



World Youth Day 2008

WYD08 SYD08 curriculum materials
world youth day sydney 2008

Module 1
Pilgrimage

“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.” (Ps 119:105)

JULY 2006

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

Module	Available from	Scriptural Theme	WYD08 Element/Theme
1	July 2006	“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps 119:105)	World Youth Day 2008 (WYD08) Pilgrimage
2	Sept 2006	“As I have loved you, so also you should love one another” (Jn 13:34)	World Youth Day Cross and the Icon of Our Lady Stations of the Cross
3	March 2007	“You will receive power “ (Acts 1:8)	Sacrament of Penance Eucharistic Adoration
4	Sept 2007	“when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8)	The Mass The Universal Church
5	March 2008	“and you will be witnesses” (Acts 1:8)	Testimony Pilgrimage

THE PURPOSE OF WYD08 CURRICULUM MATERIALS

The WYD08 Curriculum materials have been developed for use in Senior Primary, Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary classrooms in Catholic systemic and independent schools as well as state schools. Additionally, the materials are for use in parish and home settings.

The character of these materials will be biblically, theologically and spiritually rich, and in keeping with the spirit and content of the World Youth Days, and the themes for the WYD 2006, 2007 and especially 2008: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8).

The materials will draw heavily from Sacred Scripture, WYD letters, talks and homilies of John Paul II and Benedict XVI, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the lives of Saints, contemporary research on the effects of WYD, as well as the testimony of young WYD pilgrims. They will be written to help prepare the minds and hearts of the young people as potential WYD08 pilgrims and seek to draw them to the Heart of Christ who is at the heart of the Catholic Church, and to encourage them to lives of Christian holiness, virtue and service.

Through the use of the WYD08 Curriculum Materials, it is intended that students will:

1. gain a greater knowledge and understanding of WYD and explore ways in which they can prepare for and participate in WYD08;
2. listen to and read stories and passages from Scripture;
3. engage with Scripture through wondering and reflecting together;
4. develop an informed understanding and greater appreciation of the content and message of Scripture;
5. respond creatively and reflectively to Scripture through discussion, art, drama, role play and/or creative writing;
6. relate Scripture to their everyday lives of prayer, faith and the search for meaning;
7. relate Scripture to preparation for and participation in WYD08;
8. recognise their baptismal call be witnesses to Christ and respond to the power they receive from the Holy Spirit.

HOW TO USE WYD08 CURRICULUM MATERIALS

The WYD08 Curriculum Materials have been developed to supplement existing Diocesan Religious Education Curricula across Australia. The materials have been designed so that they may be embedded within the teaching of existing units and themes. This connection is highlighted in the section termed **RE Links**.

Alternatively a teacher/catechist may determine to set aside time to specifically use materials as a means of deepening students in their awareness and understanding of the particular Scriptural theme or WYD element. This may be the case especially when introducing children and youth to “**What is World Youth Day?**”

An essential element of the WYD08 Curriculum Materials is the reading of the Word of God in Scripture. Here we must revere the power and mystery of the Word of God. None of us can ever grasp the full meaning of a scriptural text, but by reading the Word of God reverently, slowly and reflectively, we bring the students and youth into its mystery. Through the Scripture passages that have been included it is hoped that the students will gain a sense of Scripture that will develop and grow through their life’s journey.

Students need to become familiar with the story of God’s people through the telling and reading of Scripture, and have opportunities to reflect on the Scriptures in relation to their own lives. To this end **Scripture Reflections** have been included in the WYD08 Curriculum Materials. In interpreting the texts of Scripture, we are called to ‘be attentive to what the human authors truly wanted to affirm and to what they wanted to reveal to us by their words’ (cf. Dei Verbum 12).

The **Teaching and Learning Strategies** are designed to enable students to explore and deepen their understanding of Scripture. The strategies are not prescriptive or exhaustive. Importantly, the **suggested age use** serves only as a guide, and strategies could easily be adapted and/or modified for use with students of various ages. The teaching and learning strategies have been developed so as to successfully cater for students of differentiated abilities and learning styles, as well as those from a diversity of backgrounds.

Additionally other supplementary catechetical and liturgical materials are available on the WYD08 website to assist teachers, catechists, priests and parents.

Logon to www.wyd2008.org

Sydney is chosen!

And now, as the living presence of the Risen Christ in our midst nourishes our faith and hope, I am pleased to announce that the next World Youth Day will take place in Sydney, Australia, in 2008. We entrust to the maternal guidance of Mary most holy, the future course of the young people of the whole world.

His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, 21 August 2005

In July 2005, Sydney was chosen to host the next World Youth Day 2008. The announcement was made in Cologne, at the conclusion of the XX World Youth Day celebration in August 2005.

What is World Youth Day and how did it start?

World Youth Day was an initiative of Pope John Paul II, inspired by massive gatherings of young people in Rome celebrating the Youth Jubilee in 1984 and the United Nations International Year of Youth in 1985. He wanted to bring together young Catholics from around the globe to celebrate and learn about their faith on a more regular basis. Pope John Paul II saw WYD as a way to reach out to the next generation of Catholics, to demonstrate confidence in them, to rejuvenate the Church and ensure that the core teachings of Christ are transmitted and lived.

There are four main goals for the host nation in staging the largest event for the Catholic Church in Australia:

- To provide a moving and sanctifying pilgrimage in faith
- To provide the forum for youth to experience the power of the Holy Spirit
- To assist the rediscovery of the centrality of the Word and Sacraments in the lives of the young people
- To enable youth to be witnesses to Christ

The first World Youth Day was held in Rome in 1986 on Palm Sunday, and each year ever since World Youth Day has been celebrated at a Diocesan level on Palm Sunday. Every 2 to 3 years a massive international gathering celebrates WYD in a different 'host city' – Buenos Aires, Paris, Toronto, Manila and Denver have all been hosts. The international World Youth Days are marked by a week long series of events, attended by the Pope and hundreds of thousands of youth from all over the world.

In 1984 John Paul II entrusted to the world's youth a symbol of Christ's love for humanity 'to be carried throughout the world': the colossal wooden crucifix, now known as the 'World Youth Day Cross'. The WYD Cross and Icon of Our Lady will travel around Australia in preparation for the event from July 2007.

The Holy Father chooses a significant scriptural theme for each WYD celebration for youth and youth leaders on which to focus their spiritual and catechetical formation. The themes for the next three WYDs form a spiritual journey in which the Holy Spirit is the underlying thread, culminating with the 2008 theme reflecting the Holy Spirit and mission.

These are the chosen themes:

2006 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
(Ps 119:105)

2007 Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
(Jn 13:34)

2008 You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.
(Acts 1:8)

What happens at a World Youth Day celebration?

There are common featured elements of an international WYD week celebration. These are as follows:

- Pilgrims from all around the world are hosted for several days prior to the WYD week in dioceses around the host nation. Here, there is a cultural and spiritual exchange between the visiting youth and the international pilgrims;
- From Monday or Tuesday pilgrims are accommodated in home-stays, schools, halls or hotels;
- The Opening Mass is celebrated on the Tuesday afternoon by the host city Archbishop with the youth of the world;
- Catechesis sessions for the pilgrims are given by Bishops chosen by the Pontifical Council for the Laity on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings;
- The papal welcome occurs on the Thursday afternoon;
- A dramatic celebration of the Stations of the Cross takes place on the Friday afternoon or evening;
- There are opportunities for receiving the Sacrament of Confession and for moments of prayer and Adoration throughout the week.
- Youth and cultural festival activities in the afternoon and evenings;
- A pilgrimage walk on the Saturday to the site of the final Vigil and Mass;

- The evening vigil of prayer with the Holy Father in a large outdoor venue. Following this the Pilgrims sleep under the stars, awaiting the return of the Holy Father the next morning;
- A final Mass with the Holy Father is celebrated on the Sunday morning, which is the official World Youth Day.

At the last World Youth Day in 2005 in Cologne, the German people saw a witness of faith, hope and love on an unbelievable scale when it welcomed:

- 435,000 registered pilgrims from 197 countries
- 800 Bishops and Cardinals
- 7000 international journalists

An incredible 1.2 million people attended the Final Mass!

World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney

Sydney's World Youth Day will be held from 15-20 July 2008, providing the forum for the inaugural visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to Australia.

Its theme, handed down by the Pope, will be:

**'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you will be my witnesses.'** (Acts 1:8)

It is anticipated that as many as 500,000 people will attend the Papal Mass on July 20.

The WYD08 Team is currently undertaking three phases of planning for WYD08:

- To June 2008 - a period of evangelisation, catechesis and prayer;
- July 2008 - an encounter with in Christ and the young people of the world;
- From August 2008 - reaping the fruits of the WYD mission through implementation of a 20 year pastoral program for the young people of Australia.

Resources to assist with your local preparations for WYD08:

- Arrange the screening of the official WYD08 DVD;
- Encourage your staff and students to register on the WYD08 website www.wyd2008.org to receive the monthly ePILGRIMAGE as a pastoral pilgrim preparation;
- Distribute, display and utilise the WYD08 prayer cards and posters.

WORLD YOUTH DAY TESTIMONY

It may sound silly, but I sometimes think about my life in terms of BWYD and PWYD – Before World Youth Day and Post World Youth Day. It comes out in simple statements that I might make: 'Before WYD I'd never understood the power of a group of people praying the Rosary together.' 'Before WYD I'd never comprehended that pilgrimage is not just about travelling to a physical destination, but more importantly about the steps you take in your heart towards Jesus.' 'BWYD I'd never cried while reading part of scripture...'

It happened on the last night of our pilgrimage, during the WYD 2005 Vigil, held on a dark and wet evening in a large field named 'Marienfeld' in Cologne, Germany. People around me as far as the eye could see were huddled with hoods on, sleeping on the ground. All of us were tired after seventeen days of non-stop walking, dozing on buses and jostling incessant crowds packed with Italians trying to steal our place in the food line. We'd been emotionally drained and spiritually revived. I'd had the time of my life and I'd already come so far from who I was. How much more could the Lord really demand from me? Surely now, all I had to do was relax as I neared the end of the road.

I was in this frame of mind when I came to the Vigil with the Pope. Yet I was to be quickly jolted out of my comfort zone by the reading of Psalm 139. It wasn't even read in English – we read it from our companion books by the light of a slowly diminishing candle – yet never had a Bible passage cut through me so entirely.

From the very first line, this psalm spoke to me of our inescapable God – 'You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away'. As each line progressed I became more and more enveloped in this amazing understanding of the Lord's profound knowledge of each and every one of us. While this feeling filled me with awe, I was also terrified – I knew I loved God, but He couldn't know all my ways – I had to hide my worst thoughts from Him. The psalm, however, continues by marvelling at how gently and lovingly each of us is created in our mother's womb. Slowly, my terror of God's knowing me turned into a deep and intimate veneration as I realised the Psalm wasn't about an almighty punisher finding out my deepest darkest secrets, but about proclaiming His presence in me from the beginning.

I was already weeping by the time we got to the end of the psalm. Then came the clincher: 'Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts'. What a wrenching feeling flooded my soul in that moment! Through my tears that night I realised that for seventeen days I had been trying my utmost to give everything to God, yet all He was really wanting was for me to let Him know me. Shivering there, in a mouse-populated field of around one million people, I felt closer to God than I ever had, because I realised that He was searching me, trying me, knowing me, loving me. And finally, yes I was ready to invite Him in.

Looking up finally at those standing around me, I saw them too, so visibly affected in the same way. On our faces was just a snapshot of the vastness of God's power. In the bonds we share from the memory of those moments is built a unity that only magnifies His power.

I'd love to say I've never left that moment of deep communication with the Lord. But I can't pretend that I don't put up walls, that I don't give in to temptation, that I don't constantly distance myself from Him. Despite this, something has changed in the way I call on Him. No longer do I feel guilt in pleading for His help, because 'Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord you know it completely'. How could I ever feel unsure of which path He wants me to follow, when Psalm 139 says 'In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when one of them as yet existed.' Most importantly, whenever I need to be reminded of His nearness and His longing to know me more and more, I simply invite Him: 'Search me, and know my heart'. He asks me for nothing less.

JOVINA 21

First Year Medical Student

WORLD YOUTH DAY TESTIMONY

Going on pilgrimage to WYD 2005 in Cologne was important to me because it allowed me to share an experience common to Christians throughout the centuries. It was amazing to walk beside pilgrims from all over the world. These pilgrims were young people confident, open and on-fire with God's love. In this way WYD was both a personal experience, with many opportunities for private prayer, and equally a public demonstration of faith in Jesus Christ.

My favourite event was "Nightfever", an event organised by the Emmanuel Community, as part of the Youth Festival. It was something I had never previously experienced and it prepared me spiritually for the events awaiting us with Pope Benedict. Essentially, Youth Fest was an evening dedicated to prayer, catechesis, personal testimonies, awesome music and live music performances from and for young people all over the world. It was amazing because all this fun, excitement, and joy was coming from young Catholics. The night reached its peak at the moment Jesus arrived. Suddenly, the noise turned to silence, a holy silence welcomed by thousands of young people kneeling and waving candles. The priest entered carrying Our Eucharistic Lord. The WYD theme, 'We have come to worship Him' (Matthew 2:2) came to life for me at this moment. It was truly spectacular!

While going on pilgrimage was physically tough, it was spiritually rewarding. We endured two action packed weeks, consisting of little sleep, simple food and basic lodgings. I remember waking one morning and feeling cranky. Amazingly, this quickly changed, because of the joy and enthusiasm of those around me (even so early in the morning) was contagious. Being part of a small discussion group was very important, and ensured every moment could be shared. Spiritually, WYD was unlike anything I had previously experienced. Encountering the lives of the most remarkable saints, like Our Lady, St Vincent de Paul and St Margaret Mary, I was exposed to a devotional aspect of our Catholic faith sometimes lacking at home.

Arriving back in Australia, I knew my faith had been strengthened. Going on pilgrimage to Cologne through France had opened my heart to the richness of our Catholic faith, the youthfulness of the Church and the abiding presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. With all the youth of Australia, I am ecstatic about WYD 2008 in Sydney and I know it's going to be great. Come Holy Spirit!

CHARBEL 21

First Year Education Student

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

“In the world today there is a revival of the practice of going on pilgrimage,”

“...try to recapture the spirit of the pilgrims of old, courageous witnesses to the Christian Faith.”

Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day 1989, Santiago de Compostela

WHAT IS A PILGRIMAGE?

pil·grim·age [pil-grim-ij] (plural pil-grim-ag-es) n.

1. A journey to a sacred place or shrine.
2. A long journey or search, especially one of exalted purpose or moral significance.

[13th century. < Provençal pelegrinage < pelegrin (see also - pilgrim)]

A pilgrimage is a spiritual experience. World Youth Days have instigated a renewal of the practice of going on pilgrimage, especially for young people. This is often an experience of joyful discovery not only of wonderful places but also of the universal church in great beauty, particularly when shared with others.

In ancient times pilgrims travelled by sailing ships, horses and even on foot. They risked getting diseases or being robbed or enslaved. They sometimes faced the possibility of never returning. They travelled in 'faith'. Today, pilgrims do not face the same perils as in ancient times. Planes and fast trains, modern law and order have made traversing long distances far more comfortable and speedy. Yet, one element remains, namely that a pilgrimage is a spiritual journey. The outward movement becomes a vehicle for the journey within, a journey with and towards God.

WHY PILGRIMAGE?

Traditionally, pilgrimages are made to a place of great religious or spiritual significance. The pilgrimage site itself might be associated with the life of Christ, or be a simple and humble shrine housing the relics of a saint, or a great cathedral, or the site of an apparition. Those who make the pilgrimage are usually seeking:

- greater union with God;
- renewal in prayer;
- forgiveness of sin;
- celebration of a major feast day or event in their own life;
- commemoration of the memory of a great person or event;
- discovery of their own vocation and ideals; or
- to thank God for blessings received.

Whatever the intention, a pilgrimage is often a profound experience for the pilgrim.

THE HOLY PLACES OF THE WORLD

Pilgrimages were a common event in the lives of the Jews in Old Testament times. Three times a year some Jews from inside and outside of Israel would travel to Jerusalem for the feasts of Passover, Yom Kippur and Tabernacles. With the freedom granted to Christians by Constantine (AD 313) pilgrims began visiting the sites associated with Christ in the Holy Land. The types and frequency of pilgrimages gradually expanded over the centuries until it became a universal religious and cultural phenomenon by the Middle Ages, as evidenced by Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The principal places of pilgrimage for Christians today include:

- Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem;
- Rome;
- Compostela, Loreto;
- Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima.

ALL CHRISTIANS ARE PILGRIMS

Pilgrimages have always been an important part of Christian tradition, as they were for the Jews. Being a pilgrim is a central theme for the disciple of Christ, who is on a pilgrimage journey to Heaven, our eternal home.

PILGRIMAGE in the BIBLE

Scripture speaks of humanity being on a spiritual journey since our first parents were cast out of Paradise because of sin and they wandered in the wilderness yearning for the peace and union with God they once had (Genesis 2,3).

Abraham was called by God to leave his own land for a land that God would give to him. "Abraham....went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith, he lived as a stranger and pilgrim in the promised land" (Gen 23:4) and he and his heirs recognised "that they were only strangers and nomads on earth" (Heb 11:13). This is the condition of the earthly pilgrims who await their heavenly home; who are "aliens or foreign visitors" (1 Pet 2:11) here on earth, and who are destined to be "citizens like all the saints, and part of God's household" (Eph 2:19).

Moses led the Hebrews in the great exodus out of slavery from Egypt towards the "land flowing with milk and honey" (Ex 33:3), where they could worship Yahweh in peace and freedom. It was a long pilgrimage with many trials. Through his faithful love the Lord shows that He too, is a pilgrim with His people: "Yahweh your God... has watched over your journeying through this vast wilderness. Yahweh your God has been with you these forty years and you have never been in want" (Dt 2:7).

We also have the witness of the prophets, often itinerants, proclaiming the love and law of God as they went. Elijah, for example, travelled a great distance to Mount Horeb (1 Kgs 19:8) where he encountered God in the cave.

JESUS CHRIST, THE PILGRIM SAVIOUR

These examples from the Old Testament all prefigure the coming of Jesus Christ, the Pilgrim God who becomes one with us. He includes Himself in the journey of every person to help them discover "the way, the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6).

In the womb of the Blessed Virgin, Jesus is a pilgrim with Mary and Joseph wandering for a resting place in Bethlehem (Lk 2:1-7). As a newborn baby with his parents He is a pilgrim on the flight into Egypt for safety (Mt 2:13-15). As a twelve year old child he makes the annual pilgrimage with his parents to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover according to the Jewish custom (Lk 2:41-42). When he begins his public ministry all of his movements gradually take the form of a pilgrimage towards Jerusalem (Mk 10:32-34). This journey began in the Jordan River where he received Baptism and divine confirmation of his mission and like Israel was tested in the desert by Satan (Mk 1:1-11). The end of this journey is not the Cross of Calvary, but beyond death's boundary to the glory of the Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven.

A special story for the pilgrim is that of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15: 11-32) who journeyed home from “a distant country” in renunciation of his sinful life to be reconciled with his father who represents our forgiving and merciful God. So too in the stories of the Lost Sheep (Lk 15:4-7) and the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:29-37) God comes as on a journey to seek us out and to save us. The Gospels present the whole of the Incarnation, Passion, Resurrection and Ascension as a long pilgrimage of God among us – one in which he draws his disciples with him and ultimately sends them out to the ends of the earth.

OUTWARD JOURNEY: INNER JOURNEY

Outward journeys mirror the inward journey the soul must make to an encounter with God. Earthly pilgrimages to the holy places assist the faithful to discover divine truths and direct their paths to the heavenly kingdom. The pilgrimage which started with Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets culminates in Christ and his disciples, from the Twelve and Paul in the early Church to the witnesses of our own day. This pilgrimage has been extended throughout the centuries in the tradition of the Church as a sign of the spiritual journey every person must make towards salvation.

THE PILGRIM CHURCH

Since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) the Church has spoken of herself as the ‘Pilgrim Church,’ signifying her spiritual journey through history toward eternal life with God. The Church is the people of God on the march “in search of a future and permanent city” (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 9).

Pope John Paul II, the founder of the World Youth Days, was also the great ‘Pilgrim Pope,’ travelling to more lands and greater distances preaching the Gospel of Christ than any of his predecessors. At Santiago de Compostela in 1989 John Paul II remarked that pilgrimage “has a very deep spiritual significance ... in the world today there is a revival of the practice of going on pilgrimage, especially among the youth who are more inclined to experience pilgrimage as a way to interior renewal, to a deepening of faith, a strengthening of the sense of communion and solidarity with your brothers and sisters and as a help in discovering your personal vocation.” He exhorted us to “... try to recapture the spirit of the pilgrims of old, courageous witnesses to the Christian faith. As you journey on, learn to discover Jesus, who is our Way, Truth and Life.”

THE PILGRIMAGE OF THE WORLD YOUTH DAYS

Whether they come from the host country or overseas, the modern-day pilgrim to World Youth Day is continuing a tradition of journeying that is as old as humanity itself.

The World Youth Days have called a generation of young people to revive the ancient practice of pilgrimage. Pope John Paul II invited the youth of the world to be modern day pilgrims and gather in large numbers to meet with him and with each other to celebrate their faith. The destination for a World Youth Day pilgrim, more than a holy place or shrine, is an encounter with each other, with the Holy Father and ultimately with God. Millions of young people have undertaken this journey and become signs of hope for the world that the Church is ever young, vibrant and alive. They travel simply, they travel together and there are challenges and blessings along the way. The young person who goes on a pilgrimage to WYD is following in the footsteps of the faithful on a spiritual journey towards God.

1987 Buenos Aires, Argentina

1989 Santiago de Compostela, Spain

1991 Czestochowa, Poland

1993 Denver, USA

1995 Manila, Philippines

1997 Paris, France

2000 Rome, Italy

2002 Toronto, Canada

2005 Cologne, Germany

QUOTATIONS

Pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey toward heaven and are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2691

Evangelisation is the ultimate reason for which the Church proposes and encourages pilgrimages, such that they are transformed into an experience of deep and mature faith.

Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People,
25 April 1998, n. 2

Simply arriving at the place of the holy does not in itself describe pilgrimage. Although the destination is not without significance, the act of travelling is also part of the experience. For the Christian pilgrim, pilgrimage acts as a symbol for the Christian life. The whole people of God are sometimes described as a pilgrim people travelling to a destination that is beyond this world. The Christian life also comprises an individual pilgrimage. That life has a beginning, often but not always the point of conversion. There are significant moments or places along the way, vantage points from which the journey can be surveyed. The end is both to be with Christ and to be changed to be more like him.

Martin Robinson

By the grace of God, I am a human person and a Christian; by my actions, a great sinner; by my condition as a pilgrim without a roof, of the lowliest species that goes wandering from place to place. My possessions are a sack on my shoulders with a bit of dry bread and a Holy Bible that I carry under my shirt. No other thing do I have.

Anonymous Russian, *A Pilgrim's Way*, I

Let us go forward in hope! A new millennium is opening before the Church like a vast ocean upon which we shall venture, relying on the help of Christ... we need to imitate the zeal of the Apostle Paul: "straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14)... the Risen Jesus accompanies us on our way and enables us to recognise him, as the disciples of Emmaus did, "in the breaking of the bread" (Lk 24:35). May he find us watchful, ready to recognise his face and run to our brothers and sisters with the good news: "We have seen the Lord!" (Jn 20:25).

John Paul II *Novo Millennio Ineunte* 58,59

On pilgrimage time and space seem to collapse. Somehow, as we arrive at the place in question - the grotto, the church, the tomb, the marker - we feel ourselves to be nearer to the reality, not only in space but in time. And faith would urge that this is not a mere caprice of our emotions. Something real is indeed at work.

Thomas Howard

Jesus is the Pilgrim par excellence... He is the pilgrim-God who speaks, and the human being who hears the divine Word and conforms his existence to it.

Brother John of Taizé

We resume our day-to-day lives, our journeys of perpetual pilgrimage.

Shirley du Boulay

Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths,
Ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
And you will find rest for your souls.

Jeremiah 6:16

An Ancient Pilgrim's Prayer By Philo (first century AD)

Lord God,
We travel in weakness, hoping to find strength,
We travel with sickness, hoping to find health.
We journey in confusion, seeking peace,
We journey in doubt, seeking true faith.
We come carrying despair, looking for hope,
We come unready.
We come alone.
We come together.
Seeking to find Jesus, your living Word. Amen.

Pilgrimage: some questions to explore with students

1. What is a pilgrimage?
2. How is World Youth Day a pilgrimage?
3. How is a pilgrim different from a tourist?
4. How is a pilgrimage different from a journey or a tour?
5. Name some places which might be visited in an Australian religious pilgrimage.
6. What is meant by referring to the MCG as a 'sporting Mecca'? What other Australian places might be visited in a form of pilgrimage: Indigenous sites, national Australian sites, sporting sites, cultural sites, ecological sites, your family sites?
7. What are some places of pilgrimage associated with your parish or school? (eg: the Religious Order; patron Saint)
8. How do you prepare for a pilgrimage?
9. What is the goal of a pilgrimage?
10. Share a personal experience of a pilgrimage.
11. Research one culture which has a rich tradition of religious pilgrimage.
12. Imagine you are to undertake a pilgrimage to the holy places where Jesus lived and died. Name some key places which would be included in this pilgrimage and write a postcard from each place.
13. In what ways was Jesus a pilgrim figure?
14. Tell the story of some other figures in the Bible or saints of the Church who undertook a pilgrimage.
15. In what ways in your life do you set out in faith and trust? How is pilgrimage a worthwhile spiritual undertaking?
16. Find literature, art or film which explores the experience of pilgrimage. Explain one in some detail.
17. Complete a presentation about one significant place of pilgrimage for Catholics.
18. 'The experience of the pilgrimage is as important as arriving at the destination.' Explain this statement.
19. Read Catechism of the Catholic Church 2691. What is this saying about pilgrimage?
20. What is the history of pilgrimage? How is it still an important aspect of Church life today?

REMEMBER: You are invited to register as an ePILGRIM on www.wyd2008.org
AND
you are invited to participate in WYD2008!