

WORLD 08 YOUTH DAY

Ballarat Diocese - October 2007

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The Cross, Icon and Message Stick are Coming!

The goal of the Journey of the WYD Cross, Icon, and Message Stick is to proclaim the Good News of God's love in Christ to the young people of Australia and to prepare them for World Youth Day in Sydney 2008. As the WYD Cross and Icon have journeyed through countries around the world, there has been intense and creative activity to make maximum use of their visits. This has included a variety of religious, cultural and civic events.

The Australian journey of the Cross, Icon and Message Stick started on 1 July 2007 in Sydney and includes approximately 400 communities around Australia, visiting every Catholic diocese at least once over a 12-month period. The Australian journey invites all youth to encounter and learn from the Aboriginal Spirituality of our country.

The Cross, Icon, and Message Stick will be received from the Diocese of Port Pirie by the Ballarat Diocese at the South Australia / Victoria Border at noon on October 20th 2007. They will travel south to the coast and back north again to the Murray River where they will be handed to the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes at noon on October 29th 2007.

Parishes are holding events focused around the WYD Cross, Icon and Message Stick. During school days, schools will be able to come together around the Cross. Other events, such as pilgrimage walks, river journeys, sharing stories, and prayer services will be centrally located to allow maximum participation. Events around the WYD Cross are particularly designed to allow as many young people as possible to touch the WYD Cross.



WYD08 Message Stick

At the suggestion of the WYD08 Indigenous Advisory Committee a Message Stick will accompany the World Youth Day Cross and Icon during their year-long journey around Australia. The Message Stick is from the Aboriginal Catholic communities of Sydney to the indigenous youth of Australia. Message sticks were used to relay messages to people of other Aboriginal Nations. They are made from wood, and can vary in size and shape from 20cm and 60cm long. Some are cylindrical with tapered ends while others are just flat sticks. Most message sticks have incised patterns and can be simple notches to intricate geometric designs. Others may be elaborately painted.

Message sticks could be used to extend invitations to initiations, funerals and sacred ceremonies. A message stick could issue a challenge to settle a dispute, to invite people to feasts, explain where a group had gone, or be a simple request for trade.

The purpose of the WYD08 Message Stick is to invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to attend World Youth Day in Sydney.

The content of the message is:

"You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others".

(Pope John Paul II, Message to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, Alice Springs, 1986)

The WYD08 Message Stick is an invitation from Sydney Aboriginal Catholic communities as the host, to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth across Australia to join in the celebration of WYD08 on the country of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

See over the page for a map showing when the journey comes through or near your home.



Experience this once in a lifetime opportunity and get involved in the Journey of the Cross, Icon, and Message Stick in your Parish.

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20th October 2007
Noon - Hand Over from Port Pirie Diocese, at the border. Sharing stories; entrusting of the Cross, Icon, Message Stick.

Journey of the Cross, Icon and Message Stick Ballarat Diocese - Awakening Connections



Prepared by Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne & CFAR (03 9480 3849), adapted with permission from Lismore Diocese work.



Yellow names indicate the Traditional Aboriginal Lands

MERBEIN - *Nyeri Nyeri*
20th - Historic Homestead / Board Paddle Steamer on Murray

MILDURA / RED CLIFFS - *Nyeri Nyeri*
20th - Vigil & sleepover

Hand over to Diocese of Wilcannia - Forbes NSW
29th - Noon - People accompany Cross, Icon & Message Stick to hand over point at the Murray River.

OUYEN - *Jari Jari* - 21st - Prayer

SWAN HILL - *Wati Wati - Wamba Wamba*
28th & 29th - Parish liturgy / communal dinner; walk from MacKillop to St Mary's then celebration.

HOPETOUN - *Wotjobaluk*
21st - Mass, Prayer, Lake Lascelles BBQ, procession through town

WYCHEPROOF - *Dja Dja Wurrung*
28th - Procession, mass, entertainment

HORSHAM - *Wotjobaluk*
21st & 22nd - Mass; Reflection on the journey of Cross; Celebration of YWD

ST ARNAUD* - *Dja Dja Wurrung*
28th - Prayers

HALLS GAP / THE GRAMPIANS - *Djab Wurrung*
22nd - Hosted by Stawell & Ararat commies: Prayer, meal, fellowship, liturgy, art exhibition, reflection, music.

MARYBOROUGH - *Dja Dja Wurrung*
27th - Ecumenical prayer service

HAMILTON* - *Burinجا*
23rd - A morning stop

BALLARAT* - *Wathaurung*
26th & 27th - Eureka Stockade; St Alipius; schools celebrations; Cathedral all night vigil and celebratory morning mass.

PORTLAND - *Gournditch-Mara*
23rd - Beach gathering, procession; all night vigil

COLAC* - *Gulidjan*
25th - Welcome

All are welcome to come and join in the journey.

CAMPERDOWN* - *Kirrarwhurrong*
25th - Welcome

FRAMLINGHAM - *Gournditch-Mara*
24th - Sharing of the Message Stick with the Community

WARNAMBOOL - *Kirrae & Gournditch-Mara*
24th & 25th - Lake Pertobe: school activities & Civic Reception; Civic Green music, concert, Mass, sleepover, breakfast/prayers

12 APOSTLES / GREAT OCEAN ROAD *Kirrarwhurrong*
25th - Welcome

* Towns with a black border include communities which have formally taken custody of an Aboriginal Message Stick for use in community liturgies.