World Youth Day highlights

What’s in the green bags? Loaves & fishes?

How do you feed 200,000 people for a week? On loaves and fishes of course!

A space age microwave cassette/curry meal and chocolate bars can also help get the job done.

Throw in a meat pie on the first day for some Aussie flavor and don’t forget the lamingtons, (fellow pilgrims I know you won’t buy lam’s for a while!)

In Australia where many of our pilgrims can afford to make choices about what they eat, having a standard meal each day was one part of understanding what pilgrimage was about.

A standard lunch bag for six – you collected six tokens and took them to collect the green bag - six bread rolls, tins of tuna and baked beans, a chocolate bar each - Tim Tam fingers, Wagon Wheels, Dairy Milk bars, cheese, a carton of soft drink, a packet of lamingtons, cup cakes, or lemon slice.

Breakfast was cereal with UHT milk, tea and coffee, tetra juice, fruit cups and muesli bars and some fruit. Also bread rolls with jam, no butter, no vegetables.

One of the microwave tents, each fitted out with dozens of microwave ovens to heat meals.

Dinner - These were collected from the tents at the major sites, with microwave casseroles or curries, Gluten free and vegetarian were available.

Again six bread rolls, lamingtons and cans of Deep Spring soft drink. My group decide to have a night out and skip the provided meal only to end up in an Indian restaurant cafe near central station, go figure!

The cafe was run by a very friendly Muslim family. I think we were after a quiet place and some rice!

The green bags became collectors’ items with many travelling home to carry stuff (WYD merchandise) and to be gifted to mum for the shopping!

Thoughts on Barangaroo concert

By Ashleigh Hilder
St Francis Xavier College

It was just amazing! I love that so many people can gather together in a positive atmosphere.

I have been surprised by the amount of friendly people. I have enjoyed meeting people today and the concert tonight.

It’s amazing to see other people have faith and realise the importance of friends. I think the whole WYD will make my faith stronger.

My biggest challenge has been coping with lack of sleep.

A Cranbourne student’s reflection

By Rachel MacDonald, 16
St Peter’s, Cranbourne

After a bumpy start our pilgrimage began and an unforgettable journey got under way.

Once we had arrived at our accommodation for the week we set up camp and attempted to have a good night’s sleep – even if it was on a concrete slab. It wasn’t luxury but we always kept in mind on thing, we were pilgrims not tourists.

The week was an amazing one.

Catechesis sessions helped strengthen my faith and my understanding of who I am as one of God’s children. Receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation normally I wouldn’t go into great detail but at WYD I felt compelled to really let it all out, and it was a huge weight off my shoulders.

Visiting Mary Mackillop’s tomb gave me an insight into how tough life really is for some people and it made me appreciate the life I have been given. The arrival of our Holy Father brought tears to my eyes, as he is such an amazing person in the things he does and what he represents.

It was a privilege to be such an amazing trip with a group of people which I hardly knew and I became closer to those which I had not expected to. Language barriers were non-existent because we all had a common ground, our faith.

The many pilgrims which I met from many countries helped me strengthen my confidence to talk to people from all backgrounds and to not hold back. To see so many people from all over the world unite, to be together as God’s children, and to receive the Holy Spirit was truly inspirational.

It was sad to see the week come to a close, and to part from the people we became close to. Many barriers were non-existent.

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