July 20

July 20 marks "One Year to Go" to the final mass with Pope Benedict XVI. A special event will be held at St Patrick's Church in Sydney featuring a "Holy Hour of Power" and an opportunity for people to be one of the "first to register" for the pilgrimage to WYD08. Events will be held around the country to mark this special occasion.

SEE YOU IN SYDNEY IN 12 MONTHS!!

Plenary Indulgence

WYD Cross and Icon

The Holy See has granted a **Plenary Indulgence** for the WYD Cross during its journey in Australia. Indulgences are particular expressions of the mercy of God, and are linked to the effects of the Sacrament of Penance.

The forgiveness of sins restores our communion with God, which is ruptured by serious sin. Unhealthy attachments developed by sins, great and small, require purification in this life or in the next. These the Church calls "temporal punishments due to sin."

This purification takes place through patient bearing of trials and sufferings, through charitable and merciful acts, and through prayer.

The Church, as the minister of Christ's redemption, dispenses graces – including indulgences – from the treasury of the gifts given by Christ, through his death and resurrection, and makes them available to those seeking them with sincere heart.

Indulgences are not magical, like all graces they require the proper disposition to receive them. They certainly cannot be bought or sold and are of no effect if the recipient is not truly repentant and forgiven.

Like all gifts, material or spiritual, given by God, they are to be shared for the building of Christ's body, whether on Earth, in purification on the way to Heaven, or in eternal happiness.

Those in Heaven don't need our help, but those in Purgatory do, so we can receive an indulgence for ourselves or for them. The saints in heaven, particularly Mary, the Mother of God, can be of great assistance to us by their prayer forces; but we can also assist others by our prayers for them.

Spiritual movements express themselves through physical actions. For the "Plenary" or full indulgence to be obtained, certain physical actions expressing or accompanying the right attitude are required. For the newly granted WYD indulgence to be received, people should:

- Devotedly take part in a sacred ceremony carried out publicly in honour of WYD cross solemnly exposed or at least be attentive in the presence of this cross by means of access in a public place either in a large crowd or alone
- Celebrate Sacrament of Penance (10 days before or after).
- Receive Holy Communion (10 days before or after).
- Prayer for the Pope's intentions
- Recitation of Our Father, the Creed and prayerful invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (one Hail Mary)

Like the woman who touched Jesus' garment in faith, she was healed, as power went from him. Or like St Thomas who was invited to put his hand in the side of Christ and his fingers into the holes made by the nails, his unbelieving heart learnt to believe that Jesus was "Lord and God". (cf CCC 1471-1479)

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PIENARANCE

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