

Vox Populi

25 August 2022

Our Catholic youth and young adults of Broken Bay are more than keen to put the days of lockdowns and restrictions well behind them with festivals of fun, friendship and faith once more.

In the past week, Catholic Youth Broken Bay (CYBB) hosted more than 150 youth and young people for *Praisefest* which was supported by a number of communities and ministries including Catholic Schools Broken Bay, Youth Vinnies, Youth for Christ and Broken Bay's very talented young adults Glorious team of creative musicians, singers, dancers, writers and artists.

The generous parishioners and clergy from Our Lady of the Rosary, Gosford welcomed everyone with an excellent barbeque and supported the many stalls, games and live music, including the very popular Dance Off where youth ministers, teachers, religious and priests entertained everyone with their unexpected dance skills.

During the evening speakers shared their experience of God's mercy and a number of our priests guided the time of Eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Also during the week students from Catholic Schools Broken Bay, parents, teachers, young adults, youth leaders and clergy gathered at The Light of Christ Centre for the first World Youth Day '23 Information Session.

There was a real buzz in the room as everyone heard about the cities and towns in Italy where Bishop Anthony Randazzo will lead the pre-WYD pilgrimage before the group flies to Lisbon, Portugal for the global gathering of young people, followed by a retreat to Fatima.

Everyone was introduced to a little "Portuguese flavour" with some singing, popular language phrases and even Portuguese tarts.

The WYD23 Registration page on the Diocese website went live with dozens of students already signing up, many hopeful their parish may offer support for what many following previous WYDs found to be a life-changing experience .

You will no doubt hear more about youth events in your parish over the coming months. They might be *Praisefest* or WYD23 events or local parish events but whatever they are, we are all encouraged to support them and our enthusiastic young evangelisers.