

Youth At Chatswood

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Editor Update—Fran



Dear readers,

This will be the last time I write before the next YAC in 2 months' time. Firstly, I'm very excited to say that I along with many others will be in Madrid not too long from now! I too am very thrilled about going to WYD 2011 having been to my first WYD in 2008 in Sydney. I'm looking forward to meeting all sorts of different people and creating new friendships.

Secondly, here is a list of youth other than me who are going on pilgrimage if you don't know who they are already:

- Michelle Yeong
- Elaine Phang
- Jeremy Tagle
- Ryan Balboa
- Marius Hiu
- Carla Fitzgerald
- Karen Columbia
- Emerald Desa

I ask you to pray that we have a safe and fulfilling pilgrimage at World Youth Day 2011. I will definitely be praying for that and I hope that we come back inspired to do great things in our Parish and in Australia.

Finally, in this edition of YAC we have not just our interns contributing to the contents but we have also Carla Fitzgerald who is a young parishioner I had the pleasure to meet while attending WYD meetings this year. I also hope you enjoy the photos we had from our Commissioning Mass taken by Jez.

~Fran.



Some Thoughts...



It seems like the next two weeks are going to be hectic as we prepare for Madrid and try to pack light for the Spanish summer in Madrid where we could be sizzling in the sun. So we've just received our travel documents and flight tickets after the Commissioning Mass on 20th July, and the trip is now not so far away.

We're supposed to pack 23 days' worth of clothing, 1 sleeping bag, 1 sleeping mat, swimming gear, toiletries and a gift for our host family..

I have a feeling I'm going to miss home very much and my bed... oh yeah! And you too Mum! HEHEH =]

I'm not sure what to expect, I guess I'm looking forward to sightseeing in Spain, learning about its history and exploring different parts of Madrid. Perhaps, I'll learn to be more independent having to look out for myself and others in a different city.

Our 400 hours of recorded service has finally come to an end. But I'm sure you'll continue to see some of us hanging around in the parish after Madrid.

See you when I see you! .Chelle

ANNOUNCEMENT!!

Rez is our new **Reading Roster Manager**. She is looking for some enthusiastic people to proclaim God's word every week! There are openings for people to read the 1st and 2nd reading and Prayers of the Faithful. You only have to commit your time to around once a month.

Please contact Teresa a.k.a. Rez via **0412 885 553** or teresarose16@hotmail.com.

PLANTED AND BUILT UP IN JESUS CHRIST, FIRM IN THE FAITH (ST. PAUL)

World Youth Day 2011 has 10 Patron Saints to guide you on your journey to Madrid; here are 9 of them in brief detail.

St. John of the Cross (1542-1591):

After joining the Carmelite order in Spain, St. Teresa of Avila asked St. John to help her reform movement to bring the order back to a life of prayer. But many Carmelites felt threatened by this and some members kidnapped him, locking him in a cell and beating him. After nine months, he escaped. From then on, his life was devoted to sharing his experience of God's love.

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556):

A cannon ball and a series of bad operations ended this Spanish soldier's military career in 1521. While St. Ignatius recovered, he read the lives of the saints and decided to dedicate himself to becoming a soldier of the Catholic faith. Soon after, he experienced visions, but a year later suffered a trial of fears and scruples, driving him almost to despair. Out of this experience he wrote his famous Spiritual Exercises. St. Ignatius founded the Jesuits.

St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552):

Born in Spain, St. Francis Xavier was the son of a wealthy and noble family. At university, he met St. Ignatius Loyola, who convinced him to use his education and talents to spread the Gospel as a Jesuit. In 1540, he started his life's work as a missionary in the East Indies, Japan and China. He was said to have been responsible for more than 50,000 conversions to the Catholic faith.

St. Isidore the Worker (1080-1172):

A field labourer who would begin every day with Mass, he depended totally on God and the help of the angels. One day, his master saw another plough drawn by white oxen next to the plough of St. Isidore. He ran towards it, but they disappeared out of his master's sight. From then onwards, St. Isidore's sanctity became known as such that the angels would help him even when he would plough the fields.

St. Maria of the Head (exact years unknown):

Despite the centuries that have passed since she lived, Maria and her husband, St. Isidore, continue to be strong examples of the vocational meaning of marriage as a vocation through which people can achieve holiness. She was humble, hardworking, a good wife and mother and a virtuous and devout Catholic.

St. Rafael Arnaiz (1911-1938):

After studying to become an architect in Madrid, he experienced the call of God to consecrate himself in monastic life, entering the Trappist monastery. God wished to test him with a painful sickness — acute diabetes — that forced him to leave the monastery three times. But always, he returned. St. Rafael was canonized in 2009.

St. John of Avila (1500-1569) :

Spiritual director of St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila, among others, he drew large crowds with his denunciations of evil and his many sermons. His missionary efforts were centred on Andalusia, a community in Spain, and his letters and other writings have become Spanish classics.

St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582):

She brought about the reform of the Carmelites, founding the Discalced Carmelites, who centre their life on prayer and penance. Silence and extreme poverty are signs of their identity, something that was not lived in the convents of the Calced Carmelites. Throughout her life, she founded 15 reformed convents throughout Spain.

St. Rose of Lima (1586-1617):

St. Rose of Lima was not a nun, rather, she was a lay tertiary, spending most of her life at her family home where she worked to support the family. As she grew older, she was so devoted to her vow of chastity that she used pepper and lye to ruin her complexion so she wouldn't be attractive. St. Rose was a mystic and visionary, who received many mental and physical sufferings, including an invisible stigmata.

(Article contributed by [Karen Columbia](#) →
She's one of our interns also heading to WYD11 in Madrid!)



Reflective Thoughts...



In less than two weeks we will be leaving for WYD in Madrid, an experience I knew I wanted to be part of and have been hoping that I can attend since Madrid was announced as the location for WYD2011 at Randwick at WYD2008. I can't believe it has finally arrived! The experience of WYD in Sydney was so special and I can't wait to experience it again in Madrid.

I have never been to Spain before and was only able to attend Days in the Diocese and the weekend of WYD Sydney, so I am most looking forward to being in Spain, experiencing the food, history and culture and experiencing the entire WYD week and the journey that we will take as a diocese both before the week in Madrid as we travel in Spain visiting the towns of WYD patron saints including St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross and afterwards in Dublin as we reflect on our journey during a retreat.

On Wednesday we had the commissioning mass at Waitara. This was the culmination of our preparation for WYD which for me included monthly meetings at Pennant Hills for all pilgrims to learn more about what we can expect and monthly theological reflection sessions at Chatswood with the other pilgrims from Chatswood. It was fantastic to see so many pilgrims and their families at the commissioning mass on Wednesday. Bishop David led the mass and spoke about the journey of a pilgrim, what we can look forward to and how we can make the most of our experience. We also received our gift packs from Broken Bay which included our airline tickets and itinerary, pins to exchange, a hat, water bottle and journal so that we can document and reflect on our experiences.

I am sure this pilgrimage will be a once in a lifetime experience and one that we can share with the parishioners of Chatswood and Broken Bay when we return.

About the flight: I don't mind flying, so I looking forward to it. Hopefully there are good movies showing as I don't think I'll be able to sleep on the plane.

-Carla



A Prayer For World Youth Day 2011

God of hope and grace,
send your Holy Spirit upon us as our helper and guide.
As we prepare for World Youth Day in Madrid,
help us to build upon the many graces and experiences
that were the fruit of World Youth Day in Sydney.
Send forth the power of the Spirit upon us
so that we may continue to be your witnesses
in service and love to other youth in Australia.
May we journey together in the great south land of the Holy Spirit
and share in this pilgrimage of faith to the ends of the earth.
Pour your grace into our lives so that we may be apostles of reconciliation
and builders for the new creation.
Nourish and unite us through the Eucharist,
so that firm in the faith we may be planted and built up in Jesus Christ.
We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of the Southern Cross
and in the healing name of our Lord Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God forever and ever.
Amen.
Mary, Help of Christians. Pray for us.
Blessed/Saint Mary MacKillop. Pray for us.



WYD Madrid 16-21 August 2011



Journey and Thanks



It's kind of overwhelming to think that in less than 2 weeks I'll be hopping on a plane with another 120 or so pilgrims from our diocese to continue our pilgrimage. I say "continue" because if you look forward, there will be much flying, walking, commuting and all round journeying in both the physical and spiritual sense throughout our time in Spain and Ireland. But if you look backwards, Chatswood parish was the origin of our pilgrimage 2 years ago when we became interns, and our journey as interns has brought us through many experiences within the parish. Some may think that in the end, this was all about us attending World Youth Day Madrid but though it will be a wonderful 22 day experience, the 2 year experience preceding it has instilled a charism of devotion to ministry, faith and companionship amongst all of us. So wait until we come back before I talk about Spain. For now I just want to thank the clergy, parish staff and parishioners who have supported us throughout this internship program, to Mark McDonald who conceived the idea of the internship and lastly to Bishop David Walker, whose belief and support of the youth of the Catholic Faith enabled all of us to be a part of this amazing experience.

-Jez.



Left: Some of the youth going on pilgrimage wearing their Broken Bay hats. Also featuring Mark McDonald, the person who helped bring about the Internship.



Above: Another snapshot of the Chatswood pilgrims who received the last of their pilgrim necessities after the Commissioning Mass.

**Love?
Suggestions?
Comments?**

Our youth mass is at [5:30pm](#) every Sunday!
Come and say hi before or after mass!

Or... Email us!
youth.at.chatswood@hotmail.com