



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

Individuals (aged 18-30 years) from parishes in the Northern region of the Archdiocese of Melbourne are invited to join a group of young people travelling together as a Northern Region Collective to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. For more information contact Leeanne at the Archdiocesan Office for Youth at Leeanne.grima@cam.org.au or (03) 9287 5574.

Program details

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 of those who choose to join the Northern Regional Collective, additional accommodation will be explored at motels/hotels.

Transportation:

To minimise costs, participants in the Northern Region Collective will be carpooling to Sydney in private vehicles.

Tentative costs:

Final costs will be determined by final numbers. Approximate costs are as follows:

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.

Individuals are encouraged to budget **\$650-\$750 per person** to attend the Festival. Individuals are responsible for their own fundraising. It is recommended that fundraising continue through to September and be used to help cover accommodation and transportation expenses.

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

Individuals participating in the Northern Region Collective will adhere to the same schedule for registration and payments. Individuals are encouraged to try and find other young people from their home parish to join the Festival experience. For further information about registering as a group, contact Leanne at Leanne.grima@cam.org.au.

Key dates	
Now until 4 August	Promote the Youth Festival in your parish!
21 July	Accommodation application due for AOY accommodation
4 August	Registration forms and registration payment due
22 September	Accommodation payment due
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 cards / posters, contact the AOY at aoy@cam.org.au.

Apply for Festival Accommodation:

To assist with planning, individuals participating in the Northern Region Collective are asked to complete an application for accommodation by 21 July. Visit <http://www.cam.org.au/youth/ACYF-2017/ACYF-News/Article/21588/Whats-new-for-ACYF2017> for more information.

Registration:

To confirm participation in the Northern Region Collective and be eligible for early bird registration of \$220, registration and payment must be completed by August 4. Any registration forms completed after 4 August is subject to availability and liable for the full registration fee of \$250.

To register, go to registration portal via: <http://youthfestival.catholic.org.au/register>. Select Individual Registration option. Please contact Leeanne Grima at Leeanne.grima@cam.org.au to confirm that you wish to participate in the Northern region Collective.

Accommodation payments:

Once participant numbers for the Northern Region Collective have been determined (by August 4), Group Coordinators will determine whether additional accommodation needs to be secured. You will receive additional information and payment details. Accommodation payments are due by 22 September.

Festival preparation:

Participants are required to attend the Melbourne Commissioning Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on 3 December. The Northern Region Collective may arrange additional meetings.

Transportation payments:

Following the Festival total petrol costs for transportation will be calculated and divided per participant. You will receive payment details. Payment is due by 15 December.

CHECKLIST FOR INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS BY AUGUST 4:

- Confirm that you wish to participate in the Northern Region Collective by sending your details to Leeanne at the Archdiocesan Office for Youth at leeanne.grima@cam.org.au
- Apply for AOY accommodation by JULY 21
- Register yourself with ACYF and complete payment by AUGUST 4. Enter registration portal via <http://youthfestival.catholic.org.au/register>

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