



# Holy Cross College, Ryde

## Office of the Principal

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19 May 2017

Dear Parents of Year 9 students,

In December this year young people from across Australia will gather in Sydney for the third Australian Catholic Youth Festival; a celebration of the young heart of our Church. His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Fisher has requested that all school support this event. In keeping with this request Holy Cross College has made the decision that all Year 9 students will attend the festival on **Thursday 7 and Friday 8 December**. This letter aims to give an overview of the festival that will be accompanied by more precise information from your school community about its plans for the festival.

**What is the Australian Catholic Festival?** The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) and it began in Melbourne in December 2013 as an attempt to offer a “mini World Youth Day” experience in Australia every two years. The festival was then held in Adelaide in December 2015 and it is now coming to Sydney in December 2017. The festivals in Melbourne and Adelaide were heralded as great successes with high quality presenters and performers from overseas and across Australia engaging over 3,000 young people, including over 300 students from Sydney Catholic Schools. The Bishops and priests from across Australia also attended in significant numbers.

**Sydney 2017:** There is great excitement about the ACYF coming to Sydney. It will be a particularly special occasion for Sydney as the festival will launch the Australian Catholic Church’s **Year of Youth 2018**. The Year of Youth will mark ten years since Sydney hosted World Youth Day 2008. Therefore, the ACYF 2017 is a major priority of Archbishop Anthony Fisher, the Archdiocese of Sydney and Sydney Catholic Schools.

**When and Where?** The festival will take place on Thursday 7 December, Friday 8 December and Saturday 9 December. It will be based at the Olympic Park and Showground facilities in Homebush. The festival will conclude with a final Mass on the Saturday evening that will be open to all, officially launching the Year of Youth 2018. Further details will be provided closer to the event.

**Who is organising the Festival?** The ACBC Office for Youth will coordinate the planning and running of the festival in partnership with the Archdiocese of Sydney.

The Sydney Catholic Schools Youth Ministry team will be supporting our schools in enabling an exciting engagement of thousands of our students in the festival.

Sincerely,

Mr Phillip Stewart  
PRINCIPAL