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
- 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.

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**

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**, 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.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL MELBOURNE 2025