



Fact sheet

Journey of the Cross and Icon

The World Youth Day Cross and Icon of Our Lady

- The WYD Cross and Icon are the most significant tangible symbols of World Youth Day
- Pope John Paul II gave the Cross to the youth of the world in 1984 to be carried as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity
- The Cross is accompanied by the Icon Of Our Lady, a copy of the ancient painting of Salus Populi Romani (Protectress of the Roman People)
- Pope John Paul II gave the Icon of Our Lady as a second gift to young people in 2003 to accompany the Cross
- The Cross is 3.8m high and 1.75m wide, weighing some 40 kilograms and is made of fir wood
- The Icon is 118cm high and 79cm wide, weighing some 15 kilograms

The international route of the Cross and Icon of Our Lady

- For more than 20 years, the Cross has travelled the world through Europe, Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and New Zealand
- The Cross and Icon were handed to Australian representatives in Rome on Palm Sunday 2006, and since then have been on a pilgrimage to Australia through Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania
- The Cross and Icon have been carried by commercial airline, light aircraft, dog sled, pick-up truck, tractor, sail boat, cruise liner, train and fishing boat

The WYD08 Message Stick joins the Journey

- In a World Youth Day first, an indigenous Message Stick is accompanying the Cross and Icon throughout its Australian journey.
- The Message Stick is an invitation from the indigenous people of Sydney to the indigenous youth of Australia to attend WYD08
- Pope Benedict XVI will receive an indigenous welcome to country when he arrives in Australia for WYD08 in July

For more information visit www.wyd2008.org

Level 5 Polding Centre 133 Liverpool Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
WYD 2008 ACN 118 060 987

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The Journey Continues Down Under

- Since 1 July 2007 the Cross and Icon have travelled to 30 Australian diocese (including 28 regional diocese, Military and Maronite dioceses)
- In this twelve month period the Cross and Icon have visited over 400 Australian communities
- The Cross and Icon have been the centre pieces of over 2,500 local community events and have encouraged over 400,000 Australian's to be directly present for parts of the journey
- Once the Journey of the Cross and Icon reaches Wollongong for the 15 Day walk, it would have travelled nearly 80,000km around Australia
- The Australian Journey will culminate in their arrival at the World Youth Day Opening Mass on Tuesday 15 July 2008 in Sydney

The Australian JCI Travelling Team

- Over the twelve month period, there have been two separate JCI Travelling Teams
- Team 1 was a group of young Australians hailing from QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and ACT. Accompanied by driver David Metz, the team travelled with the Cross and Icon from 1 July - 27 November 2007
- Team 2 are young Australians from NSW, VIC and SA. All between the ages of 23-27, the young group have been accompanied by driver Frank Hansby and will travel with the Cross and Icon from 26 January until the WYD08 Opening Mass on 15 July 2008
- Father Chris Ryan MGL has been the Coordinator of the JCI Travelling Teams since the Australian arrival of the Cross and Icon in July 2007
- At each destination the travelling team have posted photos, blogs and updates from throughout the journey.
- The complete JCI blog and image gallery can be found [here](#)

Highlights from the JCI in Australia: July 2007 – June 2008

Since July 2007, the Cross and Icon have visited some of Australia's most captivating landmarks and important events including:

- **July - September 2007:** A welcoming event at a QANTAS airport hangar, travelled by horse and cart in Ballarat, experienced a sunset in Uluru, travelled on a paddle-steamer along the Murray River and visited Torres Strait – the most northern point in Australia

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- **October – December 2007:** Visited the Great Barrier Reef , experienced a trip on the Ghan from Darwin to South Australia, experienced the National Schoolies mission in Queensland
- **January – March 2008:** Was part of Australia Day celebrations in Armidale, visited Mount Kosciusko and Federal Parliament, travelled to the Blue Mountains, The Twelve Apostles and Mount Panorama
- **March – June 2008:** Spent ANZAC Day with the Military diocese, travelled aboard the Spirit of Tasmania from Victoria to Tasmania, experienced the Margaret River and Port Arthur, travelled to Australia’s largest mining pit in Kalgoorlie visited the HMAS Sydney Memorial site in Western Australia and much more!

For the complete itinerary of the Journey of the Cross and Icon in Australia please visit the website [here](#)

The 15 Day Walk – the final leg of the Journey

The final part of the national Journey of the Cross and Icon is a 15 day walking pilgrimage through the Sydney region.

Commencing in Wollongong, the 15 Day Walk will encompass the Dioceses of Wollongong, Parramatta, Broken Bay and Sydney, culminating in the WYD Cross and Icon being carried into the Opening Mass of WYD08.

An overview of the 15 Day Walk schedule is below:

Tuesday 1 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk commences at Woollongong Cathedral, Woollongong • Travels from Woollongong to St Thomas Moore Parish, Ruse
Wednesday 2 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departs Ruse and walks to Holy Trinity Church, Minto and St Mary Mother of God Church, Leppington
Thursday 3 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commences at Ash Rd Sporting Complex, Prestons and processes to All Saints Parish, Liverpool
Friday 4 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commences at Jo Broad Reserve in Mount Pritchard and travels through Bonnyrigg Heights to Mary Immaculate, Bossley Park
Saturday 5 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departs Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park and travels to Holy Family, Emerton
Sunday 6 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commences at St Patrick’s, Sutherland and travels through Oatley to St Jerome’s, Punchbowl

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Monday 7 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After leaving Punchbowl travels through Strathfield to the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush
Tuesday 8 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencing at Rookwood Cemetery, travels through Harris Park to St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta
Wednesday 9 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travels from Parramatta to Our Lady Help of Christians in Epping
Thursday 10 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commences at Dural Park and travels to Redfield College, Dural
Friday 11 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departs Roseville Park before travelling through Chatswood and Willoughby before arriving in St Leonards.
Saturday 12 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes from St Leonard's Parish to St Leonard's Park in North Sydney
Sunday 13 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest day – no walking
Monday 14 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travelling from Circular Quay through Sydney CBD before arriving at Sydney University
Tuesday 15 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Youth Day Opening Mass at Barangaroo

For the complete schedule of the 15 Day Walk please visit [here](#)

Highlights from the JCI in Asia and Oceania

Korea – 18 February 2007

The WYD Cross and Icon were greeted by hundreds of young people when it was taken to the Bridge of Freedom, the symbol of division in the Demilitarised Zone separating the people of North and South Korea. Young Koreans prayed for peace and reunification in front security fences and wire entanglements.

"Before the Cross, I had a feeling of oneness with young Catholics throughout the world, who prayed before the Cross. I would like to participate in World Youth Day Sydney, to have that kind of feeling again," said pilgrim Dominica Kyeong-min Kim.

Philippines – 1 March 2007

A visit that aimed to promote WYD08 became a source of many blessings, inner healing, conversion, reconciliation and personal transformation, according to the Philippine community.

When the Cross and Icon visited Cagayan de Oro, the members of the welcome choir were in such awe, they became tongue-tied and were unable to sing a single note for a few moments.

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Guam – 8 March 2007

Nearly 40 kilometres were covered by foot as the Cross and Icon were carried to each of the 25 parishes in Guam. Just days before the Cross arrived, heavy rain deluged the island, but the sun shone brightly on the days the Cross and Icon journeyed through.

"Once it arrived, it was a life-changing experience. You never would have known what you would feel just looking at it and seeing that you're able to touch it - a Cross that has been around the World," said 14 year old Katrina Quinata.

Chuuk, Micronesia – 14 March 2007

A crowd of hundreds welcomed the Cross and Icon as they touched down in Wedo. They proceeded by boat to Tol, weaving their way through a river with thick canopy. As the Cross and Icon approached the river bank there were two long lines of men, neck deep in water, throwing flowers at them as they arrived.

"The sense of unity that the Cross and Icon have promoted amongst the Catholic communities of the Pacific is of real credit to World Youth Day," said Australian volunteer working in Chuuk, Paul Ellis

Gizo, Solomon Islands – 12 April 2007

Fourteen days after the fatal earthquake and tsunami which devastated parts of the Solomon Islands, the Cross and Icon spent 24 hours bringing people of all ages together and allowing them some respite from the tragic events.

"It has been a memorable occasion, not only for local people, but also those providing aid, who remarked that the 'pulling power' of this simple but powerful Cross and Icon went a long way towards helping people as they recover from the traumatic experiences and fears of further disasters," said Dave Kerr, Diocese of Gizo.

Dili, East Timor – 20 April 2007

The Cross and Icon arrived in East Timor amidst a presidential election marked by intimidation and fear.

Church leaders expressed great relief that the Cross and Icon brought peace and hope to their troubled land.

"This was the right time for the Cross and Icon to come to Timor-Leste," said Fr Venancio Pereira SJ, one of the organisers of the journey.

Thousands gathered at Comoro Airport for the arrival of the Cross and Icon including President Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister Jose Ramos-Horta and Australian Ambassador Margaret Twomey.

They joined local Church leaders and thousands of young people for a procession through the streets to the Dili Cathedral.

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