

A Coffee with Alessio



World Youth Day, Sydney- Ten Years On

Welcome back! For those of you who had school holidays I hope you had a chance to catch your breath. Holidays tie in perfectly with the Gospel Reading this Sunday. I'll come back to that topic shortly.

Before I go on, I realised that today is ten years since the closing Mass at World Youth Day (WYD) in Sydney. I was privileged to be at that WYD. There was certainly a lot of excitement and hope for the Australian Church, as well as a lot of promise. I have to say it certainly was a privilege to be there, and the Vigil followed by the sleep-out was an experience to remember. As people got up in the middle of the night, there wasn't much room to move and there were many cries of pain as people got stepped on. I have to say the liturgy, music and ritual was very powerful, and one of my favourite hymns during that week was the hymn to Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

We can never quite tell what impact WYD or other similar events will have. For some people, it is a watershed moment in their faith, and inspired them to come back to the faith, or to do more with our Catholic faith. For other people, it is a vocation discernment process, and for other people they met their future spouse there. No matter what came of WYD for those of us who attended, we must always be focused on engaging our youth with the faith, as they are the Church of tomorrow.

In the Gospel this Sunday, we hear Jesus inviting his Apostles to come and rest. Back to the topic of holidays. Holidays present themselves with an opportunity to rest, but it isn't always possible. Nonetheless we must try to take a break from what we are doing to clear our minds and recharge our batteries. I wouldn't call WYD a holiday as such. However, it was a golden opportunity to "rest from work" and be in the presence of the Lord.

So, I hope you have time to enjoy a nice coffee and cake and "rest for a while."

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

Friday 20 July 2018