

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL



• MELBOURNE, VICTORIA • 30 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER 2025 •

Media release

10 September 2025

Full program released for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is pleased to announce the release of the full program for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), taking place from Sunday 30 November to Tuesday 2 December 2025 at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

The Festival is set to welcome thousands of young Catholics, along with their leaders, bishops, clergy, religious and representatives from ecclesial groups and organisations from across Australia. Together, they will gather in a vibrant, joyful celebration of faith and community.

While the program has traditionally been released after the close of registrations, organisers have made the schedule available earlier this year to support planning and preparation, particularly for regional and interstate groups.

Program highlights

The 2025 Festival program features a dynamic mix of returning favourites and exciting new elements, including:

- *Welcome to Melbourne Festa* at St Patrick's Cathedral where pilgrims can pray with the World Youth Day Cross and Icon, walk the pilgrim path, and enjoy live performances and activities around the Cathedral precinct.
- *An official welcome and prayer* led by the Bishops of Australia.
- *A pilgrimage walk* through the heart of Melbourne's CBD, accompanying the World Youth Day Cross and Icon to the Festival venue.
- Inspiring *plenary sessions*, bringing all pilgrims together for powerful moments of prayer, celebration and keynote input.
- "*Choose Your Own Adventure*" activities, featuring hundreds of options including workshops, forums, social justice activities, games, an interactive Expo, and prayer experiences.
- A final *Commissioning Mass*, sending young pilgrims forth on mission to their communities.

Key milestones

With registrations now open, preparations are well underway, with key milestones including:

- Confirmation of further keynote speakers.
- 100 engaging workshop sessions finalised.
- 70% of the 100 Expo & Justice Centre exhibitor spaces already secured.

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Confirmed workshops include:

- Surge of the Heart: How to Pray – with Katie Prejean McGrady
- Can Real Love Win? – with Melinda Tankard Reist
- The Life-Changing Power of Real Friendship – with Tara Wall & Peter Munns
- Evangelisation at the Dawn of AI – with Joshua Angrisano
- Being Pilgrims of Hope for Refugees – with Kristen Lazarus
- How to Hear God's Voice – with Sr Mary Grace SV
- How to Hope When the World Gets Dark – with Sam Clear

A message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

As preparations ramp up for the Festival, Melbourne's Archbishop Peter A Comensoli expressed his excitement about welcoming pilgrims in November.

"We can't wait to see the streets of Melbourne alive with thousands of young pilgrims from all across Victoria and Australia during this great Jubilee Year of Hope. To all who are preparing for the Festival – in our schools, parishes and communities – thank you for your dedication and support. We joyfully await your arrival this November!"

For more information or to access the full Festival program, further workshop details and speaker bios, please visit: www.acyf.org.au.

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