



Preparing for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival as part of the Northern Region Collective!

The **Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)** is a national gathering of young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC). It provides young people with an opportunity to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples in the world today, and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia.

The third ACYF will be held in Sydney from 7-9 December 2017, and will be the biggest Festival yet! 15,000 participants are expected to join the Festival and it will be the biggest Catholic gathering in Australia since World Youth Day Sydney in 2008. The Festival will also launch the 2018 Year of Youth. **The Australian Catholic Bishops are calling all young people from year 9 (in 2017) up to the age of 30 to join in this celebration of the Catholic Church in Australia!**

The Festival will be interactive and engaging, and participants are able to attend a wide range of activities across the three days. Each day there will be main plenary sessions where all participants gather together to celebrate as one group. Workshops will cover a wide range of topics of interest to young people, including social justice, music and ethical issues. There is also an interactive expo where young people can engage with Catholic movements and organisations. In addition, participants have the opportunity to experience different spiritualities and forms of prayer including meditation, adoration and praise, led by experienced facilitators and talented Catholic musicians. International musicians **Matt Maher** and **Steve Angrisano** will be headline acts. The Festival will culminate in a pilgrimage across Sydney Harbour Bridge and a huge open air Mass at the Domain gardens in the heart of Sydney.

For more information on the Festival visit youthfestival.catholic.org.au

Parish groups from the Northern region of the Archdiocese of Melbourne are invited to work together in organising a group to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. For more information contact Leanne at Leanne.grima@cam.org.au.

The following groups have confirmed their participation as of 20 May 2017:

Group name	Estimated numbers
The Vine, Ascot Vale	4-6
St Matthews Youth Group, Fawkner North	4-6
Regina Coeli, Cragieburn	4-6
St Francis de Sales Youth Group, Oak Park	4-6
Good Shepherd Youth Group, Gladstone Park	4-6
Total	20-30

Leadership:

Each parish group should have a nominated Group Coordinator. This person will:

- **Liaise with the AOY and attend panning meetings if required**
- **Manage the registration process on behalf of their group members, including collecting information and submitting information to Festival organisers through the online registration system**
- **Be the contact person for participants from their parish (and possibly from neighbouring parishes)**
- **Collect all payments from participants in their group and transfer to the Festival organisers or other suppliers as necessary.**

The Group Coordinator does not need to attend the Festival. Leaders accompanying the group to the Festival will include experience youth ministry leaders who have obtained Police Checks and Working With Children Checks.

Accommodation:

The parishes of the northern region have been allocated a limited number spaces (approximately 25) at the Sydney Olympic Park Lodge which has been fully booked by the Melbourne Archdiocese to accommodate young people from Melbourne for the duration of the Festival. Depending on final numbers, additional accommodation will be explored at motels/hotels.

Transportation:

The participating parishes have confirmed they wish to carpool to Sydney to minimise costs. Various bus hire options have been explored. The group is open to anyone willing to lend a mini-bus!

Tentative costs:

Final costs will be determined by final numbers.

Registration	\$220	*\$220 is the early bird registration and includes attendance at the Festival and access to all venues and experiences. Registration does not include food. Early bird registration from the Festival closes on 18 August. Full price registration is \$250.
Accommodation	\$180	\$180 covers accommodation at Sydney Olympic Park Lodge. Alternative accommodation options may need to be explored pending final numbers.
Transportation	\$150	*Petrol costs will be shared among participants, and will be finalised <i>after</i> the conclusion of the Festival.
Food	\$150	This is based on 13 meals at apx \$12 per meal.

Groups are encouraged to budget **\$650-\$750 per person** to attend the Festival. Groups are responsible for their own fundraising (ie. any funds raised by a youth group or donated by a parish will only be used to support members of the parish group). It is recommended that fundraising continue through to September and be used to help cover accommodation and transportation expenses. By securing participation registration with the early bird price, you are encouraging them to be actively involved in the fundraising efforts of your group.

Tentative Festival schedule:

Wed 6 Dec	Drive to Sydney departing AM
Thu 7 Dec	Melbourne gathering Opening Plenary (Sydney Olympic Park) Festival Experience
Fri 8 Dec	Morning Plenary Festival Experience Evening Plenary
Sat 9 Dec	Morning Plenary Festival Experience Pilgrimage to Domain Gardens and Closing Mass
Sun 10th Dec	Drive back to Melbourne

Registration process:

Northern region parishes participating in the Northern Region Collective will adhere to the same schedule for registration and payments:

Key dates	
Now until 4 August	Promote the Youth Festival in your parish!
21 July	Accommodation application due (for AOY accommodation - estimated numbers required only)
4 August	Registration forms and registration payment due
22 September	Accommodation payment due
23 September	Leaders attend ACYF Leaders' Preparation Day
3 December	Attend ACYF Commissioning Mass as part of your Festival preparation
6-10 December	Australian Catholic Youth Festival!
15 December	Transportation payment due

Promoting the Youth Festival in your parish

To promote the Youth Festival, you can:

- Play the Festival video to your youth group / at a parish mass
- Display posters in your parish
- Speak at your youth group / parish pastoral council / at a parish Mass
- Have an AOY staff member speak to your youth group / parish pastoral council / at a parish Mass
- Have a former ACYF participant speak to your youth group / parish pastoral council / at a parish Mass
- Distribute Festival cards to young people / at a Mass
- Personally invite young people you know
- Distribute the Participant Information and Forms and communicate the 4 August due date to secure places.
- Borrow the ACYF pull-up banner and outdoor banner

If you need more cards / posters, contact the AOY at aoy@cam.org.au.

Apply for Festival Accommodation

To assist with planning, individual parishes in the northern region collective are asked to complete an application with their estimated numbers by 21 July. Visit <http://www.cam.org.au/youth/ACYF-2017/ACYF-News/Article/21588/Whats-new-for-ACYF2017> for more information.

Apply for Leader Subsidy

The AOY is offering limited subsidies for leaders. Limit of two per group. Visit <http://www.cam.org.au/youth/ACYF-2017/ACYF-News/Article/21588/Whats-new-for-ACYF2017> for more information.

Registrations forms and registration payment

- Participants Complete the 'Registration Form' and 'Parental Consent' form if applicable and send to Group Coordinator.
- Group Coordinator to provide details to collect the \$220 Early Bird registration fee. Payments for participants are due before **4 August**. Payments for the online Festival system are due by 18 August.
- The Group Coordinator will register participation details with the Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

NOTE: Any registration forms received after 4 August are subject to availability and liable for the full registration fee of \$250.

Accommodation payments

- Once participant numbers have been determined (by August 4), Group Coordinators will determine whether additional accommodation needs to be secured.
- Group Coordinators will send confirmed accommodation details, pricing and transfer details to participants.
- Accommodation payments from participants are due by 22 September.

Festival preparation

- Participants are required to attend the Melbourne Commissioning Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on 3 December.
- Groups may arrange their own additional meetings / fundraising events.

Transportation payments

- Following the Festival total petrol costs for transportation will be calculated and divided per participant.
- Group Coordinators will forward final transport costs and transfer details to participants for payment by 15 December.

CHECKLIST FOR GROUP COORDINATORS:

- Confirm who is the Group Coordinator and send details to Leeanne at leeanne.grima@cam.org.au**
- Apply for AOY accommodation JULY 21**
- Register your group with ACYF. Enter registration portal via <http://youthfestival.catholic.org.au/register>:**
 - Create an account**
 - Create your 'Group Coordinator Profile'**
 - Register yourself as the Group Coordinator**
 - Register your group**
- Apply for AOY Leader Subsidy**
- Promote ACYF at your parish and secure participants (with payment) AUGUST 4**

For up to date Festival information visit: www.cam.org.au/youth/ACYF-2017/Overview and www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au