



# INFORMATION **PACK**

FOR SCHOOLS & PARISHES

DATES: **29 NOV - 5 DEC 2025**

LOCATION: **MELBOURNE**



## WHAT IS ACYF?

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is a national event where thousands of young Catholics come together to celebrate their faith, community, and purpose.

ACYF is for young people aged 14–25 who are curious, searching, passionate, or simply seeking connection, community, inspiration, a deeper sense of purpose, and a stronger relationship with God in their lives.

### **THE YOUTH FESTIVAL PROVIDES A DIVERSE PROGRAM OF INFORMATIVE WORKSHOPS AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE INCLUDING:**

- Workshops with some of Australia's most dynamic speakers; a Student Leadership Center providing leadership activities and skills in partnership with the Festival faith formation;
- An X-change Space where young people and church leaders can respectfully discuss common topics of interest;
- A Sacred Space containing multiple chapels and prayer opportunities, together with the sacrament of reconciliation throughout the Festival;
- An interactive Justice Activity Centre where young people can contribute to service projects bringing to life their faith;
- Gatherings where all attendees come together to celebrate being the young Church in Australia; and
- An Expo showcasing the breath of the work of the Catholic Church in Australia.



## WHY DOES ACYF MATTER?

### A Long-Term Investment in the Life of the Church

Sending young people to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival isn't just about attending an event; it's about forming future leaders of the Church and empowering them to live as missionary disciples. For many, ACYF is a turning point: a moment when faith becomes real, personal, and transformative.

In a world where belonging to a faith community is increasingly rare, ACYF shows young people that the Church is alive and that their presence matters. They return inspired with fresh ideas, renewed energy, and a deeper commitment to serve in their parish through ministry, leadership, and faithful witness.

This is not just an investment in individuals, it's an investment in the future of your parish. These young people could become the heart of a revitalised youth ministry, mentors to others, and leaders who help shape the next generation.

By supporting them, your parish is making a powerful statement:

**WE BELIEVE IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, IN THEIR POTENTIAL,  
AND IN THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH.**



## **DATES:**

Travel Dates: Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov - Fri 5<sup>th</sup> DEC  
(Festival Dates: 30<sup>th</sup> Nov - 5<sup>th</sup> Dec)

## **LOCATION:**

The festival will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, along the Yarra River in the city centre.

## **COSTS:** E\$ 2000

Our trip is being organised through Harvest, a pilgrimage agency. This is the total cost of flights, accommodation, transportation and registration. This doesn't include a meal during the festival or spending money.

## **ACCOMMODATION:**

The Townsville Diocesan Group will have exclusive access to the Holy Cross Retreat Centre, 207 Serpells Rd, Templestowe.





## INITIAL ITINERARY

**FRI 28TH NOV:**

Flight: TSV - MEL 08:30 PM

**SAT 29TH NOV:**

Late Start, Group Bonding Day

**SUN 30TH NOV:**

ACYF Day 1

The program of the festival can be found at: [www.acyf.org.au/program](http://www.acyf.org.au/program)



**MON 1ST DEC:**

ACYF Day 2

**TUES 2ND DEC:**

ACYF Day 3

**WED 3RD DEC:**

Retreat Day

**THURS 4TH DEC:**

Tourist Day

**FRI 5TH DEC:**

Flight: MEL - TSV 05:30 PM





Expression of  
Interest form!

## REGISTRATION

Harvest will have a registration portal that groups will log in to. Register your interest [\[link\]](#) to stay up to date and get direct emails for updates, information, and a notice when the registration portal opens!

Have any questions or concerns? Do you need help with organising your group? Contact our Diocesan Youth Ministry Team members:

Email: [youth@tsv.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@tsv.catholic.org.au)

Call: 4726 3261 or 4726 3263

## INFORMATION NIGHT

Our Diocesan Youth Ministry Team is putting on an **Information Night**, the **30<sup>th</sup> of June at 6:30 PM** over Zoom. All groups are invited to join, learn more, and ask any questions you have. This can be a great way for parents to learn more and speak to the leaders who will be responsible for their children while we're away.

**Zoom link:** <https://tsvcatholic.zoom.us/j/92784629217?pwd=fR5EdCirZ12Jz6Uw0gfaTYOMkDrUxx.1>

**Email:** [gtait@tsv.catholic.org.au](mailto:gtait@tsv.catholic.org.au) to request an email invitation or RSVP for the night (not necessary to RSVP, you're welcome to come if you can!).

There are also many great resources from the official ACYF website: [www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au).

# WHAT CAN THE PARISH DO TO HELP?

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 'INVITATION'

As leaders within your community, you have the perspective of the young people around you. This is an opportunity, just as much as it might be a challenge. Especially if you are in a position of authority or any official leadership role, your words carry weight, even if the young person might seem to 'blow you off', an invitation is not just a flyer or a post on Facebook or in the Parish Notices. An invitation is personal; 'hey, I think you should think about coming to this ACYF.' Address them, know their name, invite them personally, and you might find you'll get more saying 'yes' than a flyer ever could.

## FUNDRAISING

As a parish group (or school group going through the parish), one of the best ways to encourage people to come to ACYF and help build the connections in your group leading up to ACYF is through fundraising.

The costs are from \$2000 a person, and we recognise that this is a significant financial commitment, but it is one that can be made manageable through shared effort and creative support. There are a number of ways your parish community can be involved in making this opportunity possible.

By getting the young people who will be attending to help with any fundraising, it is also an opportunity for them to work together, get to know each other, and connect more with the parish as they assist with the fundraising efforts. It also comes with a value of gratitude, of young people in previous years who have been partially or fully sponsored by the parish, and there was always an element of awe at the generosity and support from the parish.

# FUNDRAISING

There are a number of ways your parish community can be involved in making this opportunity possible

## 1. Parish Sponsorship

- A full or partial financial contribution from the parish budget is one of the most direct and impactful ways to support your pilgrims.

## 2. Fundraising Initiatives

- Simple and joyful fundraising events—such as bake sales, sausage sizzles, trivia nights, raffles, or car washes can build parish spirit and engage the whole community in sending forth these young missionaries. Our diocesan team is happy to assist with ideas, templates, and promotion.

## 3. Support from Parish Ministries or Groups

- Parish organisations such as the CWL, St Vincent De Paul, or men's/women's groups might be willing to contribute or co-host a fundraising event. This creates a cross-generational connection and a deeper sense of shared mission. It also helps involve young people here and encourages them to connect with the wider parish community.

## 4. Spiritual and Pastoral Support

- Beyond finances, your prayerful encouragement matters. Commissioning the pilgrims at a Sunday Mass, involving them in ministry before and after the festival, and inviting them to share their testimony with the parish afterwards are all simple but powerful ways of affirming their journey.

Attached at the end of this document is the fundraising guide from Melbourne Archdiocese as an official ACYF resource.

# WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The full cost of participation is approximately \$2,000 per pilgrim, which includes all flights, transport, accommodation, meals, registration, insurance, and group activities. We recognise this is a significant financial commitment for families and parishes—but you are not in this alone!

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Team is here to support your parish at every stage of this journey. Our team is available to visit your parish in person to:

- **Discuss** the logistics and planning with your parish leadership and finance council
- **Meet and accompany** the young people who will be attending
- Officially **support** and co-launch parish-based fundraising initiatives
- **Assist** in creating simple and engaging advertising strategies to invite donations from parishioners and the wider community

In addition to this on-the-ground support, we will also provide:

1. **Coordinated logistics** and supervision throughout the pilgrimage
2. **Pre-departure formation** to spiritually and practically prepare your pilgrims
3. **Fundraising resources**, including templates, promotional materials, and creative ideas
4. **Post-festival support** to help the young people share their experience and reintegrate their energy and gifts back into parish life.

Our goal is not only to send young people to ACYF but to ensure they are **formed, supported, and welcomed back** into a parish that continues to nurture their faith journey.

**Together, we can make this a deeply transformative and lasting investment in the life of your community!**

There are also many great resources from the official ACYF website: [www.acyf.org.au/resources](http://www.acyf.org.au/resources).



# FUNDRAISING GUIDE

## for young people



### GETTING TO ACYF ON A BUDGET?

**It's more achievable than you think!**

Raising the funds to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival might seem daunting, but with a bit of planning and support, it's completely doable!

A part-time or casual job can help you save money steadily. Fundraising is another great way to work toward your goal – especially when you team up with friends from your school, parish or youth group. You can also reach out to potential sponsors who may be able to support you in a bigger way.



### HOW MUCH DO I NEED TO SAVE?

While the registration costs are yet to be confirmed, indicative costs are around **\$400 per person**.

With spending money, public transport costs, and of course, money for food, you may need a few hundred dollars on top of your registration cost. Check in with your school, parish or community to determine how much your pilgrimage to the Festival will cost you.

### THE 1/3 PLAN



# 1/3

Save a third

# 2/3

Fundraise a third

# 3/3

Find a sponsor for a third

*Turn page over for more details*



For more information, scan the QR code or go to:  
**[www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au)**  
For any assistance or advice, contact:  
**[acyf@cam.org.au](mailto:acyf@cam.org.au)**



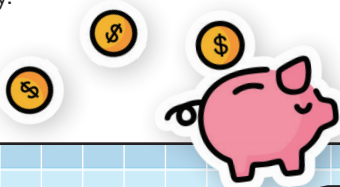
1/3

## SAVE A THIRD

Saving a little each week can go a long way. If you save \$10 per week, in six months you'll have saved around \$260!

A part-time or casual job will allow you to save money regularly and steadily – so if you don't have a job already, this opportunity to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival could be the perfect incentive to find one!

Once you have a source of income, there are plenty of great ways to save small amounts every day.



### HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

- Open a savings account dedicated to your ticket and transfer a set amount each week.
- Make your coffee or other drink of choice at home and save money on each cup.
- Make a money-saving chart.
- Cut a subscription service you don't need.
- Avoid unnecessary purchases and focus on how excited you are to attend the Festival!
- Go to free events instead of expensive ones.
- Get creative! Find fun and clever ways to save, and always keep your goal in mind.

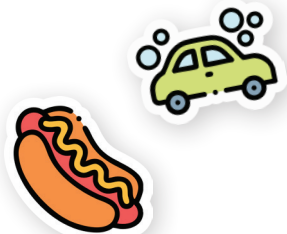
## FUNDRAISE A THIRD

2/3

Team up with friends, fellow students or your youth/young adult group and plan how you will fundraise with your parish priest, teacher or leader. Your community wants to support you and want to give young people amazing opportunities like the Festival where you get to encounter Jesus and go deeper in faith. So, ask for their help!

### FUNDRAISING IDEAS INCLUDE:

- Car washes
- Lawn mowing for your neighbours
- Sausage sizzles
- Fun runs / Colour runs
- Cake stalls
- Raffles
- Trivia nights
- Chocolate drives



## SPONSOR A THIRD

3/3

Reach out to your network – family, friends, parishioners – through:

- A crowdfunding page
- Social media
- Email or direct messages

With a good-looking social media tile, you might use this suggested caption on the right.

Your parish priest, teacher or community leader may know people who are willing to sponsor a pilgrim by donating a significant portion of the cost. Have a chat with them and they can advise you on the best way forward.



Hey! I'm going to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival – a gathering of young people from all over Australia. It's happening in Melbourne at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 30 November to 2 December 2025, and I'd really appreciate your help in getting me there!

The Festival brings together thousands of young people to celebrate their faith, strengthen their sense of belonging to the Church, and foster personal encounters with Christ.

Your support will help cover my registration costs. Even \$10 would make a difference – thank you!



## Important information

### WHAT?

ACYF is a three-day festival bringing together thousands of young people from across Australia. The Festival will include opportunities for engagement with other young people, school and youth groups, bishops, musicians, and speakers. Each day, participants can engage in a wide range of activities, including talks, prayer experiences, Mass, workshops, forums, live concerts, games, a justice activity centre and an interactive expo.

### WHEN?

Sunday 30 November (afternoon) – Tuesday 2 December (late evening).

More detailed timetabling will be released as available.

### WHERE?

The Festival will be hosted at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC). Located within Melbourne's vibrant city centre, MCEC is conveniently situated along the banks of the Yarra River, a short walk from two major city train stations, and accessible by tram and bus (with designated drop-off zones).

### WHO?

Young people from Year 9 up to 25 years of age are invited along with their leaders.

### REGISTRATION

Registrations open in May 2025. Parishes and communities will be required to register as a group. As of April 2025, indicative pricing will range from \$390–\$410 per person for the entire Festival, with access to all areas and experiences. Meals from venue vendors will be available at an additional cost.

### HOW CAN I BRING YOUNG PEOPLE?

No matter how many young people you have 'in the pews' on Sunday, this is the perfect opportunity for outreach. Many parents and grandparents want their young people to experience something more and encounter Christ. Families can coordinate a small group of siblings and friends to go together. Parents can be group leaders, or a responsible young adult can be approached to lead.

Reach out to neighbouring parishes, schools and youth groups too! Do you have leaders but not enough pilgrims, or vice versa? Consider forming a bigger group with nearby communities.

### WHERE CAN I FIND THE LATEST INFORMATION?

- [www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au)
- Regular emails and communications (see the Your key contacts section below)

### PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

Resources such as posters, flyers, newsletter inserts, logo files and brand guidelines can be found on the Resources page of the Festival web site: [www.acyf.org.au/resources](http://www.acyf.org.au/resources).

Share this information and resource in your diocesan, education and community publications and make promotional material available to your parishes, schools and groups.

### Your key contacts

We are on this journey with you! We want you to feel confident knowing that you're supported every step of the way.

If you have questions related to the Festival (such as **registration, inclusions, or special needs access**), contact the ACYF Team via:

**Email:** [acyf@cam.org.au](mailto:acyf@cam.org.au)

**Phone:** (03) 7064 3995  
(during business hours)

If there is a specific person from your group you would like to nominate as a key point of contact to receive Festival updates, please email us at [acyf@cam.org.au](mailto:acyf@cam.org.au), and we'll add them to the contact list.



The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.



## The Roadmap to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is excited to host the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in 2025.

The Festival is a national gathering of young Catholics, established by the Australian Bishops twelve years ago.

Run over three days, it provides youth and young adults from across Australia with the opportunity to connect with each other, deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to live their faith in the world, and experience the breadth of the Church in Australia.

This guide contains vital information, including a roadmap and details on the support available to help you plan for the biggest Catholic festival in Australia.

### The invitation

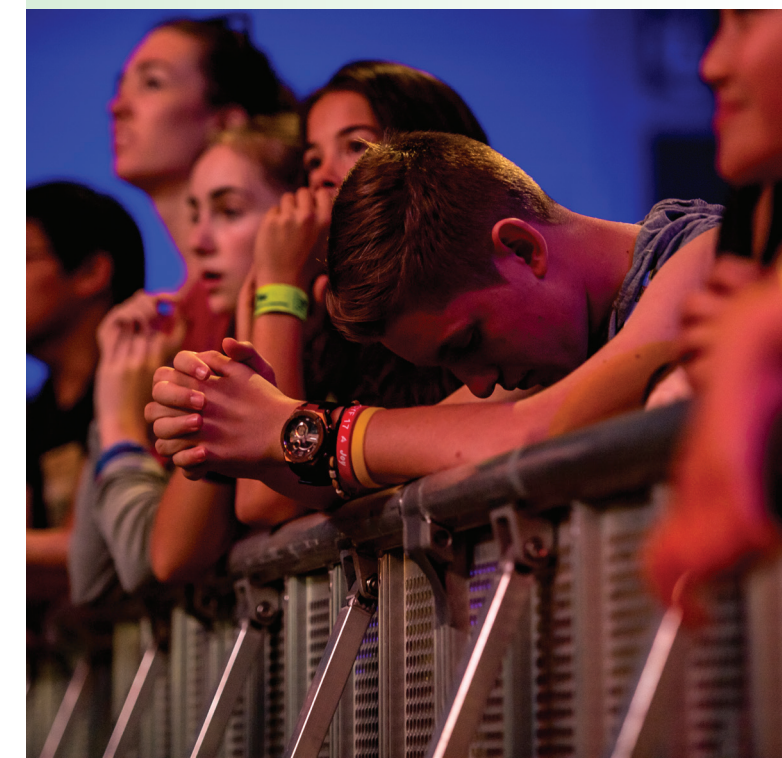
In this Jubilee Year of Hope, this is your opportunity to invite the next generation to encounter the living Christ and experience the joy of a life of faith.

For countless young people over the last decade, this Festival has been a catalyst for the Holy Spirit to move in their lives. We want the same for youth in 2025. Whether it is developing a living relationship with God or going deeper and discerning their unique vocation and mission in the Church, we pray for growth – for existing ministries to be strengthened, and for new leaders and groups to be formed.



ACYF is a great opportunity for our young Church. It is a real invitation for pilgrims to enter more deeply into their relationship with Jesus and be empowered to be disciples in the world today.

ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI







## The Roadmap

To help you prepare your group of young people to the Festival, we invite you to *pray*, *discern*, *invite*, *form*, and *send*. The ACYF Team are here to support and assist you in preparing for the Festival – don't hesitate to reach out!

### PRAY AND DISCERN

TODAY

Pray that our young people will respond to the invitation – that the many thousands attending this event will encounter the living Christ and choose to follow him. Pray also that God will bring forward leaders with the gifts and desire to accompany our pilgrims. Identify potential leaders who can lead small groups, facilitate conversations, and step into roles of responsibility. They may be youth ministers, teachers, faith-filled young adults, or parents of teenagers.

### INVITE

MAY–AUGUST

Personal invitation is, in many ways, the heart of evangelisation. Once your leaders have been identified, the next step is to invite young people to attend and build momentum.

Now is the time to share within your parishes, schools and communities what the Festival is and why it matters. Reach out to those you think would benefit and personally invite them on the journey with you.

Consider the Jubilee of Youth (28 July – 30 August) as a special weekend of invitation to young people in your parish, school or community.

### FORM

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER

The final stage is to form and prepare those walking the road with you. Formation resources will be provided to help leaders prepare their pilgrims for the Festival – both spiritually and logistically.

We anticipate resources to be released in September.

### SEND

NOVEMBER

One week before the Festival, we encourage dioceses, schools, parishes and communities to commission their youth and leaders to embark on pilgrimage on the Feast of Christ the King (23 November), also known as World Youth Day Sunday.

# THE ROADMAP TO ACYF 2025



TODAY

**Start praying** as a community for your Festival journey. Invite your community to pray for leaders and young people to open their hearts and consider this pilgrimage.



MAY–JULY

**Registrations for the Festival open.** Promote the Festival locally and invite young people to join small groups for their formation journey. Use promotional materials from the Festival website. Start fundraising now if you haven't already!

22 MAY

**National Briefing Day** – an opportunity to visit the venue, hear from the planning team and undertake planning and safety assurances for safeguarding and risk.

27 JULY – 3 AUGUST

**Jubilee of Youth** – a special weekend of invitation for young people to register for the Festival. Consider handing out invitation cards, bulletin notices, and social media posts. All community members are encouraged to invite a young person.

SEPTEMBER

**Formation resources** released for pilgrims and leaders to spiritually and practically prepare for ACYF 2025.



OCTOBER

**Registrations for the Festival close.** Pilgrims and small group leaders participate in local formation within their communities. The Festival Team will provide formation resources to assist.



23 NOVEMBER

Pilgrims and small group leaders attend local parish celebrations and commissioning on the **Solemnity of Christ the King**.

30 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER 2025

Go on pilgrimage to the **Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025** at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

