



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Office for Youth

Bishops' Delegate for Youth: Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

Australian Youth Ministers to Gather in Western Sydney in 2018

The Australian Catholic Bishops Office for Youth and the Diocese of Parramatta will host the Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention (ACYMC), from **21-23 September 2018**, at Rooty Hill RSL.

The ACYMC will explore the call of Pope Francis to 'Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy' and going out to the peripheries to support young people in finding their place in the world.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney and Bishops Delegate for Youth, shared his hopes about the fourth ACYMC.

"The ACYMC is an important resource for the Church in Australia. It provides a unique formation and training forum for those who support and minister to young people. In the Year of Youth, our work with young people has a renewed focus. I look forward to listening to the ACYMC attendees and carrying their voice directly back to Pope Francis and the Synod Fathers," Archbishop Anthony said.

ACYMC is expected to gather over 500 attendees from across Australia, who minister with young people in a variety of settings including parishes, schools, religious orders, communities, dioceses, universities and Church organisations. The event will share learnings from the Year of Youth in 2018 and prepare a future pathway for the diverse and growing needs of Catholic youth ministry in Australia.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, has also shared his excitement about hosting the ACYMC and responding to the needs of young people in Australia.

"Hosting the Convention in Western Sydney provides a unique opportunity to tap into the rich diversity of our Diocese. I look forward to the opportunity to discern the vision and strategies required to reach young people in Australia. The feedback from the recent national youth survey has challenged us to address more confidently the issues of mental health, drugs, alcohol, relationships, and the digital world," Bishop Vincent said.

ACYMC will include elements of formation, retreat and a unique forum in which youth ministers can contribute to future national initiatives and support. The convention program and speakers will be announced in early 2018.

Further information about ACYMC 2018 will be available on www.youth.catholic.org.au.

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