



Vox Populi

06 July 2023

There is a real buzz around the Diocese with students, young adults and leaders making final preparations for their pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal.

Many will journey with Bishop Anthony on a pilgrimage through Italy visiting the birthplaces of saints, and the Shrines and Basilicas dedicated to these holy men and women.

Others will fly direct to Lisbon where all our pilgrims will join hundreds of thousands of young people from around the world for moments of sharing and faith; a gathering and celebration of cultures, participating in catechesis, and a meeting with the Pope.

For those who have been to previous World Youth Days they know what a transforming experience this pilgrimage will be.

The Diocese is fortunate to have Chancery and Catholic Schools Broken Bay staff who have attended many WYDs and have been working for more than 18 months to ensure WYD23 is an exciting, rewarding and memorable time for our pilgrims.

This week the Vatican released the Official Schedule for the Apostolic Journey of Pope Francis. The Holy Father will spend from August 2-6 in Lisbon and Fatima.

He will meet Archbishops and Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Persons, Seminarians, and Pastoral Workers from every corner of the world. And of course, thousands and thousands of young people.

Pope Francis will join the gathering for the Opening Mass, the Way of the Cross and then celebrate the Holy Mass for World Youth Day on Sunday, 6 August at Campo da Graça on the outskirts of Lisbon.

The theme for this WYD is "Mary rose up and went with haste" (Lk 1:39). This quote opens the account of the Visitation (Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth), a biblical episode following the Annunciation (the

angel's announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of God, and the theme of the last WYD, in Panama in 2019.).

It also inspired the name for the Diocese pilgrimage and theme song – Magnify - which in turn was inspired by the Magnificat, or Song of Mary, meaning my soul magnifies the Lord.

Our pilgrims have been practising the song for months, which will no doubt be heard throughout Lisbon!

On Friday, 14 July Bishop Anthony will celebrate the Pilgrim Blessing Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara at 5.00pm.

The students, young people, leaders and their families are looking forward to this final gathering before departure.

However, you are all invited to pray for our WYD pilgrims, for a wonderful, holy experience and a safe return.