



registration update

for pilgrims

PRAYER FOCUS

In April, we ask you to intercede for Pope Benedict XVI. We pray that the Lord may continue to grace, strengthen and guide the Holy Father, especially in the preparations for WYD08.

Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI

God our Father, shepherd and guide, look with love on Pope Benedict XVI your servant, the pastor of your Church. May his word and example inspire and guide the Church, and may he, and all those entrusted to his care, come to the joy of everlasting life.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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[Click here](#) for more on the WYD08 Prayer Campaign.

Pray a Holy Hour of Power

The WYD08 Eucharistic Adoration Campaign is an invitation to every parish, school, university and other chaplaincy to hold a "Holy Hour of Power" each week in the lead up to WYD08. Join a Holy Hour of Power in your local parish or help start one up with the assistance of your parish priest and members for your parish community. For more information, [click here](#)

To inspire you....Quotes from Saints

"When you have received Him, stir up your heart to do Him homage; speak to Him about your spiritual life, gazing upon Him in your soul where He is present for your happiness; welcome Him as warmly as possible, and behave outwardly in such a way that your actions may give proof to all of His Presence." St Francis De Sales

Xt3: LIVE WYD08 EVERY DAY...ONLINE

You may have read about a new online social networking site called Xt3 which is being developed as part of WYD08.

If you have ever been to a World Youth Day you will know that amongst other things the pilgrimage gives you the opportunity to meet people, exchange stories, discuss issues and make lifelong friends.

We are excited about the idea of creating an online environment where you can do this and a whole lot more **all year round!** Very soon we will provide you the details of how you can get involved and start making friends all around the World!

SYDNEY'S BEST UNCOVERED

With its stunning harbour, city parks, spectacular beaches and near perfect weather all year round, Sydney consistently rates as the world's best city to visit. You'll be spoilt for choice of exciting things to see and do during your stay for WYD08.

To help you plan, don't look past these 'must-do's' for uncovering quintessential Sydney and surrounding areas.

[Cruise Sydney Harbour](#)

There is no better way to see Sydney 'Harbour City' than through its sparkling waterways with one of many fabulous cruises, and just like the locals' do, on a Circular Quay to Manly ferry.

www.131500.com.au

Another must-do Harbour experience is a lunch or dinner cruise with [Captain Cook Cruises](#).

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[Climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge](#)

Sydney Harbour Bridge has many faces, but there is no better way to experience Sydney's world famous bridge and incredible 360° views of the harbour than with [BridgeClimb](#).

[Talk to the animals](#)

Sydney's [Taronga Zoo](#), just 12 minutes from the city by ferry, features the best place to get up close and personal with koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and other Australian native animals.

[Explore The Rocks](#)

[The Rocks](#) is the site of Sydney's first European settlement and as Australia's oldest suburb retains much of its early colonial heritage, a range of souvenir shopping, charming pubs and cafés.

For an intriguing look into the precinct's fascinating history and an insight into the life of Australia's first Blessed, take the Mary MacKillop Walking Tour.

[Bondi to Bronte Beach Walk](#)

One of the most popular walks in Sydney, this 2km, one hour coastal path along dramatic sandstone cliffs, spectacular beaches and inlets, from Bondi Beach via Tamarama to Bronte where you can stop and have lunch at one of the sea-side cafés.

Other essentials in Bondi: A [Discover Bondi](#) Tour, learn to surf with [Let's go Surfing](#).

Sydney's surrounding areas

There's also plenty to explore further a field, around the jam-packed WYD08 agenda. CountryLink operates rail and coach services to country regions of NSW and some interstate locations.

www.visitnsw.com



[Take time out in Byron Bay](#)

Home to the most easterly point of Australia, a famous eclectic community, quirky shops and a very chilled lifestyle, Byron is not only known for its landscape of lush hinterland, sparkling beaches and whale watching.

[See for yourself why our mountains are called 'Blue'](#)

The Blue Mountains are famous for World Heritage-listed landscape, bushwalking and fresh mountain air, waterfalls. The region is only two hours west of the city and the view of the awe-inspiring sandstone Three Sisters at Katoomba is not to be missed.



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Head south to Wollongong

Experience Wollongong's Grand Pacific Drive, a spectacular coastal drive that starts from Sydney's Royal National Park. The small coastal villages around Wollongong boast excellent surfing beaches, and Lake Illawarra offers a choice of sailing, waterskiing, canoeing and fishing.

For further inspirational ideas for exploring Sydney and wider New South Wales go to www.sydney.com

Special Pilgrim Offer – Sydney Symphony performance at Sydney Opera House during WYD08!

World Youth Day will be presenting one of the most sought after concerts of the year, with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and famous conductor Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti performing at 8pm on Friday 18 July 2008 at the renowned Sydney Opera House.

The performance will be "**Beethoven's Missa Solemnis**" with four guest international and Australian opera artists. There are only 1,100 seats that will be made available to the WYD pilgrims. [Click here](#) for tickets available on a first come first purchase offer via the website.

Be sure to book your tickets soon as they are expected to sell fast. In booking your tickets you will need to quote your group number and individual number from the Egeria registration Sydney. Ticket prices are as follows:

- A reserve \$97 446 tickets
- B reserve \$84 470 tickets
- C reserve \$66 259 tickets

Book now for what promises to be an amazing experience during WYD08.

PRE-ARRIVAL HEALTH TIP #5

Reciprocal Health Care Agreements

Australia has Reciprocal Health Care Agreements (RHCA) with nine countries. If you are resident of one of these countries, you are entitled to a range of subsidised health services for *medically necessary* treatment while in Australia:

- Republic of Ireland
- United Kingdom
- Italy
- Sweden
- Norway
- Finland
- Malta
- New Zealand
- The Netherlands

Generally, if you are treated as a public patient in a public hospital, your treatment is free, but you must have your passport with you.

Each agreement varies slightly, so it is important that you are familiar with your own country's arrangement with Australia. [Medicare Australia](#) has more information, including payment arrangements if you see a doctor outside of the hospital.

Information on health care payment for international Pilgrims from other countries will be included in future newsletters.



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Important Message for Package A Pilgrims

Just to let you know the WYD08 catechesis and accommodation teams are currently working together on the allocation of simple accommodation sites for Package A pilgrims.

Our aim is to make travel to and from your catechesis sites as quick and easy for you as possible. It's a major project and at this stage we are planning that you will know your accommodation site by the middle of June with plenty of time to research and plan your travels.

Please ensure that your name and details are in the registration system (and correct) and that you have joined a group.

PILGRIM VISAS

Australian Immigration would like to remind pilgrims who are not eligible for an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) that they will need to send a visa application to their nearest Immigration office as soon as possible. More than 10 000 visas have already been granted but pilgrims must understand that the Department cannot guarantee that applications lodged after 1 June will be decided in time to travel to Australia. Apply soon to avoid disappointment.

[Click here](#) to visit the Immigration Department's website and find information on how to prepare your application or check whether you are eligible for an ETA.