

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL



• MELBOURNE, VICTORIA •

30 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER 2025 •

Media release

6 June 2025

Australian Catholic Youth Festival to light up Melbourne this November

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is proud to be hosting the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), which will make its way to Victoria's capital from Sunday 30 November to Tuesday 2 December 2025 at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC)

"Hosting the 2025 Festival is a joyful privilege," Festival Director Teresa Rhynehart said.

"In a world that can sometimes cloud hope, thousands of young people gathering in our city will be a radiant sign of the Gospel. We can't wait to welcome every pilgrim and see the young Church of Australia gathered together," she said.

A national celebration of faith and mission

ACYF is a three-day festival for young people from Year 9 through to 25 years of age, blending liturgy, music, workshops, keynote addresses and service opportunities.

The most recent festival, hosted by the Archdiocese of Perth in 2019, attracted more than 7,000 participants from every Australian state and territory—a momentum organisers are determined to build on in Melbourne.

Registrations now open

In an exciting milestone moment, registrations are now officially open with pricing and other details available via the ACYF website: www.acyf.org.au/registration. Registration costs are based on geographical location, in light of those travelling from regional Victoria and interstate having additional transport and accommodation costs.

Keynote speakers announced

- **Sr Mary Grace SV** – An Australian-born Sister of Life whose engaging YouTube reflections and vibrant storytelling have made her a sought-after speaker at international youth conferences. Drawing on her journey from rural New South Wales to consecrated life in New York City, she will invite pilgrims to discover "the hope that never disappoints".
- **Katie Prejean-McGrady** – Award-winning author, podcaster and host of *The Katie McGrady Show* on SiriusXM in the United States. Her blend of humour, Scripture and practical discipleship has resonated with audiences on six continents, including previous appearances at ACYF.
- **Fr Rob Galea** – Sandhurst-based priest Fr Rob Galea is a world-renowned singer-songwriter with eight album releases. Fr Rob is well known for producing the official 2008, 2016, and

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2019 *World Youth Day* songs and was also a keynote speaker and performer at the 2017 and 2019 ACYF.

- **Maggie Craig** – Maggie has been a keynote speaker at Steubenville Youth Conference, the Catholic Principal's Conference in New Zealand, and numerous youth gatherings/conferences across the US with a focus on teenage-life and friendship. Maggie has an engaging and relatable presentation style.
- **Augie Angrisano** – Augie is a Hip-Hop artist who permanently migrated to Australia several years ago to marry his now wife. He is a gifted poet, lyricist, singer and entertainer.

Teresa Rhynehart said all the speakers “embody the infectious joy and missionary dynamism we want every young person to experience”.

Programming released

Programming for the Festival has now also been released. Those who have attended previous Festivals, will recognise many of the program elements, with some unique aspects added – such as a pilgrimage walk from Melbourne's St Patrick's Cathedral through the heart of the city to the venue on the first day of the Festival. Of course, no ACYF would be complete without plenaries, workshops, opportunities for prayer and the Sacraments and the Expo so these program elements remain.

Programming details can be found on the website: www.acyf.org.au/program.

Festival highlights

- Sacred spaces offering opportunities for a variety of prayer types and experiences, reflection and participation in the Sacraments – including a dedicated Festival Chapel.
- A large-scale expo of ministries, universities and social-justice initiatives.
- Over a hundred interactive and engaging workshop sessions, where young people can explore how to pray, live their faith authentically and wrestle with the big questions of life.
- Evening concerts featuring leading Christian artists.
- A city-wide pilgrimage walk through the heart of Melbourne from St Patrick's Cathedral to the Festival venue, located along the banks of the Yarra River.

Why come? — A message from Festival Director Teresa Rhynehart

“Melbourne is ready, and so are the youth across the Church in Australia,” Teresa said.

“If you're searching for direction, friendship or simply a place to live joyfully, ACYF is where you'll find it. I encourage every parish, school and movement to put the dates in the diary, fundraise generously and come with open hearts,” she said.

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